

A FORCE!

TO BE RECKONED WITH!

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History relates to us that John Knox used to pray loudly with his windows open. His home was within hearing distance of the dwelling of the queen of Scots. We find her comments of John Knox very enlightening.

She is quoted as saying this; she feared the prayers of John Knox more than she feared the armies of France or England.

Hearing her comment brings before us this question. Are we a force to be reckoned with? Do our prayers shake the very foundation of darkness and cause evil to quake in its boots? Is the devil nervous when we are awake? We must ask ourselves are we wimps or are we warriors. Do we have the goods or not? Are we grounded in our beliefs enough that our faith and trust in God is with the intensity of our whole being?

The power of God is flowing in many places across this world. Miraculous things are happening and many more are on the horizon. Each born again believer was given the power to be a force that makes a difference. The church as a whole must come together in this power and do God's plan. It is time!

In the face of darkness and evil, we the church are the force that has the mandate to chase darkness and evil from our homes, cities and nation. Bringing into place God's intention, His plans and purpose. We are disciples of Jesus Christ and it is our responsibility, not the government, not social programs, and not religion.

The New Testament is filled with the examples of the power we are to carry and how we are to use that power. Jesus came and died for you and I so that we would have eternal life. But He also gave us the charge to continue His work on earth until He returns. Magnifying that charge He said we would do greater works than He had done. What Jesus did we will do greater. The Holy Ghost has been sent to direct us, challenge us, correct us, and show us things to come. But we find one of the strongest things the Holy Spirit does is remind us of the Word of God. It is detrimental to our life in God to find ourselves outside the government of God's Word. This one thing will short-circuit the power and the anointing God wants flowing through you and I.

The examples God gave us in His Word are numerous. We must begin with Jesus; He is our first and really our last example. We begin by finding ourselves at Canaan at a wedding that has a problem; the wine has run out. What does Jesus do, He turns water into wine. Healings and miracles happened daily around Jesus as He spread the good news. Five loaves and two fish changed into enough food to feed over five thousand people. When Jesus spoke demons fled at His command. Lepers, the blind, the halt, and even the dead were all touched by the power of God. Just freshly baptized with the Holy Spirit Peter's first sermon brought 3000 souls into the kingdom. Many of the disciples shared the gospel in tongues they had never learned. Peter's shadow passed over people and they were instantly healed. What a powerful God we serve. We could go on and on, but you have enough to set your heart ablaze with remembering the force that these men were because of God's power. Do you and I not long for that level of power to be active in our life. Know this that God is no respecter of persons, what He did through these He will do through us. Where do we go from here, right into the middle of all God is doing, is my prayer.

Why do we need to be a force, to have the power of God flowing strongly through our lives? Two reasons, one for us and second for others. Pushing back against the devil with the power of God keeping his plans and schemes out of our lives, our families and homes. When others need help we are there praying for them to be saved, delivered and set free. We need God's power!!!!

Think along these lines for a moment. How do you perceive the devil? Is he powerful, if so how powerful? What are his tactics, schemes, devices? Are they so cunning and devious that we cannot stop them or hinder his operation? Now, how big is our God? Is God big enough and powerful enough to whip the devil? Guess what folks God has already whipped the devil. God has given us the power to administrate that whipping while we are still on earth. Watch this, it is important. Our perception of God will determine our perception of ourselves and God's ability to move in our lives. One thing we must understand, we can be powerful or pitiful but not both. And speaking of pitiful, do we find ourselves whimpering and whining everytime the devil sticks his ugly head up. Cut it off, don't just sit there and let him come into your space or harass and hinder you. Are we pitiful or powerful?

Everything we do in God requires faith. So let's talk about faith for a few moments. God said in Hebrews 11:6 that without it we cannot please Him and we must approach Him in faith. So what has faith to do with our being a force. Everything! So this brings to the forefront first our relationship with Him and second our fellowship with Him.

Relationship is where we get the right of the power; fellowship is where we get the empowerment. The right to have His power comes from our surrender to God and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior. Right standing with God comes through Jesus Christ the Son. The indwelling presence and anointing has been deposited within us making us right with God.

Now as we grow and develop in our fellowship the empowerment comes forth by the will and intention of the Father. This cannot happen without our faith being strong in God and His word. Our spirit man then becomes stronger than our flesh man and the God results are phenomenal at the least. When this happens we will effect all those around us and will bring changes according to God's specifications. Power flows, and lives change.

I would be remiss not to remind us of the truth that we have the power within because of Jesus Christ. In Romans 1:16 we find a familiar verse. "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*" Just what is the gospel, and just what is salvation? The gospel is "Good News". Good news that we through Jesus have eternal life, and that with salvation we have "Wholeness". To be whole is to lack in nothing and lack for nothing. Now that my friend is power indeed. Acts 1:8 relates that when the Holy Ghost comes upon us that we receive power. Luke 10:19 states that we have been given all power over all the power of the enemy. It would seem that power is not the problem. We have an abundance of God's power living inside of us. Well just what is the issue then if this dynamo is running full steam within, how do we let it out? What is the hindrance to the flow?

Proverbs 28:1 states the righteous are bold as a lion. Do we roar or do we meow like a little kitty cat. Does our strength come forth like that of a lion? Coming forth from the Lion of Judah. By His righteousness we are made righteous and that gives us the basis of being a powerful force.

A demonstration of where many find themselves is related to us in the book of Acts 19:13-16. Here we find the sons of Sceva going through the motions of a deliverance session. Definitely needing power. Now for those who do not know, a deliverance session is very basically taking the name of Jesus and casting out of our lives the devil and any of his partners in crime. Now their methodology seemed correct and the desire to see the person free was there but something was missing. They did not know God, they knew about God. The spirit in the man said he knew Jesus, and he knew Paul, but who were they? Therefore they did not have any power to get the job done. And in the process got themselves badly wounded and de-clothed.

POWER, POWER, POWER. It is something we must have. A statement that God showed me awhile back gives us the clear solution. God's way only works God's way. All that we need to be the force God has called us to be He has provided. The resulting flow is determined by our doing what God told us to do. Obeying God. This comes from knowing Him and knowing His Word. His Word is His will.

Christianity is not what we do; Christianity is who we are. It is not a part time job, or a religious experiment to see if it will work. We are not trying it as a last resort because everything else has failed. You are a force to be dealt with. Make the choice with your whole being that you are what God said you are, you have what God said you have, and you can do what God said you can do. End of statement, end of discussion.

Listen to this story about Dr. Lester Sumrall. As I remember the story he was in his hotel room and I believe he was overseas, after a meeting asleep. The bed was positioned in the room against the wall. He was awakened by the bed bouncing up and down and bounced its way into the center of the room. He looked up and standing at the end of the bed was the devil. Now at this point many of us would not have had the same reaction as Dr. Sumrall. He looked at the devil and said, "Oh its only you". He turned back over and started back to sleep. The devil left. Now Dr. Sumrall thought for a moment, raised himself up and called the devil back into the room. He came back! Dr. Sumrall with perfect calmness and assurance said when I laid down the bed was against the wall, put it back. The devil did and left. I am sure Dr. Sumrall got a good nights sleep. Does this describe how we would act or would the story be somewhat different?

Does God have a shortage of power? NO! And make a note God has not shortchanged us, his kids. The lack of power is our doing. We need the power; we need the release of God's all in our lives everyday.

The power of choice is a tremendous force. Our decisions can lead us to God or away from Him. John Knox and Lester Sumrall as well as countless others were no different than we are today. They were forces to be reckoned with because they chose to believe God with all that they had. With all their strength, all their effort, with their entire lives. They lived that choice 24/7; can we do any less?

God has already said in His Word who you are and what you have. Choose today to believe and live in what He said. Knowing that all of hell trembles because we are dangerous to all that opposes and fights against God.

A force to be reckoned with, needs to be our vision and our goal. The season we live in is requiring of us believers to no longer maintain a defensive posture, no longer to just survive, to hang on to the end. We are to draw a line in the sand and step over it and punch the devil in the face. Not just demanding in Jesus name that he give back all that he stole, but go into his territory and with our God given authority take it back. We are at war and we need to be powerful and forceful in our dealings with our enemy. Weak, wimpy or whiny Christians is not the call of the day. God has a job and a destiny for each of us. As forces to be reckoned with, lets get it done!

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