

The Price for Having God's Power

Oct. 4, 2020

Today we want to talk about the price for having Gods power.

We are about to enter the age of miracles again. But, as never before.

In Joel 2:28-32, God promises to pour out his Spirit upon all flesh.

There will be tremendous signs and wonders, before Christ comes again.

My question today is: Can we handle performing great miracles?

There is a great temptation to become proud, when we perform miracles.

Scripture tells us that God saves the best until last.

The glory of the latter house be greater than the former. End time church.

The latter rain shall be heavier than the former rain.

Remember, Peter's shadow healed many, when he walked past them.

There was a cloud of glory upon him, an anointing of healing.

As he walked down the street, people who came under his shadow, healed.

God is going to do it again, and even greater things.

But God needs people that he can trust. Remember

There is a great temptation to become very proud, when we do miracles.

Many in the Bible became very proud and careless, when they did miracles.

In Matthew 7:22-23, we see people standing before Christ on judgment day.

Many of these people performed miracles, mighty works for Christ.

But they had become careless, and were living in sin. Let's read it:

Matthew 7:22-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never (came to know) you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

**Are we aware of what could happen if God used us to perform miracles?
We'd be in the newspaper, TV, Internet, and well known in the community.
There is a great temptation to become proud and careless ...
When the supernatural power of God is moving through us.**

**Many in these last days will be used by God mightily,
But some will bring disgrace to the Lord and the church...
By becoming proud and careless and living a sinful life.**

**I remember a pastor who had a church of several thousand.
He looked so successful but was having affairs with six ladies in the church
People tend to think God will excuse their sins because successful ministry**

Some in the Bible were able to handle success

**Abraham and Sarah gave birth to Isaac in their old age. Absolute miracle.
Abraham was 100, Sarah was 90. This was a supernatural birth.
Actually, the whole nation of Israel was born from this miracle.**

**God used Joshua to command the sun / moon to stand still for a whole day.
This caused the universe to stop for a whole day.
And Joshua did not become proud of the authority God entrusted to him.
Israel was fighting battles, and needed a longer day.
So God use Joshua to command the sun stand still. Let's read it:**

“Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. Joshua 10:12-13

King Hezekiah did not handle success well. Success blemished his life.

Hezekiah was a very good man.

The Assyrians were coming against Jerusalem. He only had about 2,000 men.

The Syrians had 186,000 soldiers, and we're surrounding Jerusalem.

This account is in 2nd Chronicles chapter 32, and 2 Kings 19.

When Hezekiah saw that the Assyrians had come, and was purposed to fight against Jerusalem... Hezekiah said to his people "With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. 2 Chron. 32:8

2 Kings 19:35 - one night, the Lord sent an angel, and slew 186,000 Assyrians.

In the morning, all the Assyrians surrounding Jerusalem, were dead.

It was a tremendous victory for Hezekiah and Jerusalem.

When the surrounding nations Heard about this...

Many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

2 Kings 20:1: In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: The Lord said I'm going to add 15 years to your life. Hezekiah wanted a sign. The sun came back 10°.

But during those 15 years, he became careless.

But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem." "Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah." 2 Chronicles 32:25-26.

Do we see the problem here? Miracles, Great success, is a temptation To become proud and careless. Even very good men like Hezekiah.

King David - very humble, dependent, later very immoral.

Miracle workers need difficulties to keep them humble

**When we read the book of Acts, every time the apostles did a miracle...
It was followed by persecution. Why? God used it, to save them from pride.**

In Acts 3:6, Peter said to the lame man, who had never walked:

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Rise up and walk.

3:7 - immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength

3:8 - and he leaping up stood and walked and entered the temple...

Walking and leaping and praising God.

3:10 and all the people were filled with wonder and amazement.

3:12 Peter said why do you marvel at this? Why do you look earnestly upon us

As though by our own power or holiness have made this man to walk.

3:16 it is through faith in the name of Jesus, that has healed this man.

In acts 5:18, the apostles were arrested and put in prison.

5:40 the apostles were beaten, commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus

When God moves with miracles, Satan is moved with envy.

But God uses Satan's opposition to keep the miracle worker humble.

If there is no difficulty after performing a miracle,

The miracle worker is very tempted to become haughty and proud.

In Acts 14, the apostle Paul performed a great miracle. People worshiped him.

In Acts 14:8, here was a man, who had never walked from birth.

14:10 Paul said with a loud voice, stand up, and he leaped and walked.

14:11, the people thought the apostles were gods.

14:13, they wanted to worship them, and offer up sacrifice to them.

14:14-15 Paul and Barnabas rent their clothes and cried out:

Don't do this, we are ordinary men of like passions, just like you.

14:19, later that same people stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city

They thought he was dead. Later Paul stood up, and left the city.

14:23 he taught the people, through much tribulation we enter the kingdom...

Do you see the point I'm trying to make here?

**Every time the apostles did a miracle, they had persecution that followed.
This was God's mercy to keep them humble**

**Remember Samson: he became overconfident because of unusual strength.
Samson was seduced by a woman named Delilah, was living in immorality.
He had performed many miracles, but now had become overconfident.
The enemy Philistines we're coming to get Samson,**

“Delilah said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he did not realize that the LORD was departed from him.” Judges 16:20.

We know the story. Delilah was working for the Philistines.

She had sheared all of Samson's hair, while he was sleeping.

The Philistines captured Samson, and put out his eyes.

Samson had become over-confidence in himself, no longer relied on God.

You see danger of Having supernatural power, not to rely on God after while.

Welcome necessary pressure

If we are used mightily by God, welcome necessary pressures.

We need them, or we become careless and proud.

The apostle Paul makes this truth very clear.

Remember his thorn in the flesh? He asked God three times to remove it.

And God said, I can't. Let's read 2 Corinthians 12:3-10

“And I know a man, [speaking of himself] ... How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.”

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Corinthians 12:3-10.

The apostle Paul was taken to heaven on a number of occasions. He saw and heard things he was not even allowed to talk about here on earth. The tendency was to become very proud, exalted above measure. So God allowed a thorn in his life to keep him humble. He asked the Lord three times, please take this thorn away. God said I cannot, lest you become exalted above measured with pride.

Not only what Paul thought about himself, but what others would think of him. God was concerned that people held Paul in the right perspective... Not only that Paul has the right perspective of himself.

2 Corinthians 1:8 "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength.

Paul said he was pressed out of measure, above strength. Gethsemane means "oil press". The anointing comes by being pressed out of measure. But after we have performed great acts of power, we often need pain. Or we will become arrogant, when God uses us mightily.

Being kept from pride when used by God

In summary:

Do not resent persecution or pain when God uses you.

Paul said I take pleasure in infirmity, for when I am weak I am strong.

**Enumerate how God is using so many others also. Avoid 1 Kings 18:22:
I, even I only remain a true prophet of the Lord ...**

**Keep the attitude - I'm ordinary, no different than others. Daniel said: 2:30
“As for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more
than any living...” Daniel 2:30, KJV.**

**Be teachable - listen to the cautions of others, “He that hearkens unto
counsel is wise.” Proverbs 12:15,**

Glorify God - do not draw attention to yourself, or build your own kingdom.

Be obedient to the word of God, build a good foundation. Matthew 7

**Rehearse the word of God, allow the fear of God to permeate your soul.
Deut.17:18-20—people, especially leaders, are to read the word of God always**

**Scriptures - “And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of
his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of
this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above
his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right
hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom,
he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”**

May God keep us humble and dependent on him, what he uses us mightily