



## **The Power that Changes Everything**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

**Have** you ever knocked on the wrong door?

**Knocking** on the wrong door can seem right, feel right, and look right. *Is it possible for something to look right... but not actually be right? Is it possible for something to look Christian, but not be Christian?*

**The** apostle Paul says the answer is yes. He describes such people who have “a form of godliness but deny its power” 2 Timothy 3:5.

**Today** we're asking this question: What is the power that some have... and others deny?

**There** is something astounding here. Paul begins describing certain people in verses 2-4. It sounds as if he's looking out a window at the world and describing people "out there." Then he unleashes the final descriptor: having the appearance of godliness but denying its power.

**Most** translations use the word "form;" having a form of godliness. What this means is that outwardly they look good and godly. But their religion is lifeless. And he tells us why: they deny the power of God. *So, if these people deny the power of God, then what is the power of God? What are they denying?* When we search the New Testament, we find the power of God boils down to these three sources: the Gospel, the Holy Spirit, and Christ. Let's look at these.

**The power of God is revealed in the Gospel.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... Romans 1:16

Can this get any plainer? The Gospel is the power of God for salvation!

*What is the Gospel?* This is answered in the rest of Romans:

- All have **sinned** (Romans 3:23).
- Sin **separates** us from God (Romans 6:23a).
- Jesus died to **save** us (Romans 6:23b).
- We respond in **surrender** to Christ (Romans 10:9).

**The power of God is released by the Holy Spirit.**

... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... Ephesians 3:16-17a

We **need** the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church!

## **The power of God is rooted in Christ.**

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2

- In a city of distractions, Paul made Jesus Christ the centerpiece.
- We must keep Jesus alone front and center in *everything!*

***The power of God is revealed in the Gospel! Receive it personally and share it intentionally! Run to the cross when you sin and return to the cross when you succeed! The power of God is released by the Spirit! Depend on the Spirit for life, godliness and service! The power of God is rooted in Christ! By the power of the Spirit, live not a “Jesus plus” life but a “Jesus period” life! Otherwise, we will find ourselves knocking on the wrong door!***