

That You May Have Power

*Today I am elaborating on the epistle reading, Eph. 6:14-20 “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven AND on Earth derives its Name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with **POWER** through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have **POWER**...Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his **POWER** that is at work with in us...”*

Yesterday was my grandmother’s birthday. She would have been 122 years old. Her name was Olive Schey and after 33 years I still miss her. Don’t ever think that grandparents aren’t an important part of a child’s life. Last Sunday was her mother, my great-grandmother’s birthday. Her name was Ida Hyde and she would have been 145. Both of these ladies were widowed and lived alone for a very long time; my grandmother for 20 years and my great-grandmother for 50 years. She was still living alone when she died at age 90. They were both staunch members of the Lutheran Church and it never occurred to either one of them that their Lord and Savior would not take care of them and protect them from whatever evil might beset them. They were both very bold, independent women. This was because they both knew who they were and that they really weren’t alone. The Bible says in Isaiah 54 “...remember no more your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name---the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer.” Archbishop Bob is urging us to be like my grandmothers, to fill our remembrances with the scripture so that the Word of God will be part of our inner being, ready to come to mind whenever we need Him.

I heard tell of a little old grandmother, fearless, much like mine, who was coming home to her empty house after prayer meeting one night only to find a burglar inside in the dark. He threatened her and she immediately remembered the scripture they had studied earlier that evening, Acts 2:38. In the urgency of

the moment, she couldn't remember the whole verse, ("Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.") So she just screamed the title at him. "ACTS 2:38" The burglar immediately froze in his tracks and did not move until she had called 911 and the police arrived and took over. As the police turned the lights on and were handcuffing the burglar to haul him off to jail, they asked him why he just froze like that. After all, she was just a frail little old lady in the dark. He explained, "That old lady let me know she had an ax and two .38's. I wasn't about to go against them."

*Now I suspect that story isn't entirely true, but the **POWER** behind it IS true. Hebrews 4:12 says "For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword." The Word of God, all by itself, and even more when spoken with the name of Jesus, that name above all names, has the omnipotent **POWER** of God within it. Matthew 17:20 tells us that if we have the faith of a little mustard seed nothing will be impossible to us.*

I can tell you a story that I know IS true. I was in Sunday School at the First Baptist Church in Seymour one Sunday many years ago. One of the men, Mr. Robinette, said he had to tell us what had happened to his mother that week. As I remember it, she was an old widow woman who lived in the senior citizen's housing in Mansfield. She had awakened in the night to hear a sound in her living room. She got up in her nightgown and was very surprised to confront a strange man in the dark. She looked at him and in the boldness of the Spirit said, "Young man! Do you know Jesus?"

The man looked at her in amazement and slowly said, "Yes ma'am.....I do." He grabbed a chair and held it out to her and continued, "Now after I leave, you lean this chair under the door knob so that no one can be tempted to break in and rob you."

*All Mrs. Robinett had to do was mention the name of Jesus and it released the **POWER** of God to protect her, and perhaps save the misguided young man in her apartment that night as*

well. Phillipians 2:9-10 "...the Name that is above all names. That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." John 14:13-14, "I will do whatever you ask in my name...You can ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

*Now Jesus warned us, by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16, "Thou shalt not put the Lord thy God to the test." As someone close to me puts it, "Don't bother God with the little stuff." But the simple fact remains, when the chips are down and you've gotten yourself beyond what you can handle in your own strength, for WHATEVER reason, Jesus tells us to just mention his name and all the forces of Heaven are on our side. There's a story in Kings where Elisha or maybe it's Elijah is threatened by an enemy army. His companion is terrified. He tried to no avail to tell him not to worry, God will protect them. Finally he looks to heaven and asks God to show the companion why he is not afraid. They look up and the sky is filled with the army of God and the Heavenly Hosts." As it says in the hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers, "Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise". I was raised to believe that the Devil can't stand up to a praising Christian. He will slink off until another time when you have forgotten and struck off in your **own power** and Satan will return to tempt you again.*

It is politically incorrect to mention the name of Jesus outside these walls. Recently the legislature of Pennsylvania decided that mentioning the name of Jesus in their opening prayers was offensive. Well Jesus warned us about that, too. In John 6:61 he says, "Does this offend you? ...The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." In Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the POWER of God." And in Luke 9:26 Jesus warns us that those who "are ashamed of me and my words...so also shall the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in glory."

I will end by quoting St. Peter, who always seemed to be going off in his own strength and getting into some kind of

trouble, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” A good teacher tells you what he’s going to teach you, teaches you and then tells you what he taught you. Well, this is it. When you can’t do it on your own...just ask Jesus to help you.

When I come to the end of myself I start to sing, (you may remember I talked to you last December about the value of singing scripture) The one I find myself singing most of time is this one, “You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day. Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come....For to His Angels He’s given a command, to guard you in all of your way. Upon their hands they will lift you up lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up on Eagles Wings, bear you on the breath of dawn. Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Presented by Susan Frame at All Saint’s Anglican Church
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