

Through partnering with God, **we have the power** to experience meaningful change in our lives & produce meaningful change in the world.

Kingdom power means **understanding, relating to, & using** power in a way that is rooted in godly principles & practices.

The reality of Jesus:

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. **I bring you good news that** will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Luke 2:10-11

The birth of Jesus is good news for all people, demonstrating God’s character & continuing His work of salvation & renewal.

*“A diamond ring is admired and worn with pride, but with the passing of time, it needs to be taken to a jeweler to be cleaned to restore its original brilliance. The more the ring is worn, the greater the need for occasional cleaning. The more familiar we are with a biblical story, the more difficult it is to view it outside of the way it has always been understood. And the longer imprecision in the tradition remains unchallenged, **the deeper it becomes embedded in Christian consciousness.**”*

-Kenneth E. Bailey. Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes.

The contrast of power:

In those days **Caesar Augustus** issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)³ And everyone went to their own town to register.⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:1-5

God works through worldly power for kingdom purposes.

“With the result that the birthday of our god signaled the beginning of good news for the world because of him.”

- Roman Proconsul Paullus Fabius Maximus

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.** ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:8-12

Kingdom power rests on the lowly & least likely not the exalted or presumed worthy.

“My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for **he has been mindful** of the humble state of his servant.

Luke 1:46-48

Kingdom power is assertive & fierce not aggressive or forceful.

In those days Caesar Augustus **issued a decree** that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world

v1

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, **“Quiet! Be still!”** Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Mark 4:39

For Jesus had said to him, **“Come out of this man,** you impure spirit!”⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”

Mark 5:8-9

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, **“Who touched my clothes?”**

Mark 5:30

He took her by the hand and **said to her, “Talitha koum!”** (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Mark 5:41-42

Kingdom power uses power in service of others, not at their expense.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree **that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world**

v1

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, **he was named Jesus,** the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

v21

Kingdom power uses power to protect the vulnerable, not exploit them.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

v4-5

We use power well by using it the way God does.

The way of the kingdom:

*Notice **Simeon**:*

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”^l),²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

v22-28

*Notice **Anna**:*

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

v36-38

*Notice **Jesus**:*

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and **the grace of God was on him.**

v39-40

Living powerfully entails living dependently.

But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

v39-40

Living powerfully entails living obediently.

*Closing **Considerations**:*

Where do you **currently need** to experience the power of God?

Who needs you to **use your power** on their behalf?