

TAPPING INTO THE POWER OF GOD

TODAY WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT "TAPPING INTO" OR "APPROPRIATING" THE **POWER OF GOD** IN OUR LIVES.

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR POWERS RULING IN THE UNIVERSE:

NO. 1. THE POWER OF GOD... THE POWER FROM THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS GOOD, THE ONE THAT MADE US, AND WANTS TO HELP US AND GUIDE US INTO THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND BENEFICIAL FOR US.

Psa 21:13 Be thou exalted, LORD, *in thine own strength*: so will we sing and praise thy power.

Ps 62:11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that *power belongeth unto God*.

NO. 2. THE POWER OF SATAN... THE DEVIL... WHO IS OPPOSED TO GOD AND GOOD AND RIGHT, AND WANTS TO TAKE PEOPLE DOWN TO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE TO BE WITH HIM.

2 Thes 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

GOD WANTS GOOD FOR MANKIND, AND SATAN WANTS HARM. AND THUS OUR INTEREST SHOULD CERTAINLY BE IN HOW WE CAN APPROPRIATE THE POWER OF GOD IN OUR LIVES!

NUMBER ONE: SEEK AFTER GOD

Ac 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 *That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him*, though he be not far from every one of us." AN INTERESTING STATEMENT: THE NKJV RENDERS IT: "so that they should seek the Lord, *in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him*, though He is not far from each one of us..."

JESUS SAID, Mt 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

DAVID: Psa 119:131 "I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments."

Psa 119:174 "I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

ISAIAH: Isa 26:9 "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

JAMES' SOLUTION: Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. * * * Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

AND ISN'T THIS JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE WANT TO DO? (We seem to want to resist God and get close to the devil.)

THE BIBLE SAYS THE DEVIL APPEALS TO US THROUGH *the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*, 1 JN. 2:16. WE SEEM TO *LIKE* THESE THINGS, WE THINK THEY PROFUCE *FUN* AND *PLEASURE*. WHAT WE FAIL TO REALIZE IS THAT "*the end of those things is death.*" ROM. 6:21.

THE PSALMIST: Psa 40:16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad *in thee*: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Psa 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is...

NUMBER TWO: WHERE DO WE GO TO SEEK THE LORD?

A. SEEK HIM IN CHURCH: Eph 3:10 "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be *known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*"

Ps 122:1 "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

B. WE SEEK HIM IN HIS WORD.

Mt 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the *scriptures*, nor the *power of God*.

Ac 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, *and to the word of his grace*, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Ro 1:16 For *I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*: for *it* is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Jas 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

NUMBER THREE: WE TAP THE POWER OF GOD IN FAITH.

Ro 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ro 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is ***the power of God*** unto salvation to every one that ***believeth***; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ***17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.***

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them ***gave he power*** to become the sons of God, ***even to them that believe on his name.***

JESUS TOLD PAUL HE WAS SENDING HIM: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, ***and from the power of Satan unto God***, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me (Jesus)." (Ac 26:18)

Eph 1:15 "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the ***spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him***: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 ***And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power***, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 ***Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

AS THEY SAY... FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS, (1 COR 13:2) BECAUSE IT TAPS INTO THE POWER OF GOD.

NUMBER FOUR: WE TAP INTO THE POWER OF GOD BY LETTING CHRIST DWELL IN OUR HEARTS, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN OUR INNER SELVES.

Eph 3:14 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, ***to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*** 17 ***That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;*** that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, ***that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*** 20 ***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*** 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Eph 5:17 "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; ***but be filled with the Spirit;*** 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...

Ac 7:51 (STEPHEN) "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."

1Th 5:17 ***Pray without ceasing.*** 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 19 ***Quench not the Spirit.*** 20 Despise not prophesyings. 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. 23 ***And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly (completely);*** and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 ***Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.***

Lu 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: ***how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?***

Ro 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, ***through the power of the Holy Ghost.***

Phil 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 ***For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.***

NUMBER FIVE: WE TAP INTO THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH PRAYER.

LIKE PAUL SAID: 1Th 5:17 ***Pray without ceasing.***

Php 4:6 Be careful (anxious) for nothing; ***but in every thing by prayer and supplication*** with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

WE NEED THE POWER OF GOD IN OUR LIVES: **Col 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.**

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to ***his working, which worketh in me mightily.***

2 Tim. 1:7, For ***God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power,*** and of love, and of a sound mind.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be ***strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*** 11 Put on the ***whole armour of God,*** that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 ***Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,*** that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 ***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,*** and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...

NUMBER SIX: IF YOU ARE NOT YET A CHRISTIAN, YOU CAN TAP INTO THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH BY BEING BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST!

Col 2:9 "For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And you are ***complete in Him,*** who is the Head of all principality and power, 11 in whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, ***12 buried with Him in baptism, in whom also you were raised through the faith of the working of God,*** raising Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." (MKJV)

YES, FRIENDS, OUR GOD IS ABLE!

Heb 7:25 Wherefore ***he is able also to save them to the uttermost*** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

2Ti 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, ***and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.***

Jude verses 24, 25, "***Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.***"