

# *The Power of God*

**TEXT: 1 Cor. 2:1-5**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTANDING.
1. About how God chooses to manifest his **infinite** power.
  2. About the working of the Holy Spirit.
    - Aaron Knight's talk: God too small. personal testimony
    - direct operation and indwelling of the Spirit.
    - general reaction.
- B. THE QUESTION'S NOT "WHAT CAN GOD DO?" IT'S "HOW DOES HE CHOOSE TO DO IT?"

## **I. WHERE DOES GOD MANIFEST HIS POWER?**

**( Rom. 1:16 )THE GOSPEL!**

- A. IT IS GOD'S POWER **TO SAVE**( **James 1:21** ).
1. God draws us( **John 6:44-45** ).How?( **2 Thes. 2:14; 1 Cor. 1:21** ).
  2. The saving power of the gospel( **Rom. 1:16-17** ).
- B. IT IS GOD'S POWER **TO PROTECT FROM SIN**.
1. God provides a way( **1 Cor. 10:13** ).
  2. That way is our faith( **Eph. 6:16; 1 Pet. 1:5** ).
  3. **Rom. 10:17; John 20:30-31**.
- C. IT IS GOD'S POWER **TO TRANSFORM**( **Titus 2:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17** ).
- D. GOD'S POWER **TO PREACH**.
1. Can we wait for the Spirit to move us?( **Mat. 10:19-20** ).
  2. That's the apostles. What's said to preachers & teachers?
    - a. **2 Tim. 2:2**. Where'd Timothy get his message( **3:14f.** )
    - b. **2:15**. **Study, Study, STUDY!**( **1 Tim. 4:7-8** ).
    - c. **1 Tim. 4:13-16**. Neglect not!( **Phil. 4:13** ).

## **II. CONTEXT OF 1 Cor. 2:1-2.**

- A. CONTRAST OF HUMAN WISDOM AND GOD'S PLAN.
1. What does man desire?( **1:22-23** ).
  2. What does man respect?( **2:1** ).
  3. Why?( **Rom. 14:17** )...Gratification of the flesh.
- B. IN CONTEXT, WHAT IS THE WISDOM & POWER OF GOD?( **1:22-23** ).
1. What else did Paul say?( **2:2** ).
  2. Upon what is the church founded?( **3:11; Acts 18:4-5, 11** ).

## **III. "IN" PASSAGES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

- A. PASSAGES TO NOTE: **Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Tim. 1:14; Eph. 5:18; John 14:16-17** .
- B. NOTE ALSO: **Eph. 6:18; Rev. 1:10; 1 Cor. 12:3, 13**.
- C. LITERAL MEANINGS & W.L.'S RATTLESNAKES.
- D. 2 PASSAGES THAT HELP:
1. **John 14:10**. Working fellowship.
  2. **John 17:20-21**. How are **we** to be one?( **Eph. 4:1-16** ).
- E. EXPRESSES UNITY( **1 John 3:24** ). NOTHING MORE THAN **1:3-7**.

F. FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS IN HIS DEATH( **Rom. 6:3-4** ).

#### **IV. IN ANY FELLOWSHIP THERE IS A POINT OF CONTACT.**

A. INDWELLING **RECEIVED UPON OBEYING THE WORD**

( **Acts 5:32; Gal. 3:2** ).

B. OUR POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE SPIRIT IS THE REVEALED WORD.  
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE WORD THE SPIRIT DWELLS IN US.

1. Parallel passages( **Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16** ).
2. The Bible itself is not the Spirit, but the means by which the Spirit operates on us( **Rom. 8:12-17; Rev. 2:17** ).
3. We know we are saved when we obey( **1 John 2:3-5; 3:24** ).
  - a. **Rom. 8:16**, The Spirit bears witness "with," not "to," our spirit.
  - b. **Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5**, "Sealed" with the "earnest" of the Spirit. God's pledge. What is God's pledge to us?  
( **Heb. 6:13-20; 2 Tim. 2:11-13** ).
4. The "fruit of the Spirit" is seen in our conforming our character to the teaching of the word( **Gal. 5:22-26** ).

#### **IV. THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT.**

A. OFTEN ASKED, "DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN THE **GIFT OF THE SPIRIT?**"

B. YES, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL ANOTHER TIME( **see #416** ).

**CONCLUSION: WE PERISH IN OUR IGNORANCE!**