



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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## Letters of Faith

March 2015

**“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence.”**

2 Peter 1:2-3 NASB

Dearly Beloved,

I believe that it is near paramount in God’s heart to encourage the Body of Christ to seek the natural flow of His power through us to the world.

Unfortunately, “power” is the catchword of this age and means very different things to different people. In business, you wear a power necktie (that’s red) to your power lunch, where you empower your staff to overpower your competition. An early generation of Macintosh computers was called a Power Mac. My present laptop Mac is called a PowerBook. More power is the name of the game, from computers to laundry detergents.

But Beloved, Almighty God is THE power, the mind of Christ is THE power computer, the Bible is THE power book, and the blood of Jesus is THE ultimate cleansing agent!

There is another whose power is at work in the world today, trying to lure people into his kingdom with his lies and perversions of the truth. The Apostle Paul described him to the Ephesians as: **“...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”** (Eph. 2:2) He masquerades as an angel of light, and his power of lies and deceptions holds fascination for many, but just as Jesus resisted his lures with the truths in God’s Word, we all must resist Satan’s attempts to draw us into his realm of counterfeit power.

Early in our growth and experience with the power of the Holy Spirit, the Body was praying for my legs to be the same length. A much beloved brother in Christ confessed later that while he watched the Holy Spirit adjust my physical walk with Him by lengthening my right leg by over an inch and a half, he thought: *Jesus, Paul is already well over six feet tall. Why don’t You shorten his left leg instead of lengthening his right?*

Instantly he received a word from God that has forever stuck to all of us in that room: *I AM the God of INCREASE, not decrease!* That was a defining moment in understanding God’s power.

After Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist and His forty days of temptation in the wilderness, **“...Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.”** **“And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.”** [emphasis added] **“They were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, ‘What a word this is! For with authority and power** [emphasis added] **He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.’”** (Luke 4:14-15, 32, 36 NKJV)

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus when He was conceived, but it was only in God's fullness of time and through Jesus' demonstrated total yieldedness to Him that God's power started to flow out of Him to exhibit the presence of the kingdom of God that was in Him. Luke's narrative clearly reveals that Jesus' power from God was unleashed by His refusal to be tempted to exercise that power in any selfish, spectacular or secular manner.

Jesus' power was derived from His demonstrated total submission to His Father God, not only in pursuing God's will, but also in performing God's will in God's way. **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."** (Matt. 3:17 NASB) Because Jesus did His Father's will His Father's way, everything the Holy Spirit did through Jesus was redemptive, instructive, healing, delivering, creative, and altogether righteous.

Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth: **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed [empowered] Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty [preach deliverance] to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."** (Luke 4:18-19 NKJV) The congregation was thrilled. Then Jesus said some rather hard things to His hometown folks, and they tried to throw Him down the cliff outside the city. But the power of God was upon Him, so He simply passed through their midst and went His way. (Ref. Luke 4:30)

Jesus initiated His teaching ministry by declaring that the humble, not the powerful, will inherit the earth. (Ref. Matt. 5:5 NLT) Humble is the word that He specifically used in describing Himself: **"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart..."** (Matt. 11:29 NASB)

Almighty God vested all power and authority in heaven and on earth in Jesus, a man who was gentle and humble in heart. The words "gentle" and "humble" mean "power under control." Jesus said to His disciples in John 20:21, **"...as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."** Thus, Jesus shows us that power-discipleship is submitting both our strengths and our weaknesses to the same divine yoke He Himself embraced with His Father. Harnessed to Him in the humble yoke of submission to our Heavenly Father's will and ways, we also become available for God's power to be released through us for His glory.

Years ago, our daughter, Alexis, received a vision of the narrow road that we are all invited to walk on with Jesus. She saw the road getting narrower and narrower, and steeper and steeper, and the ditches at each side of the road got steeper and deeper as well. The Lord said to her that they were the trenches of pride. As she went further up the narrowing road of righteousness, she began to see bones strewn along the sides of the road. She was frightened, and asked the Lord what they were. He said: those are the bones of saints who had traveled there before her, but had stumbled into the trenches of pride when the real Power of God started flowing through them.

We do not find any instructions in the Scripture to seek God's power with all our heart like we are exhorted to seek love, peace, faith, prophecy, and unity in the Spirit. But we do see admonitions to zealously seek and desire righteousness, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Matthew 6:33 (KJV) says: **"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these [other] things shall be added unto you."** First Peter 3:11 says: **"...let him seek peace and pursue it."** Second Timothy 2:22 says: **"...pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace..."** and Romans 14:17 says: **"for the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."**

Not one of the verses mentions power. These Words of God say that His power comes from pursuing Him, the God of all power.

The amazing thing to me is that God has chosen to trust us, simple disciples of Jesus, with His spiritual power. He wants to bless us through each other and to demonstrate to the pre-Christian population the awesomeness of the one, true, holy, and all-powerful God in and through His people.

Second Timothy 1:7 (NASB) says: “...**God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but [a spirit] of power and [a spirit] of love and [a spirit] of discipline.**” He hasn’t just given us His power, He has given us His love and His discipline with it, because with the privilege of manifesting God’s power we are given the ability to administer it responsibly.

Second Peter 1:3 (NASB) says: “...**His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**”

Colossians 1:11 says: “...**strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience...**”

And Ephesians 3:16: “...**He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man...**”

Beloved, we encourage you to become men and women of God that are open to the power of God flowing through you, because that is what God wants in Christ’s Body. I believe that the free and bold flow of God’s Holy Power is what the Church needs to finally become the Scripture-prophesied head, not the tail, of our troubled world. (See Deut. 28:13)

Jesus is the model for God’s power. Receive it humbly. Receive it and release it for the right reasons. Guard it zealously for it is to be displayed boldly for His glory.

Then, Beloved, the power of God will flow through you to work and to will for His good pleasure in the lives of all those around you that He wants to touch, and to change, and to heal, and to deliver for His glory.

Huge Power-Full Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.