

# Power to Pierce the Darkness

Tim Dubberly, January 12, 2003- Edited January 12, 2005

Text: Luke 10:17-20

## Introduction:

Each of us are in a battle whether we like it or not. Satan is our adversary. He attacks the mind because that is where the battlefield really is. He knows how to destroy you and keep you away from God's love. But God has given us the 'Power to Pierce the Darkness.

Luke describes an event where the disciples had returned from a mission for Christ. They had been sent out and to heal, cast out devils, and preach about Christ. They returned with joy testifying of their victory over the devil. Christ showed them the greatest power was taking place in heaven and not on earth, for in heaven their names were written in the lamb's book of life, and that is where their rejoicing should be.

Jesus overcame the devil, took away his authority and gave that power and authority to the church. The church should be Christ's body on earth reaching out through His hands, witnessing by carrying the word using His feet, and revealing His word and power using His voice. However, the church seems to be weakening instead of intensifying. Is it because we do not use the "Power to Pierce the Darkness?"

□ Several centuries ago one of the popes, an avid patron of the arts, is said to have surveyed the vast artistic riches he had amassed and to have gloated: "No longer can the church of Jesus Christ say, 'Silver and gold have I none.'" And a subordinate replied, "But then neither can she now say, 'Rise up and walk.'"

David Barrett

--James S. Hewett, *Illustrations Unlimited* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 374.

Here are a few "aspects" of authority that Christians have through the power of God.

I. Christians have limitless power over a limited devil (17).

A. Jesus revealed that power to His disciples.

- Until Jesus came nobody had been delivered from a devil.
- Every word dealing with possession in Old Testament refers to land.
- Every reference to a devil deals with sacrifices and worship.
- However when Jesus came the first thing He began to do was deliver the sick and possessed.

B. Christ wanted every Christian to be empowered.

- When we realize that we have that authority, we will be filled with joy and praise also.
- The disciples could not believe that they were casting out devils.
- When we begin to use that authority we will drive the devil out of our churches, homes, and hearts.

■ My first trip to Africa:

I remember the power I experienced as I saw several hundred people pray for two to three hours before each service. Demons would literally scream out during the service because the spirit of God would arrest them and they became exposed.  
Tim Dubberly- Uganda Mission Trip 1995

C. Knowing that satan does not have authority over Christians solidifies our peace.

- It is not hard to sleep at night when you know that your God is in complete control.
- It is not hard to have peace when you know that your spiritual enemy cannot overcome you because the blood of Christ protects you.
- Truly Christ's peace can pass all understanding.

II. Our enemy falls before us because he cannot stand against us (18,19).

A. When we exercise the authority of God – satan falls.

- As they healed the sick- satan lost his hold over their affliction.
- As they cast out devils- satan lost his controlling power over their bodies.
- As they preached Christ- they tore down the strong holds of the enemy.

B. Our enemy cannot stand because he does not have anything to stand on- he has no authority over the believer.

- The devil is scared of the weakest Christian on his knees.
- We need some people who are not afraid to trust God who will tear down the strong holds of the devil.
- The devil will flee when we treat him as an intruder instead of a guest.

C. Since our enemy cannot overpower us he tries to undermine us.

- Christ gave us power over serpents- (Malicious person)- the devil will attack us with the tongue.
- He gave us power over scorpions-(deep hidden things)- this revealed how satan stirs undercurrents in the church.
- He gave us power to trample-(to tread heavily)- thorough prayer, preaching, fasting, and the word.

The problem with most Christians is their priorities.

□ We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.

R. A. Torrey

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 425.

III. Our joy causes him sorrow (20).

- A. Our joy comes from our relationship with Christ.
  - He gave us all authority which means there is no area in which he can defeat us.
  - No weapon formed against us can prosper.
  - All authority is because it is “all God”. ‘Greater is ‘He’ that is in us than ‘he’ that is in the world.”
  
- B. He is sorrowful because we are divinely protected by the blood.
  - We are protected in His hand.
  - The gates of hell cannot stop us.
  - Our rejoicing comes from knowing our names are in heaven and we are overcomers.
  
- C. Our rejoicing should be over the person and not the power.
  - We ought to rejoice that our names are written down and we have overcome the wicked one.
  - Our minds should be on his peace instead of His power.
  - To many Christians think only of the power and miss the presence of God.

□ There is a legend that recounts the return of Jesus to glory after His time on earth. Even in heaven He bore the marks of His earthly pilgrimage with its cruel cross and shameful death. The angel Gabriel approached Him and said, "Master, you must have suffered terribly for men down there." He replied that he did. Gabriel continued: "And do they know and appreciate how much you loved them and what you did for them?" Jesus replied, "Oh, no! Not yet. Right now only a handful of people in Palestine know." But Gabriel was perplexed. He asked, "Then what have you done to let everyone know about your love for them?" Jesus said, "I've asked Peter, James, John, and a few more friends to tell others about me. Those who are told will tell others, in turn, about me. And my story will be spread to the farthest reaches of the globe. Ultimately, all of mankind will have heard about my life and what I have done."

Gabriel frowned and looked rather skeptical. He well knew what poor stuff men were made of. He said, "Yes, but what if Peter and James and John grow weary? What if the people who come after them forget? What if way down in the twentieth-century people just don't tell others about you? Haven't you made any other plans?" And Jesus answered, "I haven't made any other plans. I'm counting on them." Twenty centuries later, He still has no other plan. He's counting on you and me. High on God's "To Do" list is the evangelization of the world. His early disciples adopted His priorities and devoted themselves to reaching the world. Christ counted on them, and they delivered. Have we done as well? --James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 70-71.

Conclusion:

Luke revealed how joyous it is to have victory over the devil. However, Christ revealed that the greatest joy comes not from authority over the devil, but it comes from knowing that your name is written in heaven.

Today, each of us needs to be actively working for the kingdom of God. We should intensify our ministry by using the authority that Christ has given and charged us with. The only way to keep satan down is to lift Christ up.

The greatest joy for us will not come from seeing sickness healed or demons cast out, but it will come just as Jesus said, "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Instead of trying to woo our congregations with power over demons, sickness, and disease, why don't we just win them through loving God and the power and miracles will follow us and we will not be following them.

Today, we are challenged to go out and win souls for Christ. We need to give people a reason to rejoice. Through salvation they can know that peace that passes all understanding and "Power that Pierces the Darkness."

As long as we hold on to Jesus and live for Him we will never be lost again.

□ An elderly gentleman was out walking with his young grandson. "How far are we from home?" he asked the grandson. The boy answered, "Grandpa, I don't know." The grandfather asked, "Well, where are you?" Again the boy answered, "I don't know." Then the grandfather said good-naturedly, "Sounds to me as if you are lost." The young boy looked up at his grandfather and said, "Nope, I can't be lost. I'm with you." Ultimately, that is the answer to our lostness, too. We can't be lost if He is with us.

King Duncan

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 243.

My Challenge:

- Ask God to help you stand up so that satan will fall down.
- Ask Him to help you use the authority of God to tear down the strongholds of the devil.
- Ask God to help you to focus more on heaven and its rewards than the power and what it can do.

We need to build our churches with a strong love for God and powerful worship. Everything else will fall into place!