

Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: Revision - Pursue Power

1. When the Israelites lost the battle they asked what question?

What kind of questions do we need to ask of ourselves? Our families? Our worship? Our Church?

2. How is passion without power fruitless? Can you give examples of people passionate but powerless? How can you look at your life and make sure you are not just going through the motions?

3. The Israelites lost and lost and lost with a presumptive notion that the power of God can be manipulated with a magical, superstitious formula.

How can we avoid becoming presumptuous about God's presence and favor toward us like the Israelites did with the ark? Do we sometimes fall prey to this way of thinking when it comes to self-righteousness about our church denominations, political parties, and nationalities?

How should reverence for God inform how we worship corporately in our local churches? Is our approach to public worship services inappropriately casual and noticeably lethargic at times? How does God's Word serve as a guard and corrective to compromised worship in the church?

The Israelites were presumptuous about God both before the ark's departure and after its return. They thought similarly to Philistines, which meant their worldview was more pagan than biblical on this matter. Why is Scripture necessary for us to think about God and our relationship with Him properly? How does preaching the gospel to our non-Christian friends and neighbors work to correct their misconceptions about God?

4. RESET... REPAIR... REVITALIZE

God's power through his Holy Spirit is alive and present to bring about genuine change. Are you willing to seek power from the right source?

PRAYER

God, You are holy; apart from Christ, we are not. Forgive us for our presumptuous sins and hidden faults. Remove wrong thinking about You from our hearts and minds. According to Your grace, make us faithful to the mission of making disciples. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.