

Works of Power

Now is the time

Peter Michell

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Peter Michell

Title

Works of Power

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Introduction

ICCC was brought into being at God's behest by prophetic utterance given to Gunnar Olson.

The prophetic foundation:

'This is the time when this new thing shall be done. It is a plantation which is clean and pure. I see great trees and many smaller trees and bushes. The big trees will protect the plantation when the storm is breaking loose. This is a shelter for many people. No one will be able to touch what I am now doing. The enemies will try to destroy, but I will hit them on their fingers. They will not succeed. Here is neither high nor low Only Jesus. The Lord will use these for many remarkable miracles. The trees and bushes are full of fruit and berries containing great power.'

As we draw toward God's end time plan now this prophecy will come into its fulfilment. Time is short and the plantation will be quickly established.

This booklet is to bring sound teaching to the subject of power - a subject which requires careful handling, yet is foundational to the prophetic calling of ICCC, and indeed to the church in general.

The time is now.

Transformed working life is the teaching program developed by the international teaching committee of ICCC. It is designed specifically for equipping us for this prophetic mission.

Chapter 1

Why?

One could probably give a number of answers to the question - why works of power?

Paul in Ephesians gives God's perspective:

'To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.'

Chapter 3: 8-12.

God's perspective is that His grace, mercy and power be demonstrated to the principalities and powers by us, who have placed our trust in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and are thereby born again.

What is meant by principalities and powers?

We have to look at the other two references in Paul's letter –

In the context of Paul praying for us for spiritual wisdom In Chapter 1 of Ephesians, Paul likens the immense power exerted in raising Jesus from the dead to the power of God towards us.

'.....what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.’ Chapter 1: 19-22

In the context of being able to stand:

‘Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.’ Chapter 6: 11-12

So we have answered our question - the principalities and powers meant in Paul’s statement are God’s enemies and our enemies – the powers of darkness ruled over by the devil, and bent on stealing, killing, and destroying. (John 10:10)

Be aware therefore -

We are warned to be aware that *‘our adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.’* (1 Peter 5:8)

Therefore we need to understand what drives some of the events that happen in the world and in our lives, and to be prepared to play our part, as led by the Spirit. In that way demonstrating to the principalities and powers behind those events that they do not have the final say, they are not the ultimate authority. This will become more apparent and more necessary in the days ahead.

This is why.

God's wisdom may be made known to His enemies. He has the ultimate power, the ultimate say. His enemies are under His feet. Our part in all of this is to be available to Him to bring His wisdom into play. As His church, His body, it is given to us to make His wisdom known to the principalities and powers as led by His Spirit.

'Behold I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.' Luke 10: 19

As we approach the end of the current age and the coming return of Jesus things will become more difficult as the storm rages.

To benefit the believers

The working out of God's purpose will involve benefit to the believing community. One cannot doubt that God's intention is two fold - whilst demonstrating His wisdom to the principalities and powers it is His intention that His own, the body of Christ, receive all sorts of provision and help.

Why Now?

As stated in the introduction it is ICC's prophetic enabling to create and to be a place of safety for believers when the storm breaks loose.

God's overall prophetic agenda is to be considered to establish where we are in the plan leading up to the return of Jesus Christ.

Israel, the nation, has been restored. Many have, correctly in our view, seen this as part of the fulfilment of promises made to the nation of Israel and as a major part of the end time requirements of prophetic scripture, as Jesus will return to reign from Jerusalem.

When we examine scripture we read in Revelation 17 that 'Babylon' is to be destroyed. 'Babylon' here is the harlot - the false system adopted by the world instead of trust in Jesus.

The process of destruction is revealed to us - 10 kings will arise and rule for 1 hour. (Clearly not a literal hour – so we must interpret as a chronological hour.) Part way through their rule they hand over their power and authority to 'the beast.' Verse 17 tells us that this is God's plan for He has put this into the hearts of the 10 kings. Verse 16 tells us that the 10 kings hate the harlot and seek her utter destruction. The harlot represents the world system as we know it - so surely as this comes to pass it will create a massive economic storm. It is likely that the 10 kings are economic rulers and we have evidence that there are world powers seeking to bring this about. A map published by the Club of Rome on the 17th of September 1973 splits the world into 10 regions. (Called 'kingdoms' when first published.) We understand that proposals to create 10 regions have recently been put to the World Economic Forum.

It appears that the flow of events is taking us towards their expected biblical conclusion – so it is time. We are coming towards the time when Jesus will return.

The time is now for the plantation to be established.

Chapter 2

Whose power?

We have established that God intends His church to demonstrate His wisdom to the principalities and powers. It is important to grasp, and understand fully, that the power to do this is His power, not our power.

There is a saying in the world, 'power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely,' seen to be true in the world – but not true in heaven. Because God is entirely pure and totally without sin, absolute power is safe in His hands.

However, we, His children, His body, His bride fall short of being entirely pure and totally without sin in our actions. Therefore we need to be careful in our attitude to power and to works of power. No glory should ever attach to us because we have no power of our own – all glory, all honour belongs to Jesus, who gave Himself for us and made all things possible. Likewise we should be careful not to allow others to give us credit or to in any way glorify us – only Jesus. In the plantation there is neither high nor low - only Jesus.

Limitless power

God has limitless power - as Paul makes clear in his letter to the Ephesians:

'Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of

His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.'

Ephesians Chapter 1: 15-20

This limitless power is available to us who believe. It is His power. It is His intention that we understand – His Power, working through us believers is a part of His rich inheritance. He purposed it, He provides it, it is all His.

Paul acknowledges the power is the Lord's and it is of grace - *'I became a minister according to the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.'* Ephesians Chapter 3: 7

His glorious power

Paul's word to the Colossians – *'that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.'* Ch 1 :10-11

Paul again – *'But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.'* 2 Corinthians 4 : 7

Chapter 3 How and what.

Sometimes the Lord chooses to manifest His power seemingly unilaterally. He just does it. This is perhaps best seen in revivals – where the Spirit of God moves, or as scripture puts it -the wind blows.

More often the Lord works through mankind.

God's power now is working in a different way than when Jesus walked on the earth. His disciples were given delegated power which they exercised in His name. Jesus Himself healed all who came to Him and it seems that the disciples followed suit – that is until they came up against a particular demon they failed to cast out. (Mark 9: 28). When they ask Jesus why they were unable to cast out this particular demon He did not rebuke them for lack of power but told them *'this kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.'* They lacked the correct strategy.

Jesus own confession is that He only did what He saw the Father doing - thus it was not of His own volition. So in delegating His power to the disciples He was doing what He saw the Father doing. And now we can see that power also requires strategy, and strategy is doing what the Father is doing.

However this delegation of power to the disciples was before John 20:22 – when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. So the enabling of works of power changes.

Through the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, *'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'* Jesus has all authority and He goes on to say, *'I am with*

you always, even to the end of the age.' Matthew 28 : 18 and 19 (part quoted)

Now the power of God is manifest through the Holy Spirit working through believers. Jesus speaking; *'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.'* John 14: 12

Jesus promise; *'He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you.'* John 16: 14. All power belongs to Jesus. Jesus intends that we do the same works as He did. Jesus speaks to the Spirit who in turn takes that which is His and declares (reveals) it to us.

We can exert great power when, through the Holy Spirit, we see or hear what Jesus is doing and flow with that. The power is the power of the Spirit and the Spirit is like the wind – He blows where He wants to blow – we cannot make the wind blow! (refer John 3:8) [Refer to Hearing God Speak in the TWL series]

Associated with calling

Ephesians 2: 10 tells us *'for we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.'* So when we are following our calling in Christ we should expect that His power will be available to sustain us in that calling and to manifest God's manifold wisdom to the principalities and powers through us in that calling.

It is important to keep close to the Lord so that He can guide and correct us so that we do walk in the good works He has provided, and not in the desires of our own flesh or in the wisdom of this world – for He intends His power to be seen

through us in our calling - which can often be working in the secular world.

When following our calling in the Lord in our various undertakings, businesses, jobs, places of work, and amongst those we mix with we can expect miracles as God speaks through His Spirit.

It is entirely logical to assume that if God calls us to walk in the good works He has provided, then His power will be there to manifest, for His glory - all we need is sensitivity to the Spirit so that we are found moving in faith and not in presumption. (Refer to Faith or presumption in the TWL series)

Through the body of Christ

There are various gifts of the Holy Spirit which He distributes to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12 has teaching regarding 9 gifts which are given through the body for the benefit of all.

In the next chapter Paul makes it very clear that there is an over-riding essential element – that is love. Nothing is to be done for one’s own aggrandisement – but for the benefit of others out of love.

Then Paul moves on to urge the readers to pursue love and to desire spiritual gifts. A more literal translation of 1 Corinthians 14: 1 would read like this - *‘Go after love as if in hot pursuit and be zealous for the things of the Spirit, more, much more that you may prophesy.’*

In the body of Christ - the church

‘And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts....’ 1 Corinthians 12: 28.

This word 'appointed' has the meaning of 'laying in a foundation' - the church is built on this foundation of appointments which are themselves built on Jesus. So here we see the appointments for the body of Christ, the church - then Paul goes on to the manifestation of gifts. Appointments - Apostles, Prophets, Teachers and Miracle workers. Then the charismatic gifts – healing, helps, administrations etc.

We can see the Spirit working at different levels in the body. It is easiest seen in prophecy – 'you can all prophecy,' states Paul, then some function in the gift of prophecy as a more regular occurrence and then there are those who are appointed as Prophets. Likewise with teaching we see that as the Spirit leads all can bring a word of instruction, some frequently teach and some are acknowledged as Teachers.

So we should expect that the Spirit can and will manifest all or any of His gifts through us.

What are these works of power?

The gifts listed by Paul here are:

Wisdom, knowledge and speaking in tongues are known as 'word' gifts. They are verbal, yet they carry immense power. For example power is particularly seen in the word of knowledge – God gives a specific word and 'all the power of heaven is there to perform it.' As we move with the word of knowledge it is brought into being by the power of heaven.

Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits and interpretation of tongues are known as 'wisdom' gifts. Again great power is here. For example the discerning of spirits equips the believer to exercise authority over these enemies. Again, as we move with the discernment given, we can confidently come against and dismiss every spirit discerned.

Faith, miracles and healing are referred to as 'power' gifts because their power is obvious.

All these gifts have the effect of demonstrating God's manifold wisdom to the principalities and powers as they are used to benefit those for whom they are given and to undo works of evil.

The Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

We cannot create genuine spiritual power or genuine spiritual gifts - the Spirit distributes as He wills.

We cannot force the wind to blow, neither can we create wind. Indeed if we try to force things along we are likely to create only trouble.

Chapter 4 Fuel

The 'fuel' that empowers God's intentions is love manifest through Grace, Mercy and Truth.

Grace

God is full of grace. Grace is defined by Bullinger as 'a kind, affectionate, pleasing nature and a friendly disposition.' This is our God – He is kind, His love for us knows no bounds and His very nature is pleasing because it is so good and pure. God's grace to us is undeserved and cannot be earned. It is the working out of His intentions towards us who belong to Him.

Grace is the manifestation of God's favour. The fact that we are grafted into the very root of God's favour is seen in Romans 11 : 17. Here the Olive tree root of favour is described as fatness or richness, the gentiles being grafted in to what was God's intentions for Israel.

Mercy

God is full of mercy. Mercy is best described as active compassion - its greater than sympathy because its active to help. '*God is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loves us.*' Ephesians 2: 4 Whilst the Lord does sympathise with our problems He goes much further and through mercy is active in resolving the issues.

Invited to come

'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we might obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.'

Hebrews 4: 16 God wants to set His grace and mercy upon us and will often use the body of Christ with works of power to do so.

Reign in life

'For if by one man's offense death reigned through the one much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.' Romans 5: 17

'You ask and you do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.' James 4 :3. We should be aware that motive plays a part in prayer. It does not mean we should not bring our needs before the Lord, but it does mean that we should avoid grasping self-centredness.

To reign in life we should seek God's abundant grace to meet our needs, with the certain assurance that He has the strategy to meet every need. However, we should not see God as a type of 'sugar daddy' who will answer our every whim - He won't.

Truth

The Holy Spirit is described as the Spirit of Truth. Jesus described Himself as, *the truth, the life and the way*. It is important to learn and discern that which is true – because Jesus and the Holy Spirit will inhabit truth and not error. The scriptures are given to feed us with truth and are to be studied in their fullness, rightly dividing the word.

The truth, as expressed in the scripture, covers the whole period of man's existence. During that time God has laid down different 'house rules.' For example there was a period of time before Israel was God's chosen nation. That period covered a couple of thousand years which took us from the Garden of Eden right up until Abraham was born. It was a period when man was to be ruled by his conscience. During this time there were some changes of 'house rules' – particularly in relation to food after the flood.

With Abraham God sets about establishing Israel as His special nation. Another couple of thousand years takes us up to the crucifixion of the Messiah. During this period God introduces very specific 'house rules' for Israel. Again food has its particular rules – and of course, many other rules are introduced. The rules, better known as 'The Law' were given to Israel, not to keep, but to show them the need for the Messiah to come to deliver them. (Galatians 3 : 24 describes the Law as a tutor to bring us to Christ.) When He came they rejected Him and God's masterplan moved on to the church.

We have now had a couple of thousand years of the church and many believe that the return of Jesus, as promised, cannot be very far away. During this period the 'house rules' change again. It is no longer a question of keeping the Law because Jesus has fulfilled The Law. (Galatians 3 : 25 – when faith has come we are no longer under a tutor.) Now it is 'believe in Jesus as Saviour, receive the gift of righteousness and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' He, the Spirit, will then undertake to change you from glory to glory until you are conformed to the image of Jesus. (2 Corinthians 3 : 18)

So it is up to us to thoroughly study and apply the New Covenant of grace and mercy so that we can fulfil the destiny God has for us. (It is worth stressing here that no one in the Old Covenant was given authority over the works of Satan. It is the job of the church to demonstrate God's manifold wisdom to principalities and powers.)

Jesus promised the Spirit would lead us into all truth - so we can co-operate in the process by asking the Spirit to fulfil that in us. 'Holy Spirit lead me into all truth' is a prayer He is certain to fulfil as we persevere in praying it.

Chapter 5 Delivery

We have stated that the fuel which enables works of power is God's love manifest through grace, mercy and truth. Now we will look at truth more closely – as the power that will be manifest is the power of the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of truth.

Logic therefore strongly suggests that the greater degree to which we are living and being in truth - so greater will be the manifestation of the power available through the Spirit.

Paul's guide book - the letter to the Ephesians

Of course the whole of scripture has to be taken into account so we get the whole counsel of God, yet the letter to the Ephesians lays down a way of life that culminates in the delivery of power.

At each stage we should consider, how do I measure up to the truth Paul is expounding.'

1 Chapter 1: 1 – 14 We are blessed with every spiritual blessing. He chose us. We are redeemed and forgiven sons. We are blessed with an inheritance which is guaranteed by the seal of the Holy Spirit. How are you doing so far?

2 Chapter 1: 15- 23 Paul prays that we may be enlightened to see that the immense power, exercised by God in raising Jesus from the dead, toward us. This power is guaranteed because Christ is raised above every other name that can be named. Please receive it - The power available is unlimited.

3 Chapter 2: 1- 9 Transferred from darkness to a life seated with Christ in heavenly places to demonstrate the

exceeding riches of His grace toward us. By grace through trust, not of ourselves. Am I living in the heavenly realm?

4 Chapter 2: 10 God has prepared good works for us to walk in. Am I involved in His works or my works?

5 Chapter 2: 11 – 22 No longer Jew or gentile - but now one new man in Christ because the law has now been rendered inoperative. So now the previous separation has been abolished and the body of Christ, the church, is made up of everyone who puts their trust in Jesus as Saviour, whether born Jew or Gentile. The purpose - we are built together as a dwelling place for God in the Spirit. God dwelling in you?

6 Chapter 3: 1-13 God's eternal purpose - that the church should demonstrate the manifold wisdom of God to the principalities and powers. The church, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is God's tool to show the devil and his followers that they are not the ultimate power, nor are they the rulers of the earth - mere imposters. Are we ready to take our place?

7 Chapter 3: 14 – 21 Now Paul prays that we may be strengthened with might in the inner man through His Spirit and that we may appreciate the immensity of God's love for us understanding that He can do much more than we can ask or think.

So far Paul has been expressing our position in Christ and its purpose. We can experience this to the full as we meditate on the truths contained in the letter so far. It is vital that we take these for ourselves and that we come to a place where doubt is diminished and removed entirely.

'Holy Spirit lead me into all truth.' (My second favourite and frequent prayer.)

Important - Now Paul will go on to cover the essentials of how we work it out in life. And it is important that we apply these things in daily life.

8 Chapter 4: 1 – 16 God's provision to create the church, the body of Christ, and to equip it for unity. God gives gifts to Mankind - these gifts are men who are chosen by God for the specific purpose of establishing and equipping the body of Christ. The verses specify four roles – apostle, prophet, evangelist and pastor/teacher. (In identifying the foundation on which the church is built in 1 Corinthians 12 Paul states apostles, prophets, teachers and miracle workers – followed by charismatic gifts.) Mankind requires an evangelist to call people into salvation, the church on the other hand needs to see and to demonstrate the power of God – hence the miracle worker and the manifestation of gifts of the Spirit.

9 Chapter 4: 17 – 24 So walk this way - not in the futility of the ways of your former conduct – in darkness, working ways of uncleanness. No! Put on the new way - be renewed in your thinking, put on righteousness and holiness.

10 Chapter 4: 25 – 32 Paul states that we should not grieve the Holy Spirit by lying, stealing, being bitter, speaking evil, being angry or full of malice. We want to see the power of God revealed by His Spirit working through us - so He should feel comfortable in us so that He can manifest His presence.

11 Chapter 5: 1 – 7 Summed up as 'walk in love.' Again putting away all that is not of love. Imitate the Lord.

12 Chapter 5:8 -14 Summed up as 'walk in light.' Find out what is acceptable to the Lord. Have no fellowship with works of darkness.

13 Chapter 5: 15 – 21 Summed up as ‘walk in wisdom.’ Understand the will of the Lord. Speak positively to one another – always give thanks. Be filled with the Spirit.

14 Chapter 5: 22: 33 For the married here is vital guidance. For the man - love your wife as if she were your own body. Wives be subject to your husband. This is God’s will for you because the marriage is a picture of Jesus and the church. His love led Him to lay down His life for His church. The church responds by seeing Him as Lord and is subject to Him in all things. Marriage is an area where the devil is active in trying to destroy because of what it represents. We need to be alert to that. Husbands can use my third favourite prayer, ‘Holy Spirit fill me with love for Marion*’ (*my wife – insert your wife’s name here).’ It’s a safeguard against the wiles of the enemy and greatly enhances the marriage experience. A wife who knows and experiences that she is thoroughly loved will find it easier to be subject to her husband.

15 Chapter 6: 1 – 9 Practical guidance for families and for work situations. How to live and to work as the people of God. This is what we show to the world!

Reflection - how is my walk on earth. Am I heading in the right direction? Am I becoming more Christ like? Am I applying the truth to my daily life?

Now go on to victory –

Having established who we are in Christ, the immense power and love of God towards us and the way He wants us to live our lives - Now stand and win.

‘Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.’ Chapter 6 : 10-11

'Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.' Chapter 6 : 12 (Its God's intention that we demonstrate His manifold wisdom to these forces – chapter 3 :10)

It will be essential to take up the whole armour of God:

Gird your waist with truth. (Holy Spirit lead me into all the truth of the new covenant)

Put on righteousness. (You are righteous because Jesus has given you the gift of righteousness – so walk in it - put it on) Jesus said those who hunger for righteousness will be filled, in the sermon on the mount.

Walk in the gospel of peace (We have now been through that gospel - love, light, wisdom, practical application in marriage and work - not grieving the Holy Spirit)

Trust the Lord - that is the shield of faith. Trust what He says about you, trust what He has done, trust His victory, trust His position high above every name. So then when the fiery darts come against you lift up the shield of trust (faith).

Keep your mind focused – renew it! Do not allow negative or un Christ like thoughts - these are to be taken as prisoners of war! (2 Corinthians 10 : 4-5 and Romans 12 : 2)

Its all defensive armour up to now. Then -

'take the sword of Spirit which is the word of God.' We need to look at this closely to understand. This is a small sword - better called a dagger. It is designed for close infighting. It is not a great big cutlass thrashing about and hoping to destroy something in its path, but a precise instrument going

specifically for the target. This sword is the word of God – this is not the bible as such – it is the ‘rhema’ word of God. That is the quickened word of God especially for you in the time of need. It might be a scripture but it is not limited to that. This is the word God speaks to you when required - because God speaks it you can have absolute confidence of its effectiveness. He will perform it.

[Refer – Be strong in the battle in the TWL series]

How does He speak?

In the TWL series of booklets see ‘Hearing God Speak’ for fuller details.

Audible voice - rare but does happen.

Still small voice - tends to come from the Spirit within you. Your mind is not the source, but may be used to recognise this voice which comes from within.

Scripture - a specific scripture ‘quickened’ to you. See Matthew 4: 1 – 11 where Jesus uses specific scriptures. As Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing we can know that these scriptures were quickened to Him at that moment.

Prophetic word - someone brings you a word either in private or in public. Test the word - does it ‘ring true’ – i.e. do you witness that it applies. Does it concur with something the Lord is already saying to you. Look for confirmation of two or three witnesses.

Visions and dreams – pictures which appear in your consciousness when you pray or in worship. (At night in dream form) Always ask for interpretation if not obvious and look for confirmation.

Other media -God is not limited in the way He can speak. He can use any media. When alerted that God may be speaking to you look for the witness of your own spirit.

Other people - God can speak through others even when they do not realise it. Always look for confirmation – that can come from the spirit within you, or can come through two or three other witnesses.

Circumstances – be careful here. The devil and his fallen angels can create circumstances. Just because there is a circumstance it does not necessarily come from God.

IN EVERYTHING BE SURE - NOTHING GOD SAYS TO YOU WILL CONTRADICT NEW COVENANT SCRIPTURAL TRUTH.

Delivery of God's power is released by the leading of the Holy Spirit. (This does not exclude the fact that God can and does move unilaterally at times, then there is nothing we can do but rejoice)

Now is the time to stand.

Answers to prayer

God can and does answer prayer. So many times when we pray expressing our needs to the Lord we find He just does it. There is no word to us, just fulfilment of our need. That is wonderful and for many their common experience. It does not conflict in any way with the Lord moving through us with power as and when He wants when we hear Him and act.

Chapter 6 Result.

Jesus dealt with demons or evil spirits many, many times.

Dealing with evil spirits

In the case of evil spirits it is a question of authority. We have authority over evil spirits because of our position in Christ far above every name that can be named and His position - indwelling us by the Holy Spirit. So the process becomes one of casting them out of whoever they are invading including oneself. Jesus cast out evil spirits by His spoken word - He ordered them to leave.

We have already seen that there is a gift of discernment – the discerning of the presence of evil spirits which frequently includes the understanding of the type or the name of the spirit. We do not expect to see evil spirits ‘round every corner.’ Nevertheless we do need to be aware that our enemy uses evil spirits to invade the body and soul of believers (not their human spirit) in the process of robbing them of all that Jesus has provided in terms of peace, joy and blessing. It can be of great value to work together with other believers who have discernment and are experienced in this ministry and working together rather than alone can provide added safeguards.

We have already seen that Jesus uses specific strategy – in Mark 9 : 28. He also used specific strategy in healing. A study of the restoration of sight to the blind will show a number of different strategies. (5 miracles - 4 different strategies) So we need to be sensitive to God’s strategy when dealing with evil spirits as well. He knows things we need to know for effective ministry – be led by the Spirit.

Any occult activity is likely to lead to the invasion by one or more evil spirits even when entered into ‘just for fun.’

So evil spirits are not to be tolerated but cast out. You can take authority yourself and command them to leave you or seek the help of another believer. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who to go to for help.

Preparation

Evil spirits like dwelling in human bodies and can be (very) reluctant to leave. Nevertheless they must leave at the command. The process is best approached by the believer preparing him/herself as follows:

Fully and totally repent of any or all occult activity however long ago and however trivial. Fully and totally forgive any and all who have come against you in any way – unforgiveness leads one to be handed over to the tormentors, so it is essential to be completely clean in this respect.

Seek the Lord in prayer as to anything else appropriate to your specific situation and do whatever He tells you. For example He may instruct you to restore something to someone or to re-establish a relationship or to be cut off from an inappropriate soul tie, or from a generational curse, or anything else He shows applies to you. He may show you to remove specific objects from your home - anything connected with occult practices or freemasonry for example.

Build your confidence by studying and learning appropriate scriptures which tell of authority and power. Speak much and pray much in tongues as Paul tells us that so doing edifies us or builds us up.

God is glorified.

When His manifold wisdom is demonstrated to the principalities and powers - whether it be by deliverance, or by

healing or by another miracle He is glorified and the devil is shown that he is not in charge.

His manifold wisdom is demonstrated to principalities and powers. We are blessed. His word is seen to be true. He is seen to be all powerful. The principalities and powers are seen to be subject to the Lord as His power is released through His body on earth.

In the planation God is building though ICCC it is His plan that the results of our walk with Him demonstrate to the principalities and powers His manifold wisdom. The plantation is full of trees and bushes containing great power.

The time is now.

A note about 'binding and loosing.'

Matthew 16 : 19 Jesus speaking to Peter - *'Assuredly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.'* The Greek text has been translated more fully by correctly rendering the terminology as 'will have been bound,' rather than 'will be bound' – it makes a significant difference.'

This shows that the initiative does not lie with the church but rather the church follows the lead from heaven by seeing and hearing what the Father is doing – just as Jesus did. Heaven does not 'rubber stamp' what we decide to do!

Chapter 7 Receive

Receiving the result

Our flesh wars against the spirit (Galatians 5: 17). We need to be aware that our own being will resist walking in the Spirit. We have to learn to listen, learn to hear and to be bold to act on what we hear, resisting the negativity of the flesh. Expect to succeed, but realise also that in the process of learning there are likely to be occasional failures and mistakes. Repent of failure and mistake, 'brush yourself down, get up and walk on,' for the Lord is with you.

Expect an answer when you pray. Realise that God is God and He chooses how and when to answer. Understand that it is through trust (faith) and patience that we inherit the promises of God -

The writer to the Hebrews - 'and we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become lazy, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises of God.'

Hebrews 6: 11-12

In the plantation that the Lord is building through ICCC there are tall trees and many smaller trees and bushes. His purpose is that they contain and exhibit great power in the difficult days to come. Get ready.

The power is not mine or yours, it is the Lord's. We should not seek it for our own glory or our own satisfaction. The power is for the glory of God and for the benefit of His body on earth. The supply is never ending. It's a matter of having a heart to see the glory of God manifest and to be a blessing to the body.

It has nothing to do with our self esteem, our pride or our position – we are to walk in all humility, recognising that, as servants of the Lord, it is only His will and His glory and His position as King of Kings that counts.

Remember we cannot force or create the wind – the Spirit moves as He wills.

The time is now.

Chapter 8 Testify.

'And they overcame him (the accuser of the brethren) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.'

Revelation 12: 11

Our testimony revolves around the work of Jesus - in setting us free from death and the penalty of sin, and giving us the gift of righteousness which enables us to receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Our testimony - we are in a literal and spiritual way born again. We have changed sides - we were by nature children of wrath, children of the devil, but now we are born again, children of the Lord.

The blood of Jesus, His sacrifice to carry all the sins of the world, has been effective for each of us because we have believed who Jesus is and we have placed our personal trust in Him and in the effectiveness of His blood sacrifice.

In whatever way we are challenged by the devil, by our own flesh, by other people or by circumstances, we testify that we are the favoured children of the Most High. We are the head and not the tail.

Because of our position in Christ, our fundamental testimony of salvation and righteousness reaches into everyday life. Because we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit there is a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. As we have seen the power of God is available to us as we tap into it more and more.

So then events that take place as a result of our position in Christ and our receipt of His specific (rhema) word become testimony also. We receive answers to prayer that change events on earth – miracles. The greatest miracle, our salvation,

is adorned by further expressions of God's good intentions to us as we walk by the Spirit through life.

We experience more and more the salvation of spirit, soul and body. This is our testimony – we belong to the Lord and receive His immense favour. In our testimony we can declare specific incidents in which the power of God has taken precedence over the circumstances.

Let us be generous with our testimony, sharing it encourages and builds up those who hear it as well as encouraging and building up ourselves.

In the plantation God is building in ICCC there will much testimony of His glorious power working with us and through us.

