

True Disciple #22 Walk in Power

Welcome to True Disciple #22. This is Rod Nichols and I'm excited that you're continuing on this path to becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Just a reminder that if you've missed any of the previous messages or would like to review them, which I would highly recommend, they're always available on the True Disciple site at www.TrueDisciple.Info. Just click on the button marked Weekly Messages under the current message on the front page or you can find it under More in the upper menu.

This week, I'm going to talk about something that most Christians are not doing, but all should and that's walking in power.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His true disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit who activates our human spirit and gives us direct access to the Father. Adam and Eve were made this way, John and Jesus were both born with the Spirit, and now we have the Spirit, as well.

That said, the scripture we just read, says "when the Holy Spirit comes on you", not into you. This is different than receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation. We see this example first with Jesus, when He was baptized by John in Mark 1:10: "Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." Again, the Spirit came on Him, not into Him, because He Had the Spirit from birth, which enabled Him to hear from the Father.

After the Spirit comes upon Jesus, He is directed, by the Spirit, into the wilderness, where His flesh and soul are tested by the devil. He passes the tests and leaves the wilderness, "in the power of the Spirit" (Luke 4:14 NIV) and began His ministry of miracles.

After the Spirit comes upon the disciples in the upper room in Acts 2, they begin their ministry of miracles. These were the same disciples who were running and hiding, when Jesus was captured and Peter who denied even knowing Him three

times. Yet, in the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter preaches a simple message of the good news of salvation through Jesus and 3,000 people get saved. Later, people bring the sick and lame into the street, so that Peter's shadow can heal them (Acts 5:15). Handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul were taken to the sick and their illnesses were cured and evil spirits left them (Acts 19:12). Now, that's power.

In Mark 16:17-18, Jesus instructs the disciples about this Holy Spirit power, "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Under the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul was bitten by a poisonous viper and did not die. I don't suggest testing either the snakes or the poison, but if you are operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, you are covered.

I want to focus on the first and last of the signs that WILL accompany those who believe: drive out demons and lay hands on sick people.

There are many people out there who are possessed or oppressed by demonic spirits. They manifest in the form of seizures at times (Matthew 17:15) or in extreme anger/violence (Mark 5:1-17). I think many of the strange shootings in schools, businesses, clubs, bombings, and those driving into crowds of people are either possessed or motivated by demons.

We, as true disciples, are to be operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we can sense the demonic presence and cast it out or off a person. This is a sign that is to follow true disciples.

We are also to lay hands on the sick and they will get well. If we are not operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, they will not get well, so it's not us doing the healing, it's the Holy Spirit. I have personally experienced healing and have witnessed it in people I've prayed for. If you feel directed to pray for someone who is sick, call upon the Holy Spirit for power and then pray. Some healings are instant and others take a little time, but they will be healed.

So, what's next? It's time to ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you with power, so that you can be Jesus's witness in your city, state, country, and throughout the world. When people see or feel the power of the Holy Spirit either in your words or your touch, they will be more open to receiving Jesus as their Savior and Lord and ultimately, that is the goal.

That's it for message #22. The church is not operating with much power these days. I hope that you will take this message to heart, ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you in power and then go out into the world to spread the good Word of Jesus.

I look forward to speaking with you again soon. Have a wonderfully blessed week.