



BECOMING A CHURCH OF POWER

S E R M O N G U I D E

May 2, 2021

Becoming A Church Of Power

Matthew 16:18

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

I firmly believe that the church should not be viewed as some out-of-date, religious congregation that is out of touch with reality. No, we should be viewed as a powerful Church, full of God's faithful followers, willing to do whatever it takes to point others to Him and give people hope through the message of Jesus Christ. Do you see the difference? As we read look at Matthew chapter 16 in this message, I hope you'll be reminded, just like I was, that the church is still relevant, it's still powerful, and it's still the tool God wants to use to bring change to this dark and sin-filled world. With that in mind, let's take a look at three characteristics of a powerful church.

KEY POINTS

1. A powerful church is committed to truth.

The first thing I want us to understand is that a church of power is committed to truth. Truth is the foundation and the cornerstone of the church of Jesus Christ so much so that Jesus told his followers on one occasion that they would know the truth and that it would be the truth that would set them free.

What we say, what we do, and what we teach should always be grounded in truth, and that truth comes from the Word of God. With that in mind, I would encourage you to take some time this week and meditate on whether or not your words and actions are based in truth or are bubbling up from your flesh. If you find that the latter is true, pray and ask the Lord to forgive you and to realign your life with His truth so that you can ultimately glorify Him as part of His powerful Church.

2. A powerful church is built on a firm foundation.

What strikes me about this verse is the one given credit for building the church and the one to whom the church belongs. Jesus said, "I will build my church." Jesus is clear that He is the owner, the chief architect, and the sole builder of the church. He is clear that the ownership of the church is not a joint partnership. He is the head of the church.

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That's important because sometimes pastors and people lose site of the fact that the church is not ours. Even if the local church experiences a modicum of success in terms of growth, and outreach, and impact, even if the local church is able to build ornate cathedrals and impressive auditoriums, even if kings and queens, presidents and heads of state come to our churches for patronage or partnership, let us be clear; the church does not belong to us. We don't build the church. It is not ours.

3. A powerful church is bent towards perseverance.

When a church is built by Christ and when Christ is the head nothing can prevail against the church. They were forces then just as there are forces now that want to stop the church and those in it. Those forces are aligned not against the church building, but the church's mission.

A church of power is a protected church. A church of power is a prevailing church. A church of power is a persevering church. Challenges may come, but the church will prevail. Leaders may change, but the church will prevail. Obstacles and opposition may mount, but the church will still stand. We can have confidence in that promise as long as we, as the Church, remain rooted in Christ, keeping Him in His proper place – above all else.

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is your church committed to truth and preaching directly from God's Word?
2. Is your church built upon Jesus Christ as its foundation, or is it built on other things like the fame of your pastor or the quality of your music?
3. Is your church the type of church that perseveres through tough times and faces opposition with courage and strength from the Lord?
