



# POWER

## Power 4

***1 Corinthians 4:19-20 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.***

These two verses alone are saying so much and almost saying it all. Man focuses on words and how well he can come to know and understand the words through his mind, while God is the God who is all about His power to bring to light and to life His kingdom dimension in and through us.

These 2 operating systems can't be further apart. When we attempt to come into life through man's wisdom, we are left with a head knowledge, that although may be technically correct, it doesn't produce an eternal life within us, and it certainly doesn't empower us to walk in the manner in which Christ walked.

Followers who are all about understanding the words or the principles first in the mind, will always find themselves living TOWARDS Truth, rather than living FROM Truth. These followers live TOWARDS the victory of the cross and not FROM it. It's about the proclamation of the words before the revelation of the Word.

This man centred operating system has a tendency to puff us up into spiritual pride and has us thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to be.

***Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.***

Do we struggle with spiritual pride because of what we think we know? The problem is the true knowledge of God, the Truth, doesn't produce spiritual pride but spiritual humility, so to be spiritually proud, is to not have true knowledge, but false knowledge.

***1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.***

God knows His kingdom does not consist in words. He knows exactly how everything has been established, formed and built. He knows without His power, nothing of eternal value is being built. He is fully aware that there will be no eternal life built in us and there will be no eternal works accomplished through us without His power.

Paul says he will come and find out the ones who speak a good game but have no game. We need to come into the realisation now, while we still have an opportunity to change, rather than get found out at the judgement seat of Christ for how we truly lived. Proclaiming one reality but living an entirely different one is called hypocrisy and Jesus spoke powerfully about this.

It's God's power living in us and coming through us that enables us to be imitators of God, rather than trying to copy some methodology or form of godliness. Coming to know God, is not an intellectual study or pursuit of understanding words, but an ongoing transformative work on the inside through His power.



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*Luke 7:35 Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”*

*Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”*

Only children who know the power of God can demonstrate the wisdom of God. If I am a child of wisdom - Jesus Christ, then as a child of Jesus, my deeds will prove or be vindicated by my deeds.

## **Questions for discussion**

1. Living from power or living from words. Why are they so opposite?
2. Why does the kingdom consist of power and not words?
3. What does Gods power accomplish that the understanding of words in the mind can never do?
4. Why is it such a positive thing to be found out now, that one is living from words, rather than power?
5. What would a church look like and be able to demonstrate, if it truly lived from God’s power within her and through her?
6. How many of us are truly prepared to become this church?