

Our Young People

A Meeting to Pray for Larger Things.

Topic for May 21: "The Gift of Power." Acts i., 1-8.

"That the excellency of the power may be of God."

"With Power."

By D. L. Moody.

The late Dr. Gordon, of Boston, once said at Northfield that as you walk up the thoroughfares of our great cities you often see the sign, "This store to let, with or without power."

Back in the building somewhere there is an engine, and if a man wants to manufacture he can hitch on to the power; if not, he can hire the store without power.

Dr. Gordon thought it would be a good thing to ask a man who wants to join the church if he wants to be a member "with or without power." If he said, "Without power," we could honestly say, "We have plenty of that kind already."

What the church needs to-day is more members with power. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bring forth much fruit." I have no sympathy with the idea of toiling all night and catching nothing. And yet nine-tenths of Christian workers, not to speak of church-members in general, never think of looking to the Holy Ghost for this power.

There is a difference between strength and power. Goliath had strength; David had power.

There is a difference between influence and power. The high priests and the Pharisees had influence; Peter and the other apostles, after Pentecost, had power.

There is a difference between the indwelling of the Holy Ghost and His filling one with power. Every true child of God, who has been cleansed by the blood of Christ, is a temple or dwelling-place of the Holy Ghost. But yet he may not have fullness of power.

In the third chapter of John, Nicodemus went to Jesus by night to get light, and I have no doubt he got it; but he did not receive it in abundance, or he would not have stayed in the Sanhedrin three years, listening to all the mean, cutting things they said of Jesus. It took the death of Christ to bring him out manfully and boldly.

In the seventh chapter of John we find a different character. That last day of the feast Christ stood in the temple, crying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink, and out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

A man like that would not have stayed in the Sanhedrin three years; he would have smashed up every Sanhedrin on earth. Four walls cannot contain the influence of a man who is full of the Holy Ghost and power. "Rivers of living water!" Think of the rivers that flowed from C. H. Spurgeon and George Miller!

Let us pray for this power. The disciples were told to wait ten days, but thank God! we don't have to wait now, because the Holy Spirit is here.

The power of the Holy Ghost is the one thing that can save the church and save our country. We need more preaching in this power, not in the power of human eloquence and mental gifts. We need more singing in the power, the way that the Levites were singing when the Shekinah came and filled the temple of Solomon. Many a church has lost power because of an ungodly choir, or a choir that sings in an unknown tongue. Fathers and mothers need power to live aright, and teach their children the ways of righteousness.

I wish we were all dead in earnest. What does a hungry man want? Money? No. Fame? No. Good clothes? No. He wants food. What does a thirsty man want? Stocks and bonds? No; he wants water. When we really hunger and thirst for Holy Ghost power, nothing else will satisfy us.

God has commanded us to be filled with the Holy Ghost. We have His promise that He will pour water on him that is thirsty. Claim that promise now in faith, fulfil the conditions laid down in the Word, and God will not disappoint you.—Christian Endeavor World.

For Daily Reading.

Monday, May 15.—Promised by prophets. Isa. 44: 1-3; Joel 2: 28-32.
 Tuesday, May 16.—Promised by Jesus. Luke 24: 49-52.
 Wednesday, May 17.—The endowment of power. Acts 2: 1-4.
 Thursday, May 18.—The work of the Spirit. John 14: 26; 16: 7-15.
 Friday, May 19.—Guided by the Spirit. Acts 8: 26-40.
 Saturday, May 20.—Quickened by the Spirit. Ezek. 37: 1-14.
 Sunday, May 21.—Topic. The gift of power. Acts 1: 1-8.

The burden of suffering seems a tombstone hung about our necks, while in reality it is only the weight which is necessary to keep down the diver while he is hunting for pearls.—Richter.

Retaining the Power.

When a lecturer on electricity wants to show an example of the human body surcharged with fire, he places a person on a stool with glass legs. The glass serves to isolate him from the earth, because it will not conduct the fire—the electric fluid. Were it not for this, however much might be poured into his frame, it would be carried away by the earth; but when thus isolated from it, he retains all that enters him.

If thou, then, wouldst have thy soul surcharged with the fire of God, so that those who come nigh to thee shall feel some mysterious influence proceeding out from thee, thou must draw nigh to the source of that fire. Enter into thy closet, and shut to thy door, and there, isolated, "before the throne," await the baptism. Then the fire shall fill thee, and when thou comest forth, holy power will attend thee, and thou shalt labor, not in thine own strength, but "with the demonstration of the Spirit, and with power."—Rev. William Arthur.

Power for Service.

The Father gives the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, not least, but most, when they ask for others.—Rev. Andrew Murray.

In the service of the gospel there is a place and a call for the best talents a man can bring—learning, eloquence, common sense, devotion,—but on none of these dwells the power to cleave hard hearts, to soften stubborn wills, to awaken dead souls. Only God can reach and save His own spirit in man. He must be in and behind both messenger and message.—Rev. Charles A. Berry, D.D.

Where there is little practical outcome in the life, there has been but little in-coming of the Spirit into the heart. Outflow and inflow will always correspond.—Rev. James M. Campbell.

Natural religion depends on the energy of the flesh. Supernatural religion depends on the energy of the Spirit of God, which comes down from above. It is quite possible to be perfectly right in the forms of our service, and yet destitute of divine power.—Rev. George F. Pentecost, D.D.

Our success in all Christian work, as Christian work, is measured by our possession of spiritual power. But we must not depend for our success on our feeling that we have spiritual power. We ought to feel our need of that power and then trust God to give it to us as we go on in the path of duty he has pointed out as ours.—The Sunday School Times.

We hear much said about the necessity of a revision of the creeds of Christianity. The revision of the standards of life is much more important, and will give better results.