

What would it be like to live in a world without fear? The world gives us a view of power through fear: authority, control and manipulation. We are under the pressure of controlling agendas from almost everywhere in life. But Jesus Christ demonstrated the true art of power when He came into the world with God's freeing agenda of Love...

The Art of True Power

(Walking skilfully and mindfully in the love of God shed abroad in our hearts)

Matthew 20:25 - 28 (NKJV) ²⁵But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

A. Jesus contrasts two very different "systems" of power: Authority vs Service.

- "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great **exercise authority over them.**"
- The world's idea of power is CONTROL through power.
- Along with CONTROL is someone's AGENDA for your life.
- We need to become AGENDA – FREE, except for the Loving agenda of God: to love us into freedom!
- "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."

B. The world wields power through Fear.

- The world has nothing to give the spirit of man, so it has to control outwardly through fear!
- Fear is a SPIRIT
- Uses power to control, manipulate, agenda-ize.

- God says that in love there is no "fear of punishment"
- **John 4:16-18** "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment ("punishment" – NIV). But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

C. God demonstrates power through Love.

- God fills our spirit with Himself as Love and this inward RESOURCE enables us to live as God would.
- John 3:16 – God's Agenda is to LOVE the world back to restoration through His Son.

D. Jesus distinguishes between two different arts of power

- Matthew 20:25-28
- The art of "ruling over" and the art of "serving through love"
- Jesus commands us to NOT follow the world art of power, but to take up His kingdom method of power: Love!

E. Our reason for the greatest optimism: God's Love is shed abroad in our hearts!

- **Romans 5:5 (NKJV)** ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- **We can live as a new breed of people in the earth! Live the agenda of God's love!**
- "Love never fails" – 1 Cor 13:7-8a

F. Where the church needs to be in these days:

- **Ephesians 3:17 - 19 (NKJV)** ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- ☑ Rooted and grounded in love
- ☑ Able to Comprehend the love
- ☑ Knowing this love
- ☑ Filled with God's fullness of Love

True Power

Does not lay in control, manipulation or the undue exercise of authority, but in the ability to walk in God's love.

John 13:34-35 - ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- A. Jesus Commandment is a call to true empowerment and freedom! (*Love is not weakness!*)
- B. Love is Walking in God Himself!
- C. 1 Cor 13:7-8. Turn to Love and discover kingdom power.
- D. True power is not in trying to control or agenda people, but to walk in God's love.

1. Lives are in Suffering because of inappropriate Powers

Matthew 20:25 (NKJV) ²⁵But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles

lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

Luke 11:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

Exodus 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

A. Our fallen world lives under powers... of darkness.

- Eph 3:10 - *"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,*
- The demonic angelic beings are described as "powers" because that is the nature of their work and activity.

B. This world system reflects the agenda of demonic powers: control through agendas of fear. ("Lord it over them...")

- Matthew 20:25 (NKJV) *"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.*
- This shows up through: politics, education, entertainment, consumerism, religion, institutions, family relationships!
- There is an AGENDA to control!

C. Our spiritual life is a battle against inappropriate authority.

- Eph 6:12 - *12For 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.*
- The discernment needed is not just to know it is there, but WHERE it is showing up in your life? Through whom?

D. Jesus' demonstration of the authority of love: Matt 9:6.

- **Matt 9:6** – “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”
- The power of Jesus was LOVE from the Father.

E. We need to free people from our “agendas of control” and free them with God’s love.

- Matt 23:1-4 – example of the scribes and Pharisee’s
- Do we bind people with heavy burdens? Or use love to lift them?

F. Bottom line of suffering: craving inappropriate means of power

- Money, success, control, fame, popularity, etc.
- One of two
- Power alone is not necessarily good. The kind of power we are interested in is the kind that frees people and blesses a community.

G. Bottom line of Happiness: receiving and sharing God’s power of love.

- Phil 2:1-7

2. The Human need of Power

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) ²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over fall the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

A. Man was created with capacity for God’s Dominion. (It is the Dominion of Love)

- Weakness is NOT a virtue. Being helpless and powerless is not saintly, it is sickening.
- Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...”
- Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

B. When the life of God (love) is gone, the capacity feeds the desire for dominion still... through inappropriate means.

- We turn to inappropriate means of power to deal with things.
- You WILL turn to some means of power: money, fame, success, etc. OR discover God’s way: LOVE!

C. The Eden Plan: *Extend Paradise throughout the earth with God’s Love.*

D. We need a power to deal with all that is broken in the earth.

- Psalms 115:16 (NKJV) 16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’S; But the earth He has given to the children of men.
- Luke 10:19 (NKJV) 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

E. God’s anointing is an anointing of Love’s power!

- Luke 4:18
- Follow the prompting of God’s love in you and the anointing will flow!
- Rom 12:21 – “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

3. True Power is Found in Walking in God's Love

1 John 4:12 (NKJV) ¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

A. What was God's Power-response to a fallen world? His agenda of Love: John 3:16!

- God's response to the biggest mess in the universe: I will walk in LOVE!
- If that is His response to His big mess, it should be ours to our little messes in life.

B. God is a realm, a Being of LOVE.

- 1 John 4:8 (NKJV) 8He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- I think that this is one of the most profound and deep theological statements in the Bible!
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C. If we walk in LOVE, we are walking in the supernatural realm of God's Presence and anointing! (it is that simple!)

- **1 John 4:18** - God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
- **1 John 4:12 (NKJV)** ¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

D. Taping into His Love, connects you with the greatest power play in the universe!

E. 1 Cor. 13:8a. Dwell in the Never-failing-power of love.

4. God's Agenda of Freeing Love

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

A. God's response to sin was true power: Love.

- Rom 5:8 (NKJV) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- God's Plan: Love it all back to Me!

B. God's Love will win: no matter the opposition!

- Rom 8:31-39
- Nothing can separate you from victory if you walk in God's love towards you and others.

C. Love is the only appropriate power because it lives to GIVE and FREE others.

- Rom 13:10 - 8Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."10Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

D. What is the power of love? The ability to impart what is of God to others.

- Love GIVES itself away: imparts what is of God.
- It imparts GOD'S NATURE: forgiveness, compassion, acceptance, grace, healing, reconciliation, peace, etc.

5. True success in life is measured by our Progress in the Joy of Love

Gal 5:22 (NKJV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy..."

A. Love and Joy are linked together in Scripture.

- When we walk in love we walk in God and experience the joy of His life.
- *⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

B. A Nation should measure true progress of society by the Joy of its citizens. (Not by materialism or military power)

- To truly empower people, they have to be taught to walk in God's love.

C. Control produces fear; love produces joy.

D. God is the most JOYFUL Being in the Universe because He is the most Loving Being in the Universe!

E. Depression is at an all time high because we are a world running out of love. (Matt 24:12)

- *¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in*

the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

6. The Only Perfection found in this broken world is the path of God's Love

Matthew 5:48 (NKJV) *⁴⁸Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

A. Only God is perfect. Walking in love is a perfect path.

- You will never have perfect wisdom, knowledge, strength, skill, etc. But we can always walk in love and let that be our perfect way.
- Love is doing things God's way.

B. Matt 5:48. The perfection we are called to is the perfection of love.

C. 1 Cor 16:1. "Do everything in love."

- ¹⁴Let all *that you do* be done with love.
- This is not a hallmark greeting card remark: this is a call to true power!
- It is a STRATEGY for life's challenges
- It is an ART of life.

D. Make a quality decision to walk in God's Love.

7. When you operate in love, you touch true power for every situation.

Matthew 14:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴*And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

A. Whenever Jesus walked in love, miracles resulted.

- **Matthew 14:14 (NKJV)** *"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick."*
- Love is not a feeling! It is a PERSON who is always doing Good works!
- **John 5:17** - *"But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*

B. Love is the realm of the miraculous.

C. Whenever Jesus mentioned power, it was to FREE people from all that hindered and bound them.

- **Luke 9:1 - 2 (NKJV)** *1Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

D. If you will walk in Love you will always touch God's true power for your situation.

E. Love is as available to you as your own spirit: 2 Tim 1:7.

- God's love is ALREADY in your spirit.
- Tune in and develop the love of God in you.

Conclusion

Luke 9:54-55

- *"You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."*
- True power does not lie in grasping for authority, trying to control situations, or in manipulating people to your agendas. It comes from **walking in God's love** and serving the world with it.