

# The Quest for True Power

This is the Faith I Live By: The Power of Jesus Christ is available to me through His Spirit.

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Monday, May 27, 2019

Audio Link: <http://bit.ly/ThoughtsinWorship>

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

Romans 1:16

The pursuit of power is one of the most intoxicating driving forces in our world today. Many pursue power by creating popular music. Others pursue power by perfecting their athletic abilities. Still others pursue power by studying psychology in order to master the mind. But where can we find real power? Is it in books or on television? Can we gain real power by exercising until our muscles are perfectly sculpted? All of these things have an element of power inherent to them. Yet, they cannot change our lives from an eternal perspective.

## Biblical Power

The apostle Paul had a true concept of power. He said that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. Truthfully, the gospel of Jesus Christ has been changing lives for thousands of years. This gospel is God's demonstration of His love toward a lost world. When He created us, His intention was that we live with Him eternally. However, since the inception of sin that plan seemed impossible to achieve. Since God knows everything, His plans include all eventualities into the equation. Meaning, sin was no surprise to God. Before the world was, God had a plan.

## Power in Jesus Christ

Jesus covenanted with the Father that if humanity should sin He would become our substitute. God's love did not allow Him to simply watch from the sidelines as sin destroyed the lives of the ones He loved. Just at the right time, Jesus became a man, lived a perfect life, died as a perfect substitute, and rose from the dead to eternal perfection pardoning our sins forever. Now, Jesus is in the Heavenly Sanctuary interceding on our behalf. Because of His power we have access to the power of God. Because of Christ's sacrifice we have true power. The power of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. And one day, we will be restored to what God intended for us from the beginning. Let the reality of God's love and all that He sacrificed in order to save us permeate your thoughts today. Be encouraged. Believe the gospel. For in it we gain true power.

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## The Appointment

**Christ lay down His life when His mission was to be accomplished, and we honor Him when we trust His divine timing.**

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Based Upon John 13

Satan assailed the entire journey of Christ's ministry on earth. From the time of Christ's birth, the enemy tried to cut His life short, because he knew that he would be defeated, as when he was cast out of heaven. Hatred for Jesus caused Satan to inspire men to attempt to murder Jesus. Herod signed a decree to murder every child two years and younger, hoping to eliminate a potential king whom he thought would threaten his dominion. Many times evil men tried to either stone Him or throw Him from a mountain to His death (Luke 4:30). They failed because there was an appointed time for the willing sacrifice of Jesus' life.

Often, He said that His time had not yet come. When His time came, He would yield His life for the salvation of humankind. "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 10:17, 18).

As He did regularly, Jesus was ministering, when some Pharisees approached Him. "The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem." (Luke 13:31-33).

What was Jesus' perfection? What event did Jesus often reference when threatened by death? He knew that only when the time was right, He would be perfected through His sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus' reference of today, tomorrow, and the third day was directly related to His ministry on earth. He spoke using the symbols of the Old Testament to state that His public ministry would be no less than or no more than approximately three years. He employed the day for a year principle found in scripture relating to symbolic Bible prophecy (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6). Each day in symbolic Bible prophecy equals one literal year.

It is a blessing to know that the Lord has our lives under His control. When the enemy attempts to take our lives, God must first permit him to. It is only as God's people have fulfilled their individual mission that they will lay down their heads in death. If we trust the Lord as did Jesus, our eternal lives are secure in Him