

Power and Authority

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October 18th is the Feast Day of St. Luke The Physician. The Collect for the Day is

Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Power and Authority

The petition in this collect asks the Lord to continue to pour out His love and power parallel to the Apostolic (Early Church) Period. There are four words in the New Testament for “power” and “authority.”

1. Dunamis - This is where we get the word ‘dynamite.’ This speaks of bursts of power from the Holy Spirit working through believers – cf. 1 Corinthians 12.
2. Exousia – This may refer to power or authority. In John’s Gospel the statement is made – To those who received Him (Jesus) who believed on His Name, He gave power (exousia) to become children of God...” In other contexts it speaks of Jesus and His followers commanding evil spirits to leave and healing to occur.
3. Ischuo – This refers to the power that manifests when we come to the end of ourselves and the Lord takes over. We are empty and dependent on the Holy Spirit and He shows His glory through miraculous intervention! Philippians 4: 13 states “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens (ischuo) me!”
4. Kratos – This is a term that speaks of the power and authority that comes through a total surrender to Christ... we die to self. This absolute laying down of our lives gives the Holy Spirit complete access. He then works through yielded believers with miracle power.

Each of these words points to a deeper commitment and consecration to the Lord. We rarely see the manifestation of the third and fourth expressions of power and authority in the Western Church. In developing countries, people have nowhere to turn but to the shaman or to Jesus. This profound dependence and desperation opens people to healing, deliverance and the miraculous.

How?

How do we attain to such power and authority. The key is Jesus. He states in the Great Commission “all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me...” Power and authority issues from a close relationship with Jesus. He is the Healer, the Deliverer, the Saviour.

Moving in the power of the Holy Spirit is a product of discipleship. We learn to operate in Spiritual Gifts and power from those who walk in this dimension of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul told the Corinthians that he did not come to them with eloquent words but with the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power! We too can be mentored in the things of God. It is our destiny in Christ to be like Him in character and in action. Jesus told His disciples they would do even greater things.

The anaemic, powerless nature of our churches points to a significant disconnect with the living and reigning Lord Jesus Christ. As we return to the “first things” with a simple devotion to Jesus, we will see His power restored to the Church.