

The Gift

Power

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Luke 1:26-38 (NLT)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

"Christ lived in Mary by way of the virgin birth. Christ lives in you by way of the new birth."

Colossians 1:27 (NLT)

For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

SPIRITUAL POWER

Three key Greek words in the New Testament for power.

Exousia means delegated authority.

Kratos from which we get the words democrat, autocrat, and plutocrat. It refers to power one uses over others whether legitimate or illegitimate.

Dynamis from which we get the explosive words dynamite, dynamo, and dynamic.

John 1:12 (KJV)

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Luke 1:34

"But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

1. Power of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

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.

2. Power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The church that does not work miracles is dead and ought to be buried.

Samuel Chadwick

3. Power of God’s Word

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

For 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.

4. Power of Prayer

James 5:16 (NIV)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

The church upon its knees would bring heaven upon the earth.

E. M. Bounds

5. Power of Praise

Acts 16:25-26 (NKJV)

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.”

6. Power of Believing

Mark 9:23 (NKJV)

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”