

Holy Spirit, Batman! part 8 Power Up!

3/25/07 - CCFG

I. Intro / Review

- A. Talking about the Person, purpose, and power of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the believer.
- B. Talking about specific spiritual gifts, the believers utility belt.
- C. These gifts, or graces, are not resident in use, meaning they don't exist in us for us to use as we will. The Spirit is the one who uses them in us and through us.
- D. The purpose of these gifts is to build up the body of Christ, and to witness to others, not for our own jollies.

II. Faith

A. Difference between faith and the gift of faith

1. Faith - Hebrews 11:1

a) Faith in God's salvation

(1) Hebrews 10:35-39

(2) John 3:16-17

(3) Eph. 2:4-10

b) Faith in God's word

(1) Abraham with Isaac, the promised land

(2) 2 Peter 3:2-4, knowledge comes through His word

(3) The heart of prophecy, especially Jesus

c) Faith in God's power

(1) Hebrews 11:3, creation

(2) Believing that God can do a thing

(3) God raising Jesus, disciples didn't believe at first.

2. Gift of faith - when God gives you the ability to believe that He is going to do something or wants to do something through you

- a) Those times when you inexplicably just know God is going to do something. Beyond believing God can do something.
- b) It usually accompanies a healing or a miracle. God gives you the faith so strongly that you act on what it is you believe God is going to do.
- c) Can also be connected to any of the previous kinds of faith. Very connected to the next two gifts.

III. Miracles

A. When God uses you to do something humanly or naturally impossible, but divinely simple.

B. Creation, parting of the red sea, resurrections, water into wine, feeding of the thousands, Peter freed from jail.

C. Healing is probably the most thought of miracle.

IV. Healings

A. When God uses you to fix someone who is broken.

B. Some questions surround this gift.

- 1. When does God heal? Why does God heal some and not others? Does healing depend on me and my faith, the faith of the other person?
- 2. There is no one-answer-fits-all. Let's look at some healings.

- C. Some interesting observations about who, when, how and why Jesus healed.
1. **Mark 2:1-5 Paralytic and friends**
 - a) Possible paralysis brought on by syphilis.
 - b) It was the faith of the friends that got Jesus' attention.
 - c) Jesus forgives the mans sins and THEN heals him.
 - d) Point: not always based on our faith. Again, faith teachers
 - e) Ultimately Jesus healed because he chose to do so.
 2. **John 5:1-9 Pool at Bethesda**
 - a) If you were immobile you needed others to move you. If you had no help you were stuck. That's our guy.
 - b) Scene
 - (1) Pool surrounded by a great multitude. How many?
 - (2) Some have help, some don't.
 - (3) Always needed to be ready to move when the waters moved.
 - (4) It must have been a race. No front row, no hope.
 - c) Jesus enters the scene
 - (1) Jesus asks **Do you want to be made well?** Duh!
 - (2) Jesus tells the man to **Rise, take up your bed, and walk.** And he does!
 - (3) This leaves Jesus with all those people. No record of Him healing anyone else at that pool.
 - d) Nothing special about this guy.
 - e) Expressed no faith.
 - f) Didn't even know this was Jesus!
 - g) Jesus just chose to do it.
 3. **John 9:1-7 The man born blind**
 - a) Disciples assumed that blindness was the result of someone's sin. Popular, but incorrect, rabbinical teaching.
 - b) Everyone in this position or close to it wants to know why? I did/do with both of my kids. Explain.
 - (1) Never a simple answer. If there were and God told you, would you accept the answer?
 - (2) Dangerous position to blame God for things and then question His motives.
 - c) Jesus did answer - to glorify God. True for everyone? Don't know. True for Geoff Ritchie.
 - d) God heals those He heals and doesn't those He doesn't because it is all a part of His plan.
 4. **Acts 3.** Jesus passed this guy dozens of times, yet never healed Him. Why not? Perhaps waiting for this time and the 5K
- V. **Take home points**
- A. Gift of faith - When God gives you the ability to believe that He is going to do something, or wants to do something through you.
 - B. Gift of miracles - When God uses you to do something humanly or naturally impossible, but divinely simple.
 - C. Gifts of healings - When God uses you to fix someone who is broken.