

# Empowerment!

John 14:11-20 (the Message)

*11-14"Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can't believe that, believe what you see --these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I'll do.*

*The Spirit of Truth*

*15-17"If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The Godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!*

*18-20"I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back. In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive. At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you".*

In recent years many volumes have been written on the subject of empowerment. The authors have made millions of dollars by writing on a subject which, if we were prayerfully reading the Word of God, we would realize is a 2000 year old message from God to His children!

The source of this empowerment is written in John 14 and the outpouring of this empowerment is recorded in Acts 2:1-4. When Jesus was ascending, He told those disciples assembled to wait in Jerusalem until

they received that power - until they were empowered!

*"When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force --no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them." (The Message)*

Is it not amazing that thousands followed Jesus and saw the miracles. After the resurrection, He was seen by hundreds.(See 1 Corinthians 15:4-8) Yet, on that Day of Pentecost, only 120 (including the women) were present to be empowered by the Holy Ghost, as promised by Jesus in Acts 1:8)?

All present were engulfed in the fire of God! They were empowered from on high! That fire is available today. It is still raging in the Spirit realm. That fire, when we tap into it will change us forever and take us to new dimensions in God.

However, there is a level of empowerment inside every born-again believer. I call this entry- level empowerment. Even at this basic level, the power available is lethal to the devil and his cohorts. This power is resident inside every born-again believer. It is the power of Jesus inside us as He said in John 11:

*"But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!"*

We must recognize that we are empowered to live as Jesus did. We have been empowered to fulfill the commission He left us in Mark 16:15-18 (The Message) *"Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all. Whoever believes and is baptized is saved; whoever refuses to believe is damned.*

*17-18"These are some of the signs that will accompany believers: They will throw out demons in my name, they will speak in new tongues, they will take snakes in their hands, they will drink poison and not be hurt, they will lay hands on the sick and make them well."*

Notice that it is a commission. It is not a suggestion or a recommendation! A commission, according to the first three entries in Collins English Dictionary, is:

1. A duty or task committed to a person or group to perform
2. Authority to undertake or perform certain duties or functions
3. A document granting such authority

We have been given duties to perform for Jesus. Jesus has given us His authority - we come in His name and under His Blood. The document we present is the Bible - the Word of God.

In John 2:18 we see the religious crowd questioning Jesus' authority - *"Then the Jews retorted, What sign can You show us, seeing You do these things? [What sign, miracle, token, indication can You give us as evidence that You have authority and are commissioned to act in this way?]"* (Amplified)

If they had the slightest inkling of revelation these "experts" in the Law would have seen Him presented in every book of the Torah and the prophetic writings! The religious crowd still questions the works of every believer who operates in the power and authority given them by Jesus.

Every miracle and manifestation of the Holy Ghost in the born-again believer is questioned and placed under the microscope of religious doctrine! Christians operating within their God-given authority with the expected results of signs, wonders, miracles and victorious, prosperous living are regarded as questionable, called cults, and investigated for legitimacy!

From Genesis 1 we are told we are created in God's image! Today we are, through the born-again experience His children. We are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bones. When we recognize the level of intimacy within the relationship we have in Christ Jesus as His Body on earth, why question

the power?

We have all authority over the devil. Why allow the devil to put sickness on us, rob us of longevity, steal our finances and even bring death? Why blame God when these things come upon us when He has given us authority over all the power of the devil? Why think God is using bad things to teach us how to be good? What is preventing Christians from exercising their authority?

In one word the answer is fear! One definition of fear is “the anticipated perception that something negative will happen”. Christians have the perception that they will be “cast out of the synagogue” and cast out of society. Jesus told us that would happen. He told us that just as the world hated Him the world would hate us. We are in the world but are not a part of the world. (John 11:16)

We cannot embrace and be a part of something we are to overcome!

The Church World is looking around for God to suddenly rain down a great revival upon it but it is time that the Christian world awakens to the power resident within the individual. Only then we will see the greatest revival the world has ever seen.

To attain this level will mean time spent reading the Word, meditation on the Word and prayer (including praying in other tongues). If we wish to see revival - commitment is the answer!

*Ye are of God, my little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4 ASV)*