

Divinely Blessed & Restored

Serving God with Power and Purpose

(Part 1)©

“ But you shall receive power(ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends(the very bounds) of the earth.” [Acts 1:8 Amplified](#)

Submitted by: Minister Doris B. Ryans - originally published April 2007

Powerful is a descriptive word used to describe what type of individual we are to be. **Purpose** describes how our actions should be as Christian men and women. What does powerful mean? Webster defines powerful as having great influence (*able to exert action by invisible or insensible means with the power to produce results*). Power, suggests great force or strength, with the capability of overcoming strong resistance. I Corinthians 15:58 gives us a description of a powerful Christian: it says we are to be **steadfast** (constant, determined, not to become discouraged) **unmovable** (to remain in the same place), **always abounding** (working) in the work of the Lord.

This description certainly exemplifies a person of power, a person with the means to produce results! But, we must not think for one moment, that we have this type of power of ourselves. Acts 1:8 “But ye *shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you...*” What does come upon you mean? In Acts 2:38 Peter told the crowd that they needed to “*repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” The moment we accept Christ the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts, it comes upon us; this is what is called *the indwelling of the Holy Spirit*. This occurs automatically when a person is saved; it is not a “one moment in time experience”, that goes away - it remains permanently. The Holy Spirit gives us power. This power is not limited to strength. It includes courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability, and authority. It’s this **power** that allows a Christian to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

As Christian men and women, we are to be powerful people of **purpose**. What does purpose mean? Webster defines purpose as the object, the reason for which anything exists or is done. Romans 8:28 tells us “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

So, as Christian men and women, there is something we should be doing, there's a reason we should be doing it, and a person for whom we are doing it. *We are called by God to do the work He wants us to do.*

This raises an important question, what is God's purpose for us? It is to be a servant, ministering to others, to lead them to Christ. To be a servant, we must understand what a servant is, what type of attitude, characteristics and behaviors we should have as a servant. The world's perspective of what a servant is is totally different than the biblical perspective of a servant. The world views the term "servant" negatively. The name servant itself is considered a demeaning title. It is considered to represent a lower class of people. It brings images to mind of the "haves" and the "have-nots".

But in the church, we are not of the world so we are supposed to have the biblical perspective of what it means to be a servant. What the world sees as negative is a position of honor within the church. In Mark 10: verses 35 – 45, Jesus teaches the disciples about serving others. Specifically, verses 44 & 45 reads: *"And whosoever of you will be the chiefest (**the head**) shall be servant of all (**servant of all**). For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto (**be served**), but to minister (**but to serve**), and to give his life a ransom for many."* This scripture makes it very clear. Being a servant is all about serving others. It's continually asking the question, "What can I do for you"? Not "What can you do for me". It is a lifestyle of focusing on others, not yourself. It is finding opportunities to express God's love to someone. Serving is living Christ's example of putting others first and loving thy neighbor. To sum it up - serving is love in action. That's quite a different picture than the negative image the world gives to being a servant.

Now that we understand what the attitude of a servant is, the reality is that being of service to others is not as easy as it sound. But, God never asks us to do what He has not empowered us to do. So, what does being a servant really, really mean? It is to be a disciple, to seek out and save lost souls. This is what we call witnessing! Webster defines witness as: *to testify to, to give evidence of.* We are to testify and provide evidence to others about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. By His death on the cross Christ made salvation possible for each and every one of us. But in order to receive salvation, a person must be introduced to God, just as we were. God's plan is that *every* person who is saved will witness to others about Christ. We have a message God is counting on us to carry to those who do not know Him. Yes, we have full-time and part-time jobs, but we have another job – the most important one of all- our Christian service job – and our job title is "witness".

When witnessing, we witness with more than words, we also witness by our actions and lifestyle. We must remember our lifestyle gives a testimony more than our moral speeches. In other words, we need to practice what we preach. If not we lose credibility with people we are trying to witness too. Witnessing is one time when you cannot live by the motto; *do as I say, not as I do.* Some of the qualities and behaviors others should see in us if we want to be credible witnesses are:

Determination: A stick with it, regardless attitude.

Honesty: Speaking the truth.

Responsibility: Being dependable, trustworthy.

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Thoughtfulness and compassion: Thinking of others, not just yourself .

Confidentiality: Not telling the business of others and betraying their confidence.

Self-control: Being calm and maintaining control even in trying situations.

Purity: Having established standards and boundaries in your life.

No one said that witnessing would be an easy task. No matter how closed an individual might be to your efforts, you can't lose hope and quit. You must keep your eye on the mercy of God and His redeeming power and continue to be a witness before that individual. (See Part II, August 2008)

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

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CALENDAR of Events

July

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagements

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

Sunday, July 27, 2008

7:30 a.m.

September

COFFEE, TEA & THEE® CHRISTAN BOOK CLUB

Meet and Discuss. Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwanda Holocaust!
by: **Immaculee Ilibaqiza**

September 4, 2008 – Meet to pick-up books

September 11, 2008 – Commence Discussion

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

2009

Save the Date – 3rd Women's Retreat

The Retreat Center at St. John's, Plymouth, Michigan

February 2009

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and
upcoming events!!**