

Thine is the Power

Introduction

The power in this phrase refers to the Holy Spirit. There are five Greek words that are translated power in Scripture. Dunamis (enabling), exousia (authority). The word used here is *dunamis*, *the enabling energy or power that makes things happen*. This is the word from which we get our word *dynamite*. It is the same word that Jesus used when He said to His disciples before His ascension, ***“Stay in the city until you have be clothed with power from on high”*** (Luke 24:49). ***“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth”*** (Acts 1:8).

The point is that only the enabling power of the Spirit can make the Kingdom real to us. This is a confess of our helplessness without that power. Power can sometimes be used interchangeable with ***anointing***. It is what opens our eyes, dispels the blindness and enables us to understand truth. It is what gives insight into Holy Scripture. It is what helps us overcome fear. It is what gives confidence when we witness about Jesus. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that enabled the disciples to witness in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the whole earth.

Peter did not believe Jesus when He told him that he would deny knowing Him. But hours later he was an utter coward before a girl and denied any knowledge of Christ. However, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter was as bold as a lion, preaching with power, liberty, confidence and authority before a multitude of Jews. He startled them and instead of mocking and laughing at Peter, they were cut to the heart and pleaded “What shall we do?”

Someone has said that if the Holy Spirit were completely taken from the Church, 90 percent of the work of the Church would continue as if nothing had happened. In 2 Timothy 3:5 Paul told Timothy that some would have a ***“form of godliness but deny the power”***. Many Christians today seem to be afraid of the Holy Spirit. They are sound in many ways but are so cold, formal and seemingly lifeless, without the power of the Spirit.

On a Sunday morning at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, in July 1801, a Methodist lay preacher stood on a fallen tree, taking his text from 2 Corinthians 5:10: ***“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good and bad”***. This was The Second Great Awakening in America.

This the kind of power that was manifest in the Welsh Revival.

We cannot force God to open our eyes and pour out His power. What we can do is open our Bible and pray for guidance and insight. But unless the Spirit comes, no amount of reading,

discipline or intellect can produce revival. Jesus told the disciples to tarry, to wait for this power to come.