

**10-23-19 WEDNESDAY**  
**How We Underestimate Our God**

Tonight we had a special missionary scheduled, Joseph Landigin, Filipino missionary going to Cambodia. He called to tell me he was too sick to drive and come to the church. I also talked to Philip Willis. Pray for him, his son was in a accident and he also is having difficulties. I told him that we had it on our calendar that the Wednesday service was changed to Thursday anyway, we would reschedule him for the next years missions month. When we set up our calendar maybe we could have a missions conference like we did last year. Pray for him and his family. also.

Now in light of these changes, I thought I would preach about the power that is available for us to fulfill the great commission.

I believe we underestimate that power greatly. God is looking to advance His kingdom in this demon infested world. He is seeking to manifest Himself to this lost world. Not that we might be glorified, but that He be glorified.

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray He said number one on our prayer list should be this:

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Then Pray:

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread... etc. etc.

First priority in our prayer life should be that God's name be Hallowed and glorified and His Kingdom be advanced on earth. I believe that winning the lost, promoting the gospel, and sharing His word with this lost world is how His name can be Hallowed. Every time we win someone to Christ, every time someone gives their heart to the Lord, God's kingdom is advanced here on earth. God's will is done in recruiting citizens for that kingdom.

***I. IT IS OUR SIN THAT LIMITS GOD'S POWER.***

Now how powerful is God to help us in this endeavor? The problem is not that our God is limited in power, the problem is that we limit God.

I have been reading the book of Joshua and in that book we clearly see how God was able to do great things for His people. We also see how disobedience to God caused defeat.

**Psalms 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!**

**Psalms 78:41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.**

Notice it is we who limit God's power. It is not God who is limited in power.

## 1. ACHAN'S SIN LIMITED ISRAEL.

For instance, Joshua is told to march around the city of Jericho 7 days, and the 7th day march around city 7 times, blow their trumpets, and the city wall would fall down.

God also told the nation that they were not to take anything from the city. It was all accursed.

Joshua 6:17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

Joshua 6:18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

Joshua 6:19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

So the victory came, God did a great thing for the nation, but Achen stole a Babylonian garment and some silver and gold. And it limited God's blessing on the nation. Then they suffered a defeat at Ai,

Joshua was devastated, and he cried out to God for victory,

Note: God said, until you get rid of the accursed thing you cannot experience the victory you want.

Joshua 7:6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

Joshua 7:10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Joshua 7:11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Joshua 7:12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Joshua 7:13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

There are so many ways we can limit God's power in our lives. One way is by taking in the accursed thing into our lives.

Notice the Lord said, get up. Joshua was weeping and praying, and God said get up and straighten this out, and I then can bless you.

So it is that you can pray all that you want for God's blessing but it will not come as long as you have the accursed thing in your house and life.

**2. CERTAIN MONEY GOTTEN IN THIS WORLD CANNOT BE SANCTIFIED.  
It will limit the power of God in your life.**

There are some things in this world that cannot be sanctified no matter how much you try. God says, get rid of these things, don't keep them. Get rid of them. There are some things that cannot be sanctified.

Deuteronomy 23:18 Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

God said, there was some money that he did not want, and would not accept even for a vow.

Deuteronomy 7:25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 7:26 Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

**3. Certain Worldly Activities Cannot be sanctified no matter how hard we try.  
They will limit the power of God in your life.**

There was a woman that was a stripper and she decided to use her talent for the Lord. She would strip and dance for men and then hand out tracts for Jesus. That is an abomination.

I believe that as much as churches are trying to sanctify the rock n roll music of the world, it cannot be sanctified. The activities that are associated with that music cannot be sanctified. The immorality, the drug usage, how can these things be sanctified?

No wonder there is no revival in our country. So bad it is that our nation no longer knows what is moral and what is immoral. The Church is at fault for this. As we lower the moral standards in God's house we lose touch with what is right and wrong and moral and immoral. We limit God's blessing in our personal lives, our church, and our nation.

It is not that God is not powerful, it is that we cannot experience His power in our lives because of sin, and taking in the accursed thing into our lives. WE HAVE LIMITED GOD!

It got so bad in the nation Israel that God told Jeremiah to not pray for the good of the people. He said he would not hear the prayer. I believe that can happen today, that people can get to that point today.

Jeremiah 7:16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

After they dealt with Achen, God started blessing them again.

## **II. CONSIDER JUST HOW POWERFUL OUR GOD IS:**

If you are serving God.  
If you are sanctified unto God.  
If you are living for God.

There is no end to His power, no limit to what He can do.

5 Kings of the land joined together to fight against Joshua. This was a mighty host, so many that Joshua could not humanly kill them all. So God intervened and rained hailstones on them.

Joshua 10:10 And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Beth-horon, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

Joshua 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Beth-horon, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

More were killed with the hailstones than with the sword of Joshua.

Still there was not enough time in the day to destroy them all. So we read the following:

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

Joshua 10:13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Joshua 10:14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

Either this happened or it did not happen. Now the skeptics reason it away, but I believe it to be the case. I believe God!

There is no greater manifestation of God's power over the physical elements than this miracle that God did for Joshua. The next closest thing to it was when God turned the sun dial back for Hezekiah ten degrees. 10 degrees which would represent 20 minutes on the sundial.

Think of the power of God.  
Look at what he did to Pharaoh in Egypt.  
Elijah prayed it would not rain for 3.5 years.  
God brought manna every day for the nation.

But this miracle of having the Sun stand still for a whole day is really a manifestation of His power.

Who could stop the earth from spinning? God did.

As I meditated on this miracle, I thought we have no idea of the power of God. We have a whole world that is worried about global warming. They are going to impoverish our nation over it,

when God could just wave His hand and take care of the whole problem, if it really is a problem. I mean a rise of the earths temperature over the last 100 years by 1.3 degrees - I don't really see as a problem at all.

How said it is that the world cannot trust in the Lord?

One of our missionaries gave the illustration about a native who was converted from cannibalism to Christ, who was sitting reading his Bible when a visitor to the country stopped by and saw him reading the Bible. He was warming something over a fire and reading his Bible. The fellow asked what he was reading. He said the Bible, and the visitor laughed and said, you know that modern men have rejected that book. He replied. if it were not for this book it would be you in this pot that I am boiling.

I shared, a while back, how a Swedish professor is suggesting that some day we need to consider eating people to save the planet and avoid eating cows.

As the missionary gave that illustration about the converted cannibal I thought to myself, here we have modern men who profess themselves to be so wise that are actually talking about the benefits of cannibalism. Radical environmentalists are the ones reverting to cannibalism to save the planet.

Those who profess **themselves** wise have become the fools!

### **III. GOD'S POWER IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING TO GLORIFY HIM AND ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM BY WINNING LOST SOULS.**

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

So we have it that God told Joshua to defeat the inhabitants of the land, and when he asked God to let the Sun stand still it did

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

Joshua 10:13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Joshua 10:14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

If we want to see the power of God in our lives all we have to do is figure out what God called us to do for His glory and the advancement of the Kingdom of God through us, and ask Him for whatever we need to do the work He called us to do.

This the secret to these verses:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

I believe the answer to the miracles of God are wrapped up in doing the will of God. He will protect us as we go out and obey him and witness for him.

Here is a story of a missionary we had our church. He told this story at our church but I found a copy of the story written to a pastor .

Letter written to Pastor Weeks of the Woodside Baptist Church Sept 17th 2009

***Dear Brother Pastor Weeks,***

***In response to your e-mail downloaded September 16, 2009 here in Surinam, South America concerning my "walking on fire" experience I write to give you a brief explanation.***

***In the first place, the fire dance took place here in Surinam on the Cottica River in the village of Ricanau Moffa. Louise and I had previously served for ten years in what was then the Belgian Congo, Africa Louise, in fact, grew up in the deep jungles of the Belgian Congo before coming to the USA to complete her education. We met at Bible college in Los Angeles, California and returned together to the Congo. After ten years there, upon our departure for the USA we were informed by the newly independent government of the Congo that missionaries were to be banned from the interior but were free to work in the cities.***

***The prospect of being banned from our jungle ministries led us to begin looking for a new field. An Evangelical Methodist pastor, knowing of our problem, informed us that the Evangelical Methodists had sent three different missionaries to the Cottica River of Surinam, South America, all of whom had shortly left from working with the fierce bush negroes and found easier experience with deep northern indian tribes, thus abandoning the Cottica River.***

***I went down to Surinam on a "look see" trip, not knowing the language, but was able to find a fellow with a dugout canoe at the Cottica riverside market who was willing to take me in his little dugout canoe to see what it looked like. We went approximately thirty miles down the river and made an attempt to go ashore in a number villages, only to be waved off. Two villages allowed me to come ashore so they could get me close enough to spit on me. At one of the villages, while others were spitting, a woman named SaPoetia turned to her young daughters and said, there he is, there's the messenger God has sent to us.***

***She said this because a black couple, a German couple and a Dutch couple in that order had given up on their attempt to reach this people. At that point in time I did***

**not, of course, understand what she said but could see she was speaking positively. Now, fast forward. We went down to Surinam, moved into the 18 x 20 foot frame house on eight foot stilts in the swamp just upriver from the village abandoned by the previous missionaries, and there we were.**

**Again, fast forward, the missionaries are now speaking the local language, souls are being saved for the first time in their two hundred year history, leadership is being trained in their language, a church is going up, local children are being educated, a man lying with no heartbeat, not breathing, given up for dead, has been raised in the presence of the village leadership in answer to prayer. It is evident this white man must be stopped. Solution: call in Apoetoe the famous fire dancing witchdoctor and break this missionary's power by showing him up in the presence of the entire village. I was, in effect, ordered by the village chieftain to come and watch the fire dance. End result? I watched a virtually bare man clad in only a loincloth dance barefooted on broken beer bottles and knee high fire, unharmed !!! Now the witchdoctor turned to the crowd and said "if you will follow me I will give you this power". At that moment the Lord said to me, "Just do the dance that he did," so I took off my shoes and socks and being an obedient son, I did so in the power of the God of heaven without being burned or cut To make a long story short, the witchdoctor was broken, the drummers got up and left along with the people, and I walked back over the trail to our little house. My feet were hot, but I could not see either burns or cuts. Went to bed, woke up at six am, when the rising sun shown through our bedroom window, found my feet in good shape and jumped out of bed at the call of people in front of our house. A group of folks had come from the village with the question "missionary, how are your feet?" Take a look at my totally undamaged feet, was my response. "O, God is powerful" tell us the way and we will walk in it, and they did.**

**Looking forward to hearing from you and in the meantime meeting at the Throne of Grace,**

I had a similar incident take place in my life, when I was first saved, God often protected me when I went out and witnessed for the Lord.

As we go and do His will and His mission, not our own will, not our own thing. Not seeking our own glory. As we go and serve Him, He will be with us. We serve Him and He works. It's like this, it is hard to stir a train that is just sitting but while it is moving it can be stirred and moved from one set of tracks to another.