

Practical Power Pointers

1. Most of us have experienced a time of intense physical activity that left us spent, unable to do much more than move. Describe some of the feelings that go with this kind of fatigue? (i.e., what would you say if someone asked you how you felt at such a time?):
2. When we experience weariness in our inner man (say, in our human spirit) would we experience the weakness in a similar way? How would they be the same? Differ?:
3. Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV). Notice that the word "power" is mentioned three times in this version (twice or four times in other versions). It is the central idea of this passage. Various words are used to express the concept of power, but the two principle thoughts are: power, the right to take action; power, the ability or the might that enables one to take the action desired. With these definitions in mind, consider the following questions:
 - From where does God draw the power that he shares with us? (vs.16)
 - If we wish to have this power from God, how do we obtain it? What must we do to share in it? Is it something we deserve or earn? (vs.16,17)
 - How do we experience the power of God? In our muscles? Our mind? Our emotions? In our spirit? (vs.17)

- What is one of the principle purpose of the power which God gives us? What activity does God want us to invest the power in? (vs.18,19)

- According to verse 20, would it be possible to use up God's power? Could we ever think of or ask from God for something that he or we through Him would not have adequate power to accomplish?

4. According to the following passages, are some of the reasons why people experience a loss of power from God. See if you can identify what that reason is and suggest a way to prevent or overcome it.

- Joshua 7:12
- Mark 9:18
- John 15:5

5. Read I Thessalonians 1:5, Acts 4:33, and Acts 1:8. These three passages reflect the typical kinds of activity that God's power is used for in this life. What are these principle activities and what might happen with reference to our experiencing God's power if we decided not to become involved with these activities?

6. This week's focus on care and prayer

Feel weak and defeated at times? Yes, most of us do. But the Bible says that we have a God who enters us and will provide power if we ask. But it seems that we must ask. It is not normal, or automatic, or present with us all the time in an unending basis.

Every day things come into our lives that block the power. Sometimes the power does not come because we simply want to use it just for our own selfish purpose. Sometimes we just don't ask for it.

Think for a moment: have you asked Him for His power today? Anything getting in the way? Share as seems fitting as to your need in this area then pray together. May God richly bless you as you do.

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