

Power; Romans 8:9-11

- I. We Seek
 - a. Power – strength, force, capability (BDAG)
 - b. We often seek the wrong kind of power – possession of control, authority, or influence over others (Merriam Webster’s)
 - i. We spend out entire lives seeking after control or authority – we often call this success
 - ii. The American dream is to ‘be your own boss’, no one in authority over you – to be the CEO
 - iii. It is this kind of power that gets us into trouble – “power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely” Lord Acton
 - iv. A prime example are the Roman emperors – their power was so absolute that they declared themselves gods and had the population worship them
 - v. “If you can’t control yourself, don’t you dare try to control others” Sherril Weiss
 - vi. Climbing the ladder of success (for the sake of success) is nothing more than seeking the wrong kind of power
 - vii. We as Christians should be doing our best, but not for our own benefit, but the benefit of others
 - viii. Ephesians 4:28 (ESV); Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
 - c. Moses was given immense power
 - i. The Nile river turned to blood
 - ii. Frogs everywhere; gnats, flies, dead livestock
 - iii. Hail, darkness
 - iv. Death of the firstborn (affected all, not just Egypt)
 - v. Parting the Red Sea
 - vi. Water from rocks
 - vii. All of his power was used to benefit someone else (Israel)
 - viii. And, when he abused his power (struck the rock instead of speaking to it) God punished him (Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land)
 - d. Here is the point – we are seeking power (the wrong kind) when we already have it
- II. We Have
 - a. 2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV); for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
 - b. Samson the Judge et al
 - i. Judges 14:6 (ESV); Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.
 - ii. Judges 15:14–15 (ESV); ¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his

bonds melted off his hands. ¹⁵ And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.

- iii. 1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV); Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.
 - iv. Philip was one of the men chosen in Acts chapter 6 as a deacon to oversee the distribution of food to the widows
 - v. In chapter 8 we find him in Samaria as an evangelist preaching the Gospel and converting Samaritans
 - vi. The apostles heard about this and dispatched Peter and John to investigate
 - vii. Acts 8:14–19 (ESV); ¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
- c. We have the Spirit of God dwelling in us
- i. The Spirit was given to us at our immersion – "the gift of the Holy Spirit"
 - ii. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us
 - iii. Romans 8:9–11 (ESV); ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
 - iv. The LORD uses the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 as an illustration of faithless Israel returning to Him
 - v. Ezekiel 37:4–6 (ESV); ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."
 - vi. Ezekiel 37:11–14 (ESV); ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you

shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

- d. The very same Spirit that rushed on Samson and David, that enabled Ezekiel to prophesy to Israel and change them from dry bones to living dwells in us!
- e. I think it is hard for us to comprehend that the Great I AM is dwelling in us in all His power
 - i. We have such a limited view of the idea of power
 - ii. We think it is something that we can bend to our will to accomplish our purpose of gaining authority or controlling others
 - iii. Moses may have been the most powerful man (other than Jesus) to ever walk this earth – yet he was the meekest (power under control)
 - iv. The purpose of God’s power is to open humanity’s eyes to His Word (both Jesus and the Scriptures)

III. The Power of God

- a. Romans 1:16–17 (ESV); ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- b. The power to raise the dead to life
- c. “The same power that rose Jesus from the grave, the same power that commands the dead to wake, lives in us”