

OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #29

“The Power of One”

Part 2

I. Introduction

I want to continue with Part 2 of our teaching on “The Power of One”.
The simplest definition is...

“Power of One”

The belief that one person’s actions can actually change the lives of many.

A fuller definition...

Power of One

The ‘power of one’ is the ability of an individual person to initiate and create positive change, influence others, and make a significant impact through their actions, ideas, or beliefs.

Immediately most of you might give a nod to the notion of the power of one; you would admit such a thing exists...when it applies to others.

God saved the world by one man...Jesus!

Romans 5:18-19

Through *one Man's* righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life...By *one Man's* obedience many will be made righteous.

After the flood, God saved the human race by one man.

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found grace in the in the eyes of the Lord.

God raised up the nation of Israel beginning with one man. Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-2

Now the Lord said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing."

When Israel sinned at Mount Sinai and worshipped the golden calf, God saved the nation through one man's prayer.

Psalm 106:23

Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses *His chosen one* stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

God saved the Jews from extermination by the intercession of one woman...Esther

Esther 4:14 HCSB

Who knows, perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

Esther illustrates the problem most of us have.

We can see how the power of one applies to others. But it never occurs to us that we may be the one God will use right now.

So let me dive a little deeper tonight and ask you a serious question...

My Question for Each of You Tonight?

Do you believe that the "The Power of One" applies to your own life?

Do you believe that you, *as an individual believer*, can actually bring a blessing to an entire society?

3 Points

- **The power of one is possible for every one of us**
- **The power of one begins with setting our own selves right**
- **The power works through the one who stands for truth and refuses to take part in the lie**

II. The Power of One

A. God Applies The Power of One Is Possible for Every One of Us

1. God is not looking for the majority; or a big crowd; God is looking for *individuals*.

- a. It could be man; a woman; a businessman or a housewife; a father or mother
- b. God will apply the power of one to save the many.
- c. My text tonight is taken from...

Jeremiah 5:1 (NKJV)

"Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; and seek in her open places if you can find *a man*, if there is *anyone* who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her."

d. There were about 50,000 Jews living in Jerusalem, a city corrupted by sin and ripe for judgment; God says find me one man...or ANY ONE who executes judgment and seeks the truth and I will pardon the whole city.

Jeremiah 5:1 (NLT)

"Run up and down every street in Jerusalem," says the Lord. "Look high and low; search throughout the city! *If you can find even one just and honest person, I will not destroy the city.*"

e. The power of one can save a city.

2. We see God saying the same thing through the prophet Ezekiel...

Ezekiel 22:30-31

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them...

3. In Genesis 19, God had decreed a fiery judgment to fall upon the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah; but He delayed the destruction because of the presence of one man...Abraham's nephew Lot.

a. The Angel of the Lord comes to evacuate Lot who asks the angel to let him leave for the little city of Zoar and not destroy it...

Genesis 19:21-22 (NKJV)

And he (the Angel) said to him (Lot), "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."

Gen 19:21-22 (HCSB)

And he said to him, "All right, I'll grant your request about this matter too, and will not overthrow the town you mentioned. Hurry up! Run there, for I cannot do anything until *you* get there."

b. Not only did God spare the city of Zoar because of one man, He could not destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah until this one man had left!

c. How many cities are spared because of the presence of one righteous man? (Even though Lot wasn't very righteous!)

4. We see the same principle of the power of one in the New Testament account of the Apostle Paul in Acts 27. Paul is a prisoner on a boat bound for Rome when a cyclone threatens to sink the ship. But just when all hope is lost, Paul says, "And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you..." Acts 27:22 And why will there be no loss of life?

Acts 27:23-25 NASB

**"For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, ' Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'
"Therefore, keep up your courage, men".**

a. The ship could not sink because God had decreed that Paul must stand before Caesar; the ship could not sink because ONE MAN was aboard who God would not allow to drown! (And God granted that one man the lives of all who sailed with him!)

b. How many are saved because God saved you? How many of us are saved because God was saving others?

5. So the 1st point is that the Power of One is possible for every one of us.

B. Second: The Power of One Begins By Setting Our Own Selves Right

Jordan Peterson

It is increasingly necessary that we set ourselves – not others – right, and that we learn explicitly what that means.

1. One of the first things you learn when you take a commercial flight:

In an emergency, put on your own mask first.

- a. The principle is that you can't save others until you first save yourself.
- b. When the oxygen level falls and the masks drop down, a parent's first instinct is to mask up their child; but what good can you do if you pass out first?

2. The same principle applies in the salvation of a nation; we can't save others if we ourselves are not saved. The Apostle Paul commanded the Corinthian Christians to...

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.

- a. There are millions of counterfeit Christians in America; some hold high political office.
- b. Many claim to be christian but support abortion; and Marxist movements like Black Lives Matter.

Just this Thursday one unmarried Republican congresswoman said she was late to the prayer breakfast because her boyfriend wanted her to stay in bed a while longer. She said she would go to church twice this Sunday to make up for it. If she does go, she probably won't hear a sermon like Steve Lawson just preached:

Steve Lawson

You cannot be ensnared in the homosexual lifestyle and be a Christian. You cannot be involved in the transgender movement and be a Christian. You cannot be pro-abortion, buying into that agenda, and be a Christian. God have mercy on your soul.

3. Doth this offend you? Examine yourself. Test yourself. Put on your own mask first! But I can hear some saying all this focusing on ourselves sounds self-centered.

Academy of Ideas

Concentrating first and foremost on setting ourselves right should not be viewed as selfish. On the contrary, those who set themselves right and free their minds from state indoctrination provide great services to others.

a. When tyrants seek to enslave a society people instinctively search out individuals who are free.

Academy of Ideas

As human beings we all face similar struggles and therefore those who find solutions for themselves serve as role models for other members of a society.

b. Every individual Christian is called to be a role model of what it means to be free as an individual.

Academy of Ideas

It should be clear the crucial role that individuals must play in the creation of a free world. For what is needed most in a society dominated by oppressive government is individual role models who show by example what it means to be free.

c. We cannot make a difference unless we are different! We cannot convert a coward if we are conformed to their cowardice.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove (discern) what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

d. There is a connection between the mind and personal freedom.

John 8:31-32

"If you *abide in My word*, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32)

e. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds to the Word of God, which sets us free to free others.

Academy of Ideas

One who has freed their mind, set themselves right, and in pursuit of the truth is unafraid to boldly speak their mind even in the face of severe opposition, has, in the words of Carl Jung, “unknowingly and involuntarily become a leader” – a role model which others will naturally strive to emulate.

Review 3 Points

- **The power of one is possible for every one of us**
- **The power of one begins with setting our own selves right**

C. Third: The power of one works through the one who speaks the truth and refuses to take part in the lie

1. Alexander Solzhenitsyn defected to the United States from Soviet Russia where he witnessed firsthand the horrors of a nation under the control of the communists. His cure for communism was not in the power of many but in the power of one.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago

“The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie.”

2. The first step that releases the power of one is a refusal to take part in ‘the lie’.

a. “The lie” is a blanket term for all the deception practiced by the powerful communist controlled state; it is a government built on lies.

Vaclav Havel, Founder of the Czech Republic, 1979

Because the regime is captive to its own lies, it must falsify everything. It falsifies the past. It falsifies the present and it falsifies the future. It falsifies the statistics.

3. This is a perfect picture of power that is built on pretense; a government that can't be trusted.

Vaclav Havel

It pretends not to possess an omnipotent and unprincipled police apparatus. It pretends to respect human rights. It pretends to prosecute no one. It pretends to fear nothing. It pretends to pretend nothing.

a. Omnipotent/unprincipled police apparatus? What about the weaponization of the DOJ, the FBI and the IRS?

b. Respector of human rights? Pretends to protect the less than 1% of gender dysphoric children by forcing transgender curricula on the 99%?

c. Prosecutor of no one? Correct if you mean no one of their own party.

4. The lie is expanded through the state controlled mainstream media in 2 ways; the dispensing of lies and the withholding of the truth.

Harriet Martineau

(Early 19th century English woman considered the 1st female sociologist)

It's hard to tell which is worse; the wide diffusion of things that are not true, or the suppression of things that are true.

a. About the vaccines

b. About the climate

c. Now we are discovering the government's deep dive into the suppression of free speech. This from a Democrat candidate for President...

Robert F. Kennedy

Government censorship is dressed up in euphemisms like, ‘we are working with our partners in tech’; but make no mistake, this is a systematic program to control what Americans can say and think.

5. This is what Solzhenitsyn meant when he spoke of ‘the lie’.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

In a democracy, the people tell the government what to think, not the other way around.

6. 50 years ago, American author Ayn Rand, warned us of something she called the ‘ultimate inversion’; the government is free; the people need permission

Ayn Rand

We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission; which is the stage of the darkest periods of human history, the stage of rule by brute force.

a. In a free society, people are punished for lying and rewarded for telling the truth. But today...

Tucker Carlson

No one is punished for lying. People are only punished for telling the truth.

7. There is only one cure for a country captivated by lies...

Ervin Staub, “The Psychology of Good and Evil”

To counter the continuum of destruction that is a product of too-much conformity and too-much government force, more people need to act with moral courage.

Ervin Staub

Moral courage entails a willingness to encounter risks so as to defy immoral orders, reject authoritarian government control, and to stand up for the disappearing values of truth, freedom, and justice.

Vaclav Havel

Courage means going against majority opinion in the name of the truth.

III. Close

A. Review

3 Points

- **The power of one is possible for every one of us**
- **The power of one begins with setting our own selves right**
- **The power works through the one who stands for truth and refuses to take part in the lie**

B. A Great Illustration of The Power of One: “The Emperor’s New Clothes”, by Hans Christian Andersen.

Story Line 1

Two swindlers arrive at the capital city of an emperor who spends lavishly on clothing at the expense of state matters. Posing as weavers, they offer to supply him with magnificent clothes that are invisible to those who are stupid or incompetent. The emperor hires them, and they set up looms and go to work.

Storyline 2

A succession of officials, and then the emperor himself, visit them to check their progress. Each sees that the looms are empty but pretends otherwise to avoid being thought a fool.

Storyline 3

Finally, the weavers report that the emperor's suit is finished. They mimic dressing him and he sets off in a procession before the whole city.

Storyline 4

Although all the townsfolk clearly see that the emperor is naked, no one dares to speak up; they go along with the pretense, not wanting to appear inept or stupid...

Storyline 5

Finally, one little child shouts out that the emperor is wearing nothing at all. And the people then realize that everyone has been fooled.

That is the Power of One!

SO WHO WILL TELL THE EMPEROR HE HAS NO CLOTHES?

Can you believe that the "The Power of One" can apply to your own life?
Can you believe that you, *as an individual believer*, can actually bring a blessing to an entire society?

Closing Prayer