

## Doctrine of Power

1. The word “power” is used in Scripture to refer to ability and intent.
  - *Genesis 31:6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.*
2. Men have the power to hurt one another or to help them.
  - *Genesis 31:29 It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.*
3. It is possible to have power with God.
  - *Genesis 32:28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*
4. Fathers desire for their children to have power in life.
  - *Genesis 49:3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:*
5. God raises up individuals, both good and bad, in order to display His power through them.
  - *Exodus 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*
6. God is a God of omnipotent power and it is glorious.
  - *Exodus 15:6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.*
7. The Mosaic Law curbed the power of men in their relationship to women.
  - *Exodus 21:8 If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her.*
8. Moses properly recognized the power of God in the matter of the Exodus.
  - *Exodus 32:11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?*
9. When individuals become arrogant with assumed power the Lord breaks their hold on society.

- *Leviticus 26:19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:*
10. One of the judgments of God upon a nation that has come under divine discipline, no matter how great it may be, is to be rendered powerless before its enemies.
- *Leviticus 26:37 And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.*
11. The heart of the Christian prays to see the power of the Lord enacted according to promise.
- *Numbers 14:17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,*
12. Balaam realized God controlled his tongue. Balaam was hired to curse Israel but every time he tried, a blessing was spoken instead.
- *Numbers 22:38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.*
13. Despite the passing of many years the power of God was spoken of to succeeding generation.
- *Deuteronomy 4:37 And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;*
14. The Law forbid men to think they were self made individuals and had acquired wealth and power by their own innate abilities.
- *Deuteronomy 8:17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.*
  - *Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*
15. Time and again Israel was reminded that by the power of God deliverance came from Egypt. Spiritually, only the power of God can bring any soul out of the reign of sin and Satan. No Pharaoh was any more a cruel tyrant than is the reign of sin in the soul.
- *Deuteronomy 9:29 Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched out arm.*
16. Only when the people of God come to an end of themselves is the Lord able to manifest His omnipotent power on their behalf.

- *Deuteronomy 32:36 For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.*
17. In military battles God gives an army success in part by waging psychological warfare and causing hearts to despair. In imitation of the divine strategy in spiritual warfare, Sin uses a psychological warfare to lead souls to believe there is no way out of a walled in confine and there is no power to break through the walls that enslave.
- *Joshua 8:20 And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and, behold, the smoke of the city ascended up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that way: and the people that fled to the wilderness turned back upon the pursuers.*
18. As Joshua wanted to honor the house of Joseph and exalt them as a great people, so the Lord wants the church to know He considers His people great and powerful. God invites believers to view themselves with a new perspective, as more than conquerors even as sons of God.
- *Joshua 17:17 And Joshua spake unto the house of Joseph, even to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, Thou art a great people, and hast great power: thou shalt not have one lot only:*
19. To some individuals God gives physical power, or economic power, or political power.
- *1 Samuel 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.*
20. Sometimes life overwhelms the soul and there is not even enough emotional energy or power left to weep.
- *1 Samuel 30:4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.*
21. The Christian must never forget the ultimate source of strength and power is God. The heart that depends on the Lord will never be at a loss as to the perfect way.
- *2 Samuel 22:33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.*
22. The power God manifested on behalf of the Exodus generation was intended to elicit a holy fear with a view towards reverence and worship. In like manner the salvation of the soul is designed by God to elicit a holy fear and worship in an acceptable spiritual manner.
- *2 Kings 17:36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.*

23. Some times the world can underestimate the people of God and the God of His people, as the king of Assyria did during the days of Hezekiah of Judah.
- *2 Kings 19:26 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.*
24. If God permits, a national army can be strong, powerful, and deadly.
- *1 Chronicles 20:1 And it came to pass, that after the year was expired, at the time that kings go out to battle, Joab led forth the power of the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem. And Joab smote Rabbah, and destroyed it.*
25. The power of God is absolute, glorious and worthy to be praised. No creature in heaven or in earth could ever be trusted with supreme power, but God can be trusted and worshiped for the way He righteously uses His power.
- *1 Chronicles 29:11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*
26. As God is pleased to grant authority, so He is pleased to grant power while reserving ultimate authority and power for Himself.
- *2 Chronicles 29:12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.*
27. The Christian does well to pray the prayer of Asa, pleading that omnipotent power might be exerted against the enemies of the church, the world, the flesh and the devil. Spiritual victory is no less important than military victory.
- *2 Chronicles 14:11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.*
28. The basis of appeal to God for help is to humbly recognize His greatness and power.
- *2 Chronicles 20:6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? And rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? And in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?*
29. God has power to help and He has the power to cast down.

- *2 Chronicles 25:8 But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.*
30. The omnipotent power of God will be turned against those who do not honor Him.
- *Ezra 8:22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.*
31. It took omnipotent power to deliver the children of Israel from the Land of Bondage. It took omnipotent power to bring Jesus back from the death after His crucifixion. It takes omnipotent power to deliver a soul from spiritual bondage. But when God does exercise His power on behalf of His people they can remember and give Him the glory until the end of the ages.
- *Nehemiah 1:10 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.*
32. At times the church can find itself powerless to defeat the enemies of God and to help others find freedom.
- *Nehemiah 5:5 Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.*
33. Foolish men, and worldly men glory in the power they enjoy, forgetting to give God the glory.
- *Esther 1:3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:*
  - *Psalms 37:35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.*
34. A political ruler is just and good to empower the citizens of his kingdom to defend themselves from execution and extermination.
- *Esther 8:11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,*
35. Wicked hearts hope to have power over others in order to harm them in violent and bloody ways.

- *Esther 9:1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)*

25. Satan has no more power over a believer than what the Lord allows him to exercise.

- *Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.*

26. God is often pleased to redeem His people from death by poverty and death in wartime.

- *Job 5:20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.*

27. It is part of the mystery of life that the wicked live, become old, and enjoy power.

- *Job 21:7 Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?*

28. God must put strength in the soul of the saint.

- *Job 23:6 Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me.*

29. No one should be presumptuous about today or tomorrow. The ultimate power of life and death rests in the sovereign Creator.

- *Job 24:22 He draweth also the mighty with his power: he riseth up, and no man is sure of life.*

30. All of life and all of creation is in the hands of omnipotent power.

- *Job 26:12 He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.*
- *Psalms 65:6 Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:*
- *Psalms 78:26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind.*

30. A complete understanding of the power of God has yet to be comprehended. God speaks and the world springs into existence. God speaks and the matter is done.

- *Job 26:14 Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?*
- *Job 36:22 Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?*
- *Job 37:23 Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.*

31. Part of worship is to praise the power of God.

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

32. It is not wrong to appeal to God to deliver the church from the dogs of spiritual warfare.

- *Psalms 22:20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.*
- *Psalms 59:11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield.*

33. In the hour of death, or distress about death, it is good to believe God has omnipotent strength to deliver the soul from the power of the grave.

- *Psalms 49:15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.*

34. Time and again God must teach the church that power belongs to Himself. Spiritual pride is not to be encouraged. The seeking of spiritual power to exalt self and boast is abhorrent.

- *Psalms 62:11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.*
- *Psalms 66:7 He ruleth by his power forever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.*

35. The church can plead to see the power and glory of God in the act of worship.

- *Psalms 63:2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*

36. God has told the church what to say to Him.

- *Psalms 66:3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.*
- *Psalms 68:35 O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.*

36. Knowing the sands of time were running out on his life, the psalmist pleaded that he would be allowed to show the power of God to others, and to the next generation.

- *Psalms 71:18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.*