

# The Power of the Gospel - Pt. 3

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## I. PRAYER

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

—Matthew 9:36-38

- A. The gospel begins in the place of compassion and intercession.
- B. Jesus didn't say go first, He said *pray* first
- C. There must be a breakthrough in the spirit.
- D. Prayer is the place you "catch His compassion"

## II. PROCLAMATION

*Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.*

—Acts 8:1;4

- A. Every believer is called to carry the message of the Kingdom. This is what it means to follow Jesus that wherever we go we are carrying His message. It is the natural outflow of our lives.
- B. The platform for our presentation of the gospel is our personal testimony and compassion for the other person.
- C. If it is "duty" based our presentation will not accurately express

God's heart.

D. Personal Illustration of my dad and the simple gospel

E. **Gospel Presentation:** God created humanity to have a loving relationship with Him forever. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve sinned, setting all of humanity on a path of rebellion separating us from God and leading us to eternal destruction. Sin severed the relationship God longed to have with us. But, because of God's great love, He sent His only Son, Jesus, who was completely sinless, to take our sins upon Himself and bear our full penalty on the cross. Though He knew no sin, He died for us so that we could live. This means that when we trust in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and repent of our sins, we are forgiven, declared righteous, and fully restored to relationship with the Father. Without Jesus' sacrifice, we will stand before God bearing the penalty of our sins ourselves; but when we choose to receive Jesus' sacrifice by faith, God exchanges our sin for His righteousness and gives us the gift of eternal life. He died for us to bring us back to God, not as slaves, but as beloved sons and daughters, living forever in the loving relationship we were created for. He died for all that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again.

### III. POWER

*And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

*—Matthew 10:7-8*

*15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to*

*them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.*

*—Mark 16:15-20*

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...*

*—Acts 1:8*

*Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs...*

*—Acts 2:22*

- A. The gospel is not just words, it is power.
- B. Power is not optional. It is God's confirmation that His kingdom is real.
- C. The demonstration of the gospel opens hearts to the declaration of the gospel.
- D. Manifestations of power was not primarily meant just for believers during a service. They were designed to bring people into the Kingdom:

**Mark 16:15-20** - *Signs confirm the gospel to the world.*

- Jesus said signs would follow believers as they preach to every creature, confirming the message with power.

**Acts 5:12-16** - *Miracles attract the lost to Jesus.*

- Public signs and wonders caused multitudes of unbelievers to believe and be healed.

**Acts 8:6-8** - *Power opens hearts to the gospel.*

- Philip's miracles in Samaria caused entire crowds to listen and respond to the message.

**1 Corinthians 14:22** - *Spiritual gifts are signs for unbelievers.*

- Paul explicitly says that tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers.

**Romans 15:18-19** - *Paul preached with power to reach Gentiles.*

- Paul used signs and wonders to fully proclaim the gospel among the unreached nations.

E. The example of Paul:

*And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words... but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...*

—1 Corinthians 2:4-5

*Note: Paul constantly employed his personal testimony*

## **IV. Conclusion: All three together**

A. Prayer prepares the way and the heart

B. Proclamation delivers the message.

C. Power confirms the reality.

D. When these three operate together, the gospel bears fruit and the church flourishes.

E. If we engage in the gospel, the gospel will bear fruit.

### **Call to Action**

Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 You are the light of the world —like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

1. Are you praying? Start laboring in prayer for the harvest. Let compassion move you.

2. Are you proclaiming? Boldly share Jesus and your testimony with your neighbors, friends and strangers. Do you have any friendships with lost people?
3. Are you moving in power? Step out in faith. Ask God to confirm His Word through you.