

THE POWER TO PRODUCE WEALTH PART 02

God's Power is Not Religious

SCRIPTURE READING:

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

- *Judges 6:11-16 (NIV)*

He gives strength to the weary, and increases the power of the weak. But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

- *Isaiah 40:29 & 31*

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, restore our hope in you, that we might be renewed in our strength and live by your power, rather than our own power. Lord, we thank you that your strength is made perfect in our weakness; that's why you've allowed us to be

weak. Now Lord, strengthen us by your mighty power that we might rise up and do that which is pleasing to you. We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. God does not promise to give us wealth; he promises to give us the power to produce it. What do you think is the difference, and what difference does this distinction make to you?
2. *Power* in the bible is the clarity to know what to do, the wisdom to know how to do it, and the energy to act on that clarity and energy. Can you think of any examples in your own life in which God gave you power?
3. Gideon felt weak, miserly, unqualified, and poverty stricken. But the angel called him a Mighty Warrior, speaking to his destiny, not his condition. What is the significance of distinguishing your destiny and your condition? And what might hinder you from doing so?
4. The problem is that we think the Holy Spirit is a religious entity. We think he empowers you to do cool stuff at church, or to do church stuff in the world. What else might the Holy Spirit empower us to do?
5. Has this lesson inspired you to think/act in any way that differs from the way you thought/acted before hearing the message?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we look to you for an anointing of the Holy Spirit that brings clarity, wisdom, and energy into our lives. Lord, we deeply desire for your Spirit to come upon us in power and activate us to rise up and fulfill our destiny in you. Set us free from the limitations in our own minds that keep us feeling discouraged and unmotivated. Awaken our hearts, we pray, and fill them to overflowing with your Spirit. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen!