

The Cornerstone Vision, pt. 8 – Preaching in Power

We're Called to Walk in Power

- Acts 1:8 - 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.”
 - “power” = dunamis = almost always means miraculous, supernatural power or ability of God
- 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.

When We Preach in Power, People Respond

- Acts 3 – Peter and John Heal the Lame Beggar
 - Vs. 6 - I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!
 - Vs. 8 - Vs. 8 - And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.
 - Vs. 9-10 - 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
 - Vs. 11-12 - 11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?...”

Paul's Method of Preaching the Gospel

- Romans 15:18-19 - 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ
- Acts 14:1, 3 – 1 Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed... 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 - My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- 1 Corinthians 4:20 - For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5 - ...our Gospel came to you not only in word but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.
- 1 Corinthians 1:17 - For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power

This Power is for Everyone who Believes

- 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.”
- In the Early Church, Everyone Could Walk in Power
 - The 12 Disciples were sent to cast out demons and heal the sick in Matthew 10:5-8
 - The 72 in Luke 10 healed the sick and cast out demons
 - The 120 spoke in tongues in Acts 2

- The early Apostles did miracles throughout the book of Acts
- Stephen did great signs and wonders in Acts 6
- Philip did signs and wonders in Samaria, leading to a massive revival in Acts 8
- Ananias heard directly from God and healed blind Paul in Acts 9
- Cornelius and his family spoke in tongues in Acts 10
- Agabus prophesied a famine would come and that Paul would go to prison in Rome (Acts 11, 21)
- Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen were prophets in Antioch (Acts 13:1)
- Judas and Silas were prophets (Acts 15:32)
- Philip's 4 daughters were prophetesses (Acts 21:9)
- Even Whole Churches Were Walking in this Power
 - The whole Corinthian church was operating in all the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 1:7 - you are not lacking in any gift...)
 - Peter said that "each" of the Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia had a spiritual gift (1 Peter 4:10)
 - Prophecy was known and normal in Rome, Thessalonica, and Ephesus (Romans 12:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:20, Ephesians 4:11)
 - The unnamed Believers of Galatia were experiencing miracles among them (Galatians 3:5 - he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you...)
 - The writer of Hebrews makes it sound like miracles were happening wherever the Gospel was preached (Hebrews 2:4 - God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit...)

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