

## THE PROMISE OF POWER

*"But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8*

We live in a world where individuals for the most part are hungry and thirsting after power; where people in many societies live oppressed and miserable lives because of misplaced power in the hands of corrupt and selfish tyrants. Even in our communities there are people who will do anything to obtain power to lord it over others.

In some circles the word "power" has become a favourite password. Some years ago it was "flower power", "Black Power"...

It is a fact that power in the wrong hands is a very dangerous thing when it is used selfishly and causes untold suffering to many.

Before Jesus left His disciples He promised them power. That power would be given to them through the infilling of the Holy Ghost. [Text]. This promise was fulfilled in no uncertain measure on the day of Pentecost. The descent of the HS on the day of Pentecost marked the beginning of a new era in the life of the church. God's spirit was now let loose in the world and his power was available to all believers everywhere.

How we need this power in our lives today. There are many Christians who live defeated and dejected lives simply because they lack the transforming and revolutionary power of the HS. Many churches are weak and cold and totally ineffective because the power, the all-important power of the HS is not at work.

Alan Walker, a Methodist Minister observes, *"The greatest single need of the church today is to discover the fact and the power of the HS."*

Today, more than ever the church stands greatly in need of the

infilling of the HS. We have been meddling with the sinful things of the world. Many there are who are finding it convenient to compromise with evil and wrong when it suits their own selfish ends. Many wrong things are encouraged in the name and very often with the blessing of the church. Fetes and parties seem to be the in thing in many so called Xians circles. Gambling is looked upon as being quite harmless. Prayer mtgs and Bible Study are things of the past. Many church leaders and Xians regard God's law of chastity and sexual purity as being just a little old fashioned.

Instead of being God's active fighting force against evil, the church, Christ's Bride. God's instrument of righteousness has allowed herself to become a tool in the hands of those who would use her for their own selfish ends.

There are many sections of the church that have prospered and are continuing to prosper materially. Money keeps coming in, members are

faithful in their giving, and fund raising efforts are always a success yet they are spiritually bankrupt and poverty stricken. In such instances the power of the HS has departed from them and their worship has become at best a spectacle. People attend worship because it is the thing to do. This is the picture of the Laodicean Church referred to in the book of Rev. 3:15-17. [Read].

It is clear that in order for the church to successfully fulfill its God-appointed mission in the world then it must be filled with and empowered by the HS. He is the only hope for the church in the world today.

The Power of the Holy Spirit is:

#### CLEANSING POWER

In the book of Ezekiel the Lord says, through His Prophet: "*Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:*

*and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you. And cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments. And do them" [36:25-27].*

The incoming of the HS means the outgoing of all sin, of "all your filthiness, and from all your idols." Sin must be removed from God's Church. Every sincere Xian wants to be like Christ. Sin is hateful to every true child of God. The sin of compromise, idleness, carelessness, selfishness, pride and others; all these have to be destroyed by the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. If we as a church are to successfully carry out God's mission then we need to be spiritually clean and pure. The HS removes every stain of sin and leaves the life a clean vessel, fit for the master's use. "Rom. 6.18 - "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servant of righteousness."

#### A TRANSFORMING POWER

THE HS MAKE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE TO THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER. THROUGH His power a really miraculous transformation takes place. Life becomes worth living and it is no longer a burden. Joy floods the soul. Peace and contentment fills the heart. Through His power evil habits that caused enslavement are given up, bad tempers are removed, someone puts it this way:

*He puts a light in your eyes,  
A smile on your lips  
And a bubble of joy in your heart.*

*He gives complete peace of mind  
That you'd never find,  
And a happiness that never will depart.*

How we need that transforming power in our churches today. The Holy Spirit is able to transform the common place into that which is sanctified and fit for God's use. The Bible clearly states " *be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind , that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and*

*perfect will of God. [Rom. 12:2].*

This transformation becomes a reality through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many Xians live defeated lives, always overcome by the Devil. They are robbed of the joy of living. When the Spirit comes he gives power to transform defeat into victory so that the believer is able to withstand the onslaughts of the enemy .

The Holy Spirit Gives power to:

WITNESS