

The POWER of the Church

The church IS a physical earthly expression of a spiritual universal kingdom!

WE ARE EMPOWERED !!!

Not anemic, weak, frail, timid, ashamed, or nervous.

But BOLD, confident, strong, equipped, prepared, immovable, resilient,

John 16:33 - Rom 8:37

Phil 4:13 –

But POWER over WHAT? 3 things... over it, not to eliminate it.

Although it remains, it has NO POWER!

1. Persecution, (opposition)
 2. SIN
 3. Death
-

There will always be opposition / persecution, SIN and Death.

We are not slaves to it, or controlled by it, mastered by it,

We are overcomers, we have renewed minds, we are free from guilt and shame,

We have hope for eternity / not to fear death. It is the POWER of God!

We do NOT have the power to save.

We do NOT have the power to heal.

We do NOT have the power to _____

He has the power, He owns the power, He dispenses His power.

He has given us the Authority to utilize His POWER.

Not collectively, only individually. He's not now nor ever has had the need to organize a club or national organization, religious corporation, or government.

I as an individual have the authority to exercise His power when accepted and applied to my situation.

We collectively have the combined power of agreement, and unity,

As the PERSON goes...

so goes The CHURCH .

We are just a collection of people.

We make up a body.

Acts 1:4-8

he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... they went upstairs to the room where they were staying... They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

1. Wait
2. Expect the promise (receive it)
3. Get empowered
4. Witness

2 Tim 3:5

Matt 22:29

Luke 10:19

2 Tim 1:7

1 Cor 4:20

John 19:10

Rom 1:16

To the lukewarm Christian:

Afraid to witness, Afraid to publicly pray or read your Bible.

Live in fear, covered in guilt, belittled by shame, confused about your eternity...

POWER over opposition / tribulation

Matt 5 - Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The church is persecuted – NOW – TODAY all over the world

The church is advancing – NOW – TODAY all over the world

In 250 ad the Roman emperor issued a decree requiring public sacrifice to the Roman Gods, when refused Christians were arrested imprisoned tortured and executed. In 313 Constantine legalized Christianity and in the 4th century, it would become the official religion of the Roman empire.

In the middle ages Wycliff, Tyndale and Huss, burned at the stake

Luther excommunicated and fled for safety,

Currently the persecution of Christians has reached the highest levels since the World Watch List began nearly 30 years ago. “Across 76 countries, more than 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – an increase of 20 million since last year.” 312 million Christians live in the top 50 countries including Afghanistan and North Korea. since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, Christian minorities in Afghanistan have had to flee or go into hiding.

“Those whose names are known to the Taliban are being hunted down. If men are discovered to have a Christian faith they are executed. If women are discovered, they may escape execution but face a life of slavery or imprisonment.” Because of the dire situation in Afghanistan and the risk that soon there will be no Christians left in Afghanistan. The “triumph” of the Taliban in Afghanistan has also boosted other jihadist groups and extremism in Africa and Asia.

One in every seven Christians live under at least high levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.

POWER

We Struggle... yet we OVERCOME SIN !

1 John 5:4 **2 Cor 5:21**

Bushido... “every man must define his struggle...

And claim his victory”

POWER

We know death awaits us all...

We do not FEAR, we have HOPE for eternity

1 Peter 1:3 **1 Thess 4:13**

Some churches are powerfully strong ... - - financially, some Biblically, some in prayer, some in soul winning...

Final thoughts for us experiencing Gods Power:

Spiritual Authority (POWER) - Tony Evans

1. Having no power means perpetual defeat, never being able to overcome; Constantly being subject to circumstances, helpless to do anything about it.
2. We are unhappy Christians, depressed spiritually, not because we don't believe the right things, but because we are unable to act upon our beliefs.
3. The greatness of God is elusive. We know it is true, it's just not true for us.
4. How can we move the mountains? Mark 11:12-25
5. Religion without life is like a tree with no fruit, leaves with no bud; external appearance that something is going on.
6. A mountain is immovable (a problem or situation) by yourself; you can't do anything about it.
7. Spiritual Authority is the RIGHT to use divine power.
8. You don't have the power but you have the authority to use it.
9. OGE has the power, you have authority to use it, it's already there, you have to flip the switch.
10. If you don't exercise the authority, you won't experience the power even if you believe in it.
11. Power available does not equal power utilized. You can have it and not use it.
12. we ask God, "why aren't you giving us power?", He asks us "why aren't you exercising your authority?"
13. Don't call OGE and say, turn on my fridge, my microwave, my kitchen lights. Don't claim a job or career that you did not apply for.
14. Everything God is ever going to do for you, He has already done it! It is on deposit in your account. He will not make withdrawals for you.
15. say to this "teller" be gone \$100, you have to ask for it.

16. God will not relinquish you from the Responsibility to exercise authority.

18. Do you know His character, His word, His promises?

Stand on it....act on it

19. We know more about TV, sports, and shopping than we do the word.

20. We must be able to recognize the nature of the mountain – the lie of addictions, habits, shortcomings.

21. Faith is our positive response to what He has already provided.

22. Joshua 1:3 - I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Gods plan was already set in motion, they had to take authority over it.

23. Faith does not MAKE anything happen, authority allows the power to work.

24. Law enforcement officers only enforce the existing law, they can not invent a law. They only have authority to carry it out.

25. If you don't know the Law of God, the principles of scripture, the doctrines, the boundaries, you cannot exercise Spiritual Authority.