

Empowered with HIM Power

May 17, 2020

Ephesians 3:20-21

How wonderful and how marvelous it is to know Christ.
I'm so blessed to know the hope of His salvation.

Living as a disciple of Christ Jesus can be challenging.

When you think of the life which He has called us to live and the work He has called us to do - **The Mission Seems Impossible, The Means Appear Incapable but The Miracle Is Undeniable.**

THE MISSION

At no time, during His life or ministry, did Jesus Christ portray a life as His disciple to be simple or easy.

As Lynn Anderson sang, "I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden."

Jesus described the entrance as strait and the way as narrow. According to Jesus, following Him would require one to deny their own self and to take up a cross; to even lose their own life.

- To follow the way which God has set before us, we must battle our own will.
- We must struggle against temptation to overcome sin.
- We must contend with the world and endure opposition.

John 15:19

"You are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, and because of this the world hates you."

Matthew 10:22

"You will be hated by all because of My name."

- It is into this situation or culture of hatred and adversity that we have been called to go into and represent Christ; to be His witness; and to even compel people to come to Him.

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Consider all the battlefronts where we engage the enemy:

- Self
- The flesh
- Sin
- The world

Not only are we tasked with the struggle of our own salvation, but we are called to aid in the salvation of others. (even unto accountability)

The standard which God has set for our life and the task which he has charged us to perform (our mission) seems, on its face, IMPOSSIBLE!

THE MEANS

What is THE MEANS through which these things will be accomplished?

The answer is the church. Do you know what the church is made up of? People. Have you ever met people? Have you ever had to deal with people?

Yet, God purposed to call to Himself people to fulfill His will in the earth. He has chosen a people to reveal His glory to the world.

Ephesians 4:7-8

(7) But to each one of us **grace was given** according to the measure of **Christ's gift**. (8) ...When He ascended on high, **He gave gifts to men.**

The standard of God is a standard of righteousness. The call of God is a holy calling. The ministry of God is a sacred ministry.

It stands to reason, in themselves, men are incapable of righteousness, incapable of holiness, or incapable of being worthy to perform anything sacred.

It is not by our strength, not by our power, but by His Spirit that we are empowered to rise to the call and serve God!

The difference in God's people is salvation – A new birth in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is God who works in us, through us, and for us!

He has saved us and empowered us with His gifts, and He has given these gifts for a divine purpose.

Ephesians 4:12

For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

To equip someone is to empower them.

Definition of *empowerment*

1: the act or action of empowering someone or something: the granting of the power, right, or authority, and the ability to perform various acts or duties.

Yes, the mission seems impossible, and the means appears to be incapable, but the Miracle is undeniable.

You see, with men it is impossible for men are incapable. But not God; with God all things are possible!

By nature, we are children of wrath (Eph. 2:2)
But the God who has called us, saved us, and chosen us is a
miracle worker. Miracles supersede the natural.

THE MIRACLE

**God makes saints
out of sinners.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁽⁹⁾ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ⁽¹⁰⁾ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ⁽¹¹⁾ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

This is the result of a supernatural birth.

HIMPowered

God empowers His people, with power over the enemy. In Christ, God “**HIMPowers**” His church.

Not by strength, not by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord!

Luke 10:17-20

⁽¹⁷⁾ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ⁽¹⁸⁾ And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ⁽¹⁹⁾ "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing will injure you.

⁽²⁰⁾ "Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.**"

Yes, the mission seems impossible, the means appear incapable, but the Miracle is undeniable.

Ephesians 3:20-21

⁽²⁰⁾ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ⁽²¹⁾ to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.