

The Cornerstone Vision, pt. 7 – Power Evangelism

Mark 16:15-18 - 15 And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” 19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Believers Are Called to Move in Power

- Acts 1:4-8 - 4 And while staying with them [Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- Luke 24:49 - And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

The Holy Spirit Will Fill You With Power... What is this Power?

- “power” = dunamis = almost always means miraculous, supernatural power or ability of God
 - New Testament References to “Power” (116 occurrences)
 - 49% - direct miraculous power of God in signs and wonders
 - Gospel References to “Power” (38 occurrences)
 - 66% - the supernatural, miraculous power of God seen in the life of Jesus and the disciples to perform signs and wonders
 - Luke 4:14, Luke 5:17, Luke 8:46, Luke 24:49
 - Acts References to “Power” (10 occurrences)
 - 100% - the supernatural, miraculous power of God seen in the life of Jesus and the disciples to perform signs and wonders
 - Acts 1:8, 2:22, 3:12, 6:8, 8:13, 10:38, 19:11-12
- John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.
 - What Works Did Jesus Do in the Bible? What Miracles Did He Do?
 - Healed the sick (paralytics, lepers, blind, epileptic boy, man who couldn’t speak, deaf, invalids, withered hand, woman with flow of blood, crippled woman, man with dropsy, the high priest’s servant’s ear)
 - Raised the dead 3X
 - Raised Himself from the dead
 - Made a giant catch of fish appear 2X
 - Turned water into wine
 - Calmed a storm
 - Cast out demons 12 times
 - Multiplied food 2X
 - Caused a fig tree to wither
 - Walked on water
 - Paid his taxes with gold from a fish’s mouth
 - Read people’s minds

The Early Church Preached the Gospel in Power

- Acts 2:42-43, 46-47 - 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ... 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- Acts 5:12-16 - 12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.
- Power, Miracles, Signs, and Wonders
 - “Signs” = sémeion (say-mee-oan) = a sign (typically miraculous), given especially to confirm, corroborate or authenticate someone or something.
 - “wonder” = teras = a miraculous wonder or extraordinary event, done to elicit a reaction from onlookers, with its supernatural effect left on all witnessing it