

And the Power

When we pray: “Thine is the power”, we are referring to God’s power. Although God is not the only one that has power, God’s power is the greatest of all. In fact He has all power. That is why He is called the Almighty. Like his love, his power is without limit. And besides this, there is power which only God has. Which power belongs exclusively to God? There are many possible answers. Let me share some of these with you.

1. God has the Power to Save and to Condemn.

In the Bible we read:

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? (James 4:12).

And John writes:

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death (Revelation 1:17-18).

Satan does not have power to condemn us. God has the last word. We are to fear offending God, because it is he who is able to save and destroy. Only He. **“Thine is the power.”** God is also the only one who is able to forgive us our sins. The Apostle John writes:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

It is no wonder, that when Jesus forgave sins that the Pharisees were offended and exclaimed: **“Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7)** That is because they did not recognize who Jesus was. He alone is the author of our salvation. Peter exclaimed:

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12).

2. His is the Power of the Resurrection.

The Power of the Resurrection is God’s Power. That is a power that the Sadducees did not know of nor believe in. That is sad you see. Yet,

Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, “I am the God of Abraham,

the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob' ? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken (Mark 12:24-27).

Even though the resurrection of Jesus Christ may defy logic, the evidence for his resurrection is overwhelming. What happened in Jerusalem was not done in secret. At the time there were over 500 witnesses who could attest to his resurrection. If you want to invent something, you could claim that it happened in a remote area and that no one witnessed it except for you. But here there were a cloud of witnesses. The disciples themselves at first did not believe. Later they were willing to die for this truth even when faced with death. Josh McDowell correctly reasons that the only thing that could have transformed a group of defeated disciples hiding in an upper room to eager witnesses that even death could not silence was that they experienced the risen Saviour. No other explanation makes sense. This is God's power. And it is the power of God that will raise us up as well. Paul says:

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power (1 Corinthians 6:14).

Let us not rely on our own righteousness, which will only undermine us, but make sure that the righteousness of Christ is ours. Paul writes

and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:9-11).

After the resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit was given, so that his followers would be able to have access to God's divine power in order to do his work upon the earth.

3. The Power of the Holy Spirit.

The Power of the Holy Spirit is from God.

Jesus said: But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The Holy Spirit is not a power. He is a person of the God-head. As a person He speaks (Acts 13:2), He guides, and He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). The Holy Spirit gives power, has power, but is more than just power.

Of Jesus we read:

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews

and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly (Acts 10:38-40).

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. What Christ did on earth was through the power of the Holy Spirit. And then Jesus told his disciples:

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

The power of the Holy Spirit is given unto us to do God's work.

4. Creation and the Power of the Word.

Creation attests to the power of God through his Word. The Bible says:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

Jeremiah also describes God's power in creation:

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens at His discretion (Jeremiah 10:12).

And since God created the world through his word, we can say that his word is powerful. In fact, we read that

the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb 4:12).

There is power in the Word of God. The blood of Jesus Christ our Lord has the power to deliver from sin (Matt. 1:21). And the preaching of the Word concerning the atonement through the blood still changes lives today and delivers people from bondage. God's power is made manifest through his Word. The Word was with God, and became flesh, and we saw his glory in His Son Jesus Christ. And this word concerning the freedom that Christ brings is still preached today and has the power to save. Through the Word, the Spirit and the blood, we have the power to live a life of victory. This is God's doing and God's power.

5. God has the power to give us victory.

Although we cannot live a victorious life in our own power, God has promised to give us victory over sin if we claim his power and rely on his help. Jesus came to save us from our sins not in our sins. We read

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

We are not to go along with those who call themselves Christians and continue to live in sin. Paul talks to Timothy of some

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (2 Tim 3:5).

God has the power and is able to keep us from falling:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen (Jude 24, 25).

Paul claims to be much more than just a conqueror through the power of Christ. He says:

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-38).

6. The Power of the New Testament came into effect with the death of Christ.

We can have this victory in Christ because Jesus has the power to redeem us, and to give us eternal life. The power to redeem us and give us eternal life is God's power through Christ Jesus. This is because of Christ's death on the cross. We read in Hebrews 9:

And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives (Hebrews 9:15-17).

When my mother passed away, the testament she made had power to dictate the distribution of her property. I gave it to my lawyer and her property was divided according to that testament. Her testament had power. Now the New Testament is the power of God, which came into effect with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul says the Gospel of Christ is the power of God to Salvation:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (Romans 1:16)

Not only is the Gospel of Christ the power of God to Salvation in this life. It is also gives us a taste of the powers of the age to come. The writer of Hebrews gives us a warning to remain steadfast and not to turn away from the way of truth, because Christians have been privileged and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:5).

7. Christ is the power of God.

In Romans 1:16 Paul claims that the gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation. In his letter to the Corinthians Paul calls Christ both the wisdom of God, and the Power of God.

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).

In the Old Testament Isaiah already gives us a glimpse of the Power of Christ, by calling his name Mighty God.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Because Christ died for our sins, he is worthy to receive power, and it is his power through the resurrection that saves us.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing! (Revelation 5:12).

8. God's Power is strong in the weak.

Since Christ died for us, and his power can give us victory, let us not look at our weakness, but rather on His power. For the Lord said to Paul:

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12:9).

Do you feel weak, discouraged? Look not at your own power. Look to God. **“His is the the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.”**

He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:29 & 31).

When Goliath came to slander Israel, Saul and the soldiers were afraid because they looked at Goliath's strength and their own weakness. David was able to defeat Goliath because he looked at the Power of God not at his own small stature. You have a choice, you can rely on your own strength and tremble in weakness or like David you can rely on the help of God and be victorious. God's power is manifest in weakness. Most of the churches in Asia were admonished by the Lord because of not measuring up to God's standards. However not the church in Philadelphia. It was commended by Christ:

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens': I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name" (Revelation 3:7-8).

So if you are weak, do not look at your weakness. Look at God's power. He has promised to be your strength in your weakness. And the weakness of God is stronger than the world. And the foolishness of God is wiser than the world and one person and God are always a majority. Which other power belongs to God?

9. Healing is a power that comes from God.

When we have a wound or are bleeding, we marvel at the way our body reacts and brings about healing. It is a built-in repairing process that God has equipped us with. Natural healing comes from God. In addition, it is also God that gave wisdom to researchers and health professionals, so that doctors can successfully operate and practice medicine. However, there is a third healing power as well. It is God's power and we refer to it as divine healing. One example is given in Acts 12. Here Peter and John tell a lame person to get up and walk in the name of Jesus. When the people marvel at what happened, Peter addresses them and says:

"Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus ... And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all (Acts 12: 12,13a,16).

God has power to heal. God has the power to bestow health as we read in Psalm 41.

The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed (Psalm 41:2-3).

God has power over our health. Jesus healed the sick, as we read for example in Mark 6:

And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who

were sick to wherever they heard He was. Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well (Mark 6: 54-56).

If we are sick, we also have the privilege of asking God to bestow on us his healing power.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven (James 5:13-15).

My grandmother, who lived to be 72 years old, kept a diary. In her diary she relates how she experienced divine healing a number of times in her life. It is the power of God.

10. The Power of Leadership, Governments, and Kings comes from God.

Although God does not condone many of the things governments and Kings do, it is nevertheless God that has the last word. He has given humans a free will but not the ultimate say. When King Nebuchadnezzar needed to learn this, the Lord taught him a lesson. Daniel interpreted the King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and told him:

They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses (Daniel 4:25).

After seven years, when Nebuchadnezzar was restored to his throne he confessed:

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Daniel 4:34-35).

King Nebuchadnezzar was mighty and arrogant, and God showed him that without his will, the King has no more power than a beast. In another dream, starting with Babylon, God revealed future Kingdoms to Nebuchadnezzar. The Kingdom of Babylon, would be followed by the Kingdom of the Medes and Persians, then by the Kingdom of Alexander the Great, finally by the Roman Empire, at which time Christ would be born and the eternal Kingdom of God would be ushered in. The dream again was interpreted by Daniel as we read in Daniel Chapter 2. Wars and atrocities are not the will of God for mankind. Mankind has free will, but in the end God has the final say. Power comes from God. We are all so fragile.

The Psalmist says:

**No king is saved by the multitude of an army;
A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.
A horse is a vain hope for safety;
Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.
Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
On those who hope in His mercy (Psalm 33:16-18).**

We are advised not to take up weapons and plan insurrections. Jesus says my kingdom is not of this world. Nevertheless, Paul says:

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves (Romans 13:1-2).

11. God has the Power to Help.

No matter what your situation is. No matter how hopeless you seem. God can help you. He has the power to help. Jesus says:

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28-29).

God is always with us. Listen to this:

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Heb13:5-6).

When the King of Juda thought He needed help from the King of Israel and his army, God sent a prophet to him. We read:

But a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of the children of Ephraim. But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow" (2 Chronicles 25:7-8).

Psalm 146:3-& 5 declares,

**Do not put your trust in princes,
Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.
Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

Those who trust in God, await Christ's return in power and glory.

12. Christ will return with power.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory (Mark 12:26).

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (Matt 24:30).

On the day when Christ comes in the clouds it will be judgement day (Matthew 25:31-46). All those in the graves will arise at one time on that last day (John 5:28-29). Christ will awaken the righteous on the last day (John 6: 39,40, 44, 54). The unrighteous will also be judged on the last day. (John 12:48). Christ will return with power and glory.

13. Power over Death.

Then the final enemy, death, will be totally defeated. That is because God has power over life and death. Christ has conquered death and with his return death will be completely defeated.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:53-57).

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted (1 Corinthians 15: 23-27).

14. All Power is His.

All Power belongs to our God. That is why he is spoken of as the Almighty from the first book of the Bible to the last. In the first book of the Bible we read:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless (Gen 17:1).

And in the last Book of the Bible God is praised with the words:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! (Rev 4:8).

In the Book of Job, God is addressed as the Almighty, thirty-one times. Let us be encouraged. Our God is Almighty. And God has given His power to Christ, our Lord. Isn't it encouraging to know that we can depend on Christ to be with us through His Holy Spirit each and every day of our lives?

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen (Matt 28:18-20).

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by thy name, for yours is the power, forever and ever. Amen.

Questions:

1. Who has the power to save and to condemn?
2. Which power belongs to God? List at least 10 short answers.
3. Is the Holy Spirit a power? Explain.
4. Why are the Greek Holy Scriptures called the New Testament?
5. Explain how God's power can be strong in the weak.
6. What three types of healing come from God?
7. What should a Christian's response to our government be? Why?
8. Which is the final foe, that is to be defeated?
9. To whom has God given all power?
10. What difference does it make to us that all power has been given to Him?