

How Does the Power Work?

Part III

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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Philippians 4:1-19

1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

In our original text in **2 Peter 1:3-4**, God has promised, by His divine power, to provide for us everything we need that pertains to life and Godliness!

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Does God just give us stuff? Does God just fill us with Godliness?

Sometimes, but not usually. What God gives us is power; power to get wealth, power to eat thereof, power to rejoice in our labor...and oh, how we love that part! As we should, it is a gift from God.

God empowers us to do all the things He commands us to do, to add the Godly characteristics we need to our lives; the things that are true, the things that are just and pure and lovely and things that give us a good reputation and even fill our mouths with praise for His glory.

We just read in our text today in verse 19, that **God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

I have a 45-year track record with the Lord and I am here to tell you that God absolutely has kept that promise to me!

He has supplied all our need and a whole lot more, which He also promised!

We know that **Philippians 4:13** does not say that you can or may do anything...

It says that through the empowerment of Christ that we can do all things in which we are instructed by the Lord!

'I can do all things through Christ' certainly does not mean that you can do anything your flesh wants to do.

Last week I reminded you of who you are.

1. You are a child of the living God!

2. You are a joint heir with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...

I. Today I must inform you that there is a third area of the Lord empowering us that we may not enjoy as much.

A. There is another promise found in the book of Hebrews:

1. Hebrews 12:1-8

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

2. In Verse 6, God has promised that He will chasten every child that He loves...and you know that He really loves you!

3. Chastening is the Greek word **paideia**

pahee-di'-ah

From G3811; *tutorage*, that is, *education or training*; by implication disciplinary *correction*: - chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

4. On the other hand scourging, even though it is discipline...is definitely going to hurt!

B. Remember that part about things God cannot do?

1. One of the things God cannot do is break His Word to us!

2. That means if you are really saved, you are going to experience the chastisement of God.

3. It starts gently with new believers and gets more severe with older ones who rebel; that's usually the scourging part.

II. Be not deceived, God will do whatever it takes to deal with our sin.

A. Chastening may come in various ways, but it will come.

1. **Hebrews 12:9** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

2. How severe can chastening become?

3. 'Whatever it takes' seems to be that answer.

a. To us, a believer going home is sad and grievous.

b. From God's perspective, it's like the kids coming over for dinner.

4. **Hebrews 12:10** For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, **that we might be partakers of his holiness.**

5. This is the same goal we read about in **2 Peter 1:4** ...that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.

6. **Hebrews 12:11** Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

B. Even though God is merciful and gentle and sometimes moves slowly; especially with baby Christians; He always takes us where we need to go.

1. For 45 years now I have been experiencing God's correcting work in my own life and I have observed His work in the lives of others.

2. Here is where God is taking us.

3. Hebrews 12:12-15

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

III. Some areas of sin will invoke a quicker and more severe response from God than others.

A. *There are three common areas of sins over which I have seen the chastening of God become the most severe.*

1. Misleading new and immature Christians into sin or otherwise harming them.

Mark 9:42 And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

2. Participating in gossip.

Proverbs 6:12-19

12 A naughty person, a wicked man, **walketh with a froward mouth.**

13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

14 Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; **he soweth discord.**

15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 **A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

3. Bringing reproach on the Church.

a. In Acts Chapter 5 the Lord took the lives of two rebellious believers who lied to God.

b. It accomplished exactly what God intended.

c. **Acts 5:1-14**

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

In Conclusion:

Sometimes believers (at least we presume they are real believers) do some of the most stupid and most damaging things.

Sometimes those things do great damage to the Church or to other believers.

Sometimes God must respond by removing them from the Church.

Sometimes He responds by removing them completely!

We can respect the Lord's awesome power and allow Him to enable us to achieve the impossible for His glory.

Or, we can learn to fear Him the hard way.

One thing we all had better get, the Lord will not back down from His Word.

Many of you have watched God bless according to His promises and been amazed at His goodness and seen Him keep His Word down to the last detail...

We should all remember that He is just as faithful to keep these other less popular promises as well.

Hebrews 12:28-29

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.