

THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

NO. 30

A SERMON
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“The power of the Holy Ghost.”
Romans 15:13

POWER is the special and peculiar prerogative of God, and God alone. “Twice have I heard this: that power belongeth unto God” (Psa 62:11). God is God: and power belongs to Him. If He delegates a portion of it to His creatures, yet still it is *His* power. The sun, although he is “like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run his race,” yet has no power to perform his motions except as God directs him.

The stars, although they travel in their orbits and none could stay them, yet have neither might nor force except that which God daily infuses into them. The tall archangel, near His throne, who outshines a comet in its blaze, though he is one of those who excel in strength and hearken to the voice of the commands of God, yet has no might except that which his Maker gives to him.

As for Leviathan, who so makes the sea to boil like a pot that one would think the deep were hoary. As for Behemoth, who drinks up Jordan at a draught and boasts that he can snuff up rivers. As for those majestic creatures that are found on earth, they owe their strength to Him who fashioned their bones of steel and made their sinews of brass.

And when we think of man, if he has might or power, it is so small and insignificant, that we can scarcely call it such. Yea, when it is at its greatest—when he sways his sceptre, when he commands hosts, when he rules nations—still the power belongs unto God. And it is true, “Twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto God.”

This exclusive prerogative of God, is to be found in each of the three persons of the glorious Trinity. The Father has power, for by His word were the heavens made and all the host of them. By His strength all things stand and through Him they fulfill their destiny. The Son has power, for like His Father, He is the Creator of all things, “Without him was not anything made that was made,” and “by him all things consist.” And the Holy Spirit has power.

It is concerning the power of the Holy Ghost that I shall speak this morning and may you have a practical exemplification of that attribute in your own hearts, when you shall feel that the influence of the Holy Ghost is being poured out upon me, so that I am speaking the words of the living God to your souls, and bestowed upon you when you are feeling the effects of it in your own spirits.

We shall look at the power of the Holy Ghost in three ways this morning. First, *the outward and visible displays of it*. Second, *the inward and spiritual manifestations of it*. And third, *the future and expected works thereof*. The power of the Spirit will thus, I trust, be made clearly present to your souls.

I. First, then, we are to view the power of the Spirit in the **OUTWARD AND VISIBLE DISPLAYS OF IT**.

The power of the Spirit has not been dormant. It has exerted itself. Much has been done by the Spirit of God already, more than could have been accomplished by any being except the Infinite, Eternal, Almighty JEHOVAH, of whom the Holy Spirit is one person. There are four works which are the outward and manifest signs of the power of the Spirit—creation works, resurrection works, works of attestation or of witness, and works of grace. Of each of the works I shall speak very briefly.

1. First, the Spirit has manifested the omnipotence of His power in *creation works*. For though not very frequently in Scripture, yet sometimes creation is ascribed to the Holy Ghost, as well as to the

Father and the Son. The creation of the heavens above us is said to be the work of God's Spirit. This you will see at once by referring to the sacred Scriptures, Job 26:13, "By his Spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent."

All the stars of heaven are said to have been placed aloft by the Spirit and one particular constellation called the "crooked serpent" is specially pointed out as His handiwork. He looses the bands of Orion. He binds the sweet influences of the Pleiades and guides Acturus with his sons. He made all those stars that shine in heaven. The heavens were garnished by His hands and He formed the crooked serpent by His might.

So also in those continued acts of creation which are still performed in the world, as the bringing forth of man and animals, their birth and generation. These are ascribed also to the Holy Ghost. If you look at the 104th Psalm, at the twenty-ninth verse, you will read, "Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth."

So that the creation of every man is the work of the Spirit, and the creation of all life and all flesh-existence in this world is as much to be ascribed to the power of the Spirit as the first garnishing of the heavens, or the fashioning of the crooked serpent. But if you will look in the first chapter of Genesis, you will there see more particularly set forth that peculiar operation of power upon the universe which was put forth by the Holy Spirit. You will then discover what was His special work.

In the second verse of the first chapter of Genesis, we read, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." We know not how remote the period of the creation of this globe may be—certainly many millions of years before the time of Adam. Our planet has passed through various stages of existence and different kinds of creatures have lived on its surface, all of which have been fashioned by God.

But before that era came, wherein man should be its principal tenant and monarch, the Creator gave up the world to confusion. He allowed the inward fires to burst up from beneath and melt all the solid matter, so that all kinds of substances were commingled in one vast mass of disorder. The only name you could give to the world then was that it was a chaotic mass of matter. What it should be, you could not guess or define. It was entirely without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

The Spirit came, and stretching His broad wings, bade the darkness disperse, and as He moved over it, all the different portions of matter came into their places, and it was no longer "without form and void," but became round like its sister planets and moved, singing the high praises of God—not discordantly as it had done before, but as one great note in the vast scale of creation.

Milton very beautifully describes this work of the Spirit in thus bringing order out confusion, when the King of Glory, in His powerful Word and Spirit, came to create new worlds—

*"On heavenly ground they stood; and from the shore
They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,
Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds
And surging waves, as mountains, to assault
heaven's height, and with the centre mix the pole.*

*"Silence ye troubled waves, and thou deep, peace,'
Said then the Omnific Word; your discord end.
Then on the watery calm
His brooding wings the Spirit of God outspread
And vital virtue infused, and vital warmth
Throughout the fluid mass."*

This you see then is the power of the Spirit. Could we have seen that earth all in confusion, we should have said, “Who can make a world out of this?” The answer would have been, “The power of the Spirit can do it. By the simple spreading of His dove-like wings He can make all the things come together. Upon that there shall be order where there was nothing but confusion.”

Nor is this all the power of the Spirit. We have seen some of His works in creation. But there was one particular instance of creation in which the Holy Spirit was more especially concerned, viz., the formation of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was born of a woman and made in the likeness of sinful flesh, yet the power that begat Him was entirely in God the Holy Spirit—as the Scriptures express it, “The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee.” He was begotten as the Apostles’ Creed says, of the Holy Ghost. “That holy thing which is born of thee shall be called the Son of the Highest.”

The corporeal frame of the Lord Jesus Christ was a masterpiece of the Holy Spirit. I suppose His body to have excelled all others in beauty, to have been like that of the first man, the very pattern of what the body is to be in heaven, when it shall shine forth in all its glory. That fabric, in all its beauty and perfection, was modeled by the Spirit. In His book were all the members written when as yet there were none of them. He fashioned and formed Him, and here again we have another instance of the creative energy of the Spirit.

2. A second manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s power is to be found in the *resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ*. If you have ever studied this subject, you have perhaps been rather perplexed to find that sometimes the resurrection of Christ is ascribed to Himself. By His own power and Godhead He could not be held by the bond of death, but as He willingly gave up His life, He had power to take it again. In another portion of Scripture, you find it ascribed to God the Father, “He raised him up from the dead.” “Him hath God the Father exalted.” And many other passages of similar import.

But again, it is said in Scripture that Jesus Christ was raised by the Holy Spirit. Now all these things were true. He was raised by the Father, because the Father said, “Loose the prisoner—let Him go. Justice is satisfied. My law requires no more satisfaction—vengeance has had its due—let Him go.” Here He gave an official message which delivered Jesus from the grave. He was raised by His own majesty and power because He had a right to come out, and He felt He had, and therefore “burst the bonds of death. He could be no longer holden of them.”

But He was raised by the Spirit as to that energy which His mortal frame received, by the which it rose again from the grave after having lain there for three days and nights. If you want proofs of this you must open your Bibles again, 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but quickened by the Spirit.”

And a further proof you may find in Romans, 8:11—(I love sometimes to be textual, for I believe the great fault of Christians is that they do not search the Scriptures enough, and I will make them search them when they are here if they do not do so anywhere else)—“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

The resurrection of Christ, then, was effected by the agency of the Spirit, and here we have a noble illustration of His omnipotence. Could you have stepped, as angels did, into the grave of Jesus and seen His sleeping body, you would have found it cold as any other corpse. Lift up the hand, it falls by the side. Look at the eye—it is glazed. And there is a death-thrust which must have annihilated life.

See His hands. The blood distils not from them. They are cold and motionless. Can that body live? Can it start up? Yes, and be an illustration of the might of the Spirit. For when the power of the Spirit came on Him, as it was when it fell upon the dry bones of the valley, “He arose in the majesty of His divinity, and bright and shining, astonished the watchmen so that they fled away. Yea, He arose no more to die, but to live forever, King of kings and Prince of the kings of the earth.”

3. The third of the works of the Holy Spirit, which have so wonderfully demonstrated His power, are *attestation works*. I mean by this—works of witnessing. When Jesus Christ went into the stream of

baptism in the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove and proclaimed Him God's beloved Son. That is what I style an attestation work. And when afterwards Jesus Christ raised the dead, when He healed the leper, when He spoke to diseases and they fled, when demons rushed in thousands from those who were possessed of them, it was done by the power of the Spirit. The Spirit dwelt in Jesus without measure and by that power all those miracles were worked. These were attestation works.

And when Jesus Christ was gone, you will remember that master attestation of the Spirit when He came like a rushing mighty wind upon the assembled apostles, and cloven tongues sat upon them. And you will remember how He attested their ministry by giving them to speak with tongues as He gave them utterance. And how, also, miraculous deeds were wrought by them, how they taught, how Peter raised Dorcas, how he breathed life into Eutychus, how great deeds were wrought by the apostles as well as their Master—so that “mighty signs and wonders were done by the Holy Ghost and many believed thereby.”

Who will doubt the power of the Holy Spirit after that? Ah! those Socinians who deny the existence of the Holy Ghost and His absolute personality, what will they do when we get them on creation, resurrection, and attestation? They must rush in the very teeth of Scripture. But mark! it is a stone upon which if any man fall he shall be bruised, but if it fall upon him, as it will do if he resists it, it shall grind him to powder. The Holy Spirit has power omnipotent, even the power of God.

4. Once more, if we want another outward and visible sign of the power of the Spirit, we may look at the *works of grace*. Behold a city where a soothsayer has the power—who has given out himself to be some great one. A Philip enters it and preaches the Word of God, straightway a Simon Magus loses his power and himself seeks for the power of the Spirit to be given to him, fancying it might be purchased with money.

See, in modern times, a country where the inhabitants live in miserable wigwams, feeding on reptiles and the meanest creatures. Observe them bowing down before their idols and worshipping their false gods, and so plunged in superstition, so degraded and debased, that it became a question whether they had souls or not.

Behold a Moffat with the Word of God in his hand. Hear him preach as the Spirit gives him utterance and accompanies that Word with power. They cast aside their idols—they hate and abhor their former lusts. They build houses wherein they dwell. They become clothed and in their right mind. They break the bow and cut the spear in sunder. The uncivilized become civilized. The savage becomes polite. He who knew nothing begins to read the Scriptures. Thus out of the mouths of Khoikhoi, God attests the power of His mighty Spirit.

Take a household in this city—and we could guide you to many such—the father is a drunkard. He has been the most desperate of characters. See him in his madness and you might just as well meet an unchained tiger as meet such a man. He seems as if he could rend a man to pieces who should offend him. Mark his wife. She, too, has a spirit in her and when he treats her ill she can resist him. Many broils have been seen in that house and often has the neighborhood been disturbed by the noise created there. As for the poor little children—see them in their rags and nakedness, poor untaught things.

Untaught, did I say? They are taught and well-taught in the devil's school and are growing up to be the heirs of damnation. But someone whom God has blessed by His Spirit is guided to the house. He may be but a humble city missionary perhaps, but he speaks to such a one. O, says he, come and listen to the voice of God.

Whether it is by his own agency, or a minister's preaching, the Word, which is quick and powerful, cuts to the sinner's heart. The tears run down his cheeks—such as had never been seen before. He shakes and quivers. The strong man bows down—the mighty man trembles—and those knees that never shook begin to knock together. That heart which never quailed before, now begins to shake before the power of the Spirit.

He sits down on a humble bench by the penitent. He lets his knees bend, while his lips utter a child's prayer, but whilst a child's prayer, a prayer of a child of God. He becomes a changed character. Mark

the reformation in his house! That wife of his becomes the decent matron. Those children are the credit of the house and in due time, they grow up like olive branches round his table, adorning his house like polished stones.

Pass by the house—no noise or broils, but songs of Zion. See him—no drunken revelry. He has drained his last cup, and now forswearing it, he comes to God and is His servant. Now, you will not hear at midnight the bacchanalian shout, but should there be a noise, it will be the sound of the solemn hymn of praise to God. And now, is there not such a thing as the power of the Spirit? Yes! And these must have witnessed it and seen it.

I know a village, once perhaps the most profane in England—a village inundated by drunkenness and debauchery of the worst kind, where it was impossible almost for an honest traveler to stop in the public house without being annoyed by blasphemy. A place noted for incendiaries and robbers. One man, the ringleader of all, listened to the voice of God. That man's heart was broken. The whole gang came to hear the Gospel preached, and they sat and seemed to reverence the preacher, as if he were a God and not a man. These men became changed and reformed, and everyone who knows the place affirms that such a change had never been wrought but by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Let the Gospel be preached and the Spirit poured out, and you will see that it has such power to change the conscience, to ameliorate the conduct, to raise the debased, to chastise and to curb the wickedness of the race, that you must glory in it. I say, there is nought like the power of the Spirit. Only let that come, and indeed, everything can be accomplished.

II. Now, for the second point, THE INWARD AND SPIRITUAL POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

What I have already spoken of may be seen. What I am about to speak of must be felt and no man will apprehend what I say with truth unless he has felt it. The other, even the infidel, must confess. The other, the greatest blasphemer cannot deny it he speaks the truth. But this is what the one will laugh at as enthusiasm and what the other will say is but the invention of our fevered fancies.

However, we have a more sure word of testimony than all that they may say. We have a witness within. We know it is the truth and we are not afraid to speak of the inward spiritual power of the Holy Ghost. Let us notice two or three things wherein the inward and spiritual power of the Holy Ghost is very greatly to be seen and extolled.

1. First, in that the Holy Ghost has *a power over men's hearts*. Now, men's hearts are very hard to affect. If you want to get at them for any worldly object you can do it. A cheating world can win man's heart, a little gold can win man's heart, a trump of fame and a little clamor of applause can win man's heart. But there is not a minister breathing that can win man's heart himself. He can win his ears and make them listen. He can win his eyes and fix those eyes upon him. He can win the attention, but the heart is very slippery.

Yes, the heart is a fish that troubles all Gospel fishermen to hold. You may sometimes pull it almost all out of the water, but slimy as an eel, it slips between your fingers and you have not captured it after all. Many a man has fancied that he has caught the heart but has been disappointed. It would need a strong hunter to overtake the hart on the mountains. It is too fleet for human foot to approach. The Spirit alone has power over man's heart.

Do you ever try your power on a heart? If any man thinks that a minister can convert the soul, I wish he would try. Let him go and be a Sabbath-school teacher. He shall take his class, he shall have the best books that can be obtained, he shall have the best rules, he shall draw his lines of circumvallation about his spiritual Sebastopol, he shall take the best boy in his class, and if he is not tired in a week I shall be very much mistaken.

Let him spend four or five Sabbaths in trying, but he will say, "The young fellow is incorrigible." Let him try another. And he will have to try another, and another, and another before he will manage to convert one. He will soon find, "It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD."

Can a minister convert? Can he touch the heart? David said, "Your hearts are as fat as grease." Ay, that is quite true and we cannot get through so much grease at all. Our sword cannot get at the heart, it is

encased in so much fatness. It is harder than a nether millstone. Many a good old Jerusalem blade has been blunted against the hard heart. Man, a piece of the true steel that God has put into the hands of His servants has had the edge turned by being set up against the sinner's heart.

We cannot reach the soul, but the Holy Spirit can. "My beloved can put in his hand by the hole in the door and my bowels will move for sin." He can give a sense of blood-bought pardon that shall dissolve a heart of stone. He can

*“Speak with that voice which wakes the dead,
And bids the sinner rise:
And makes the guilty conscience dread
The death that never dies.”*

He can make Sinai's thunders audible. Yea, and He can make the sweet whisperings of Calvary enter into the soul. He has power over the heart of man. And here is a glorious proof of the omnipotence of the Spirit that He has rule over the heart.

2. But if there is one thing more stubborn than the heart, it is *the will*. "My lord Will-be-Will," as Bunyan calls him in his "Holy War," is a fellow who will not easily be bent. The will, especially in some men, is a very stubborn thing, and in all men, if the will is once stirred up to opposition, there is nothing can be done with them.

Freewill somebody believes in. *Freewill* many dream of. Freewill! Wherever is that to be found? Once there was free will in Paradise and a terrible mess free will made there, for it all spoiled all Paradise and turned Adam out of the garden. Free will was once in heaven, but it turned the glorious archangel out and a third part of the stars of heaven fell into the abyss.

I want nothing to do with free will, but I will try to see whether I have got a free will within. And I find I have. Very free will to evil, but very poor will to that which is good. Freewill enough when I sin, but when I would do good, evil is present with me, and how to do that which I would, I find not. Yet some boast of freewill. I wonder whether those who believe in it have any more power over persons' wills than I have. I know I have not any.

I find the old proverb very true, "One man can bring a horse to the water, but a hundred cannot make him drink." I find that I can bring you all to the water, and a great many more than can get into this chapel, but I cannot make you drink. And I don't think a hundred ministers could make you drink.

I have read old Rowland Hill, and Whitfield, and several others to see what they did, but I cannot discover a plan of turning your wills. I cannot coax you. And you will not yield by any manner of means. I do not think any man has power over his fellow creature's will, but the Spirit of God has. "I will make them willing in the day of my power."

He makes the unwilling sinner so willing that he is impetuous after the Gospel. He who was obstinate, now hurries to the cross. He who laughed at Jesus, now hangs on His mercy. And he who would not believe, is now made by the Holy Spirit to do it, not only willingly, but eagerly. He is happy, is glad to do it, rejoices in the sound of Jesus' name, and delights to run in the way of God's commandments. The Holy Spirit has power over the will.

3. And yet there is one thing more which I think is rather worse than the will. You will guess what I mean. The will is somewhat worse than the heart to bend, but there is one thing that excels the will in its naughtiness, and that is the *imagination*. I hope that my will is managed by divine grace. But I am afraid my imagination is not at times.

Those who have a fair share of imagination know what a difficult thing it is to control. You cannot restrain it. It will break the reins. You will never be able to manage it. The imagination will sometimes fly up to God with such a power that eagles' wings cannot match it. It sometimes has such might that it can almost see the King in His beauty and the land which is very far off.

With regard to myself, my imagination will sometimes take me over the gates of iron, across that infinite unknown, to the very gates of pearl, and discovers the blessed glorified. But if it is potent one way it is another, for my imagination has taken me down to the vilest kennels and sewers of earth. It has given me thoughts so dreadful, that while I could not avoid them, yet I was thoroughly horrified at them.

These thoughts will come and when I feel in the holiest frame, the most devoted to God, and the most earnest in prayer, it often happens that that is the very time when the plagues break out the worst. But I rejoice and think of one thing, that I can cry out when this imagination comes upon me. I know it is said in the book of Leviticus, when an act of evil was committed, if the maiden cried out against it, then her life was to be spared. So it is with the Christian. If he cries out, there is hope. Can you chain your imagination? No, but the power of the Holy Ghost can. Ah, it shall do it and it does do it at last. It does it even on earth.

III. But the last thing was, THE FUTURE AND DESIRED EFFECTS, for after all, though the Holy Spirit has done so much, He cannot say, "It is finished."

Jesus Christ could exclaim concerning His own labor, "It is finished." But the Holy Spirit cannot say that. He has more to do yet, and until the consummation of all things, when the Son Himself becomes subject to the Father, it shall not be said by the Holy Spirit, "It is finished." What, then, has the Holy Spirit to do?

1. First, he has to *perfect us in holiness*. There are two kinds of perfection which a Christian needs—one is the perfection of justification in the person of Jesus, and the other is the perfection of sanctification worked in him by the Holy Spirit. At present, corruption still rests even in the breasts of the regenerate. At present, the heart is partially impure. At present, there are still lusts and evil imaginations. But, Oh! my soul rejoices to know that the day is coming when God shall finish the work which He has begun and He shall present my soul, not only perfect in Christ, but perfect in the Spirit, without spot or blemish, or any such thing.

And is it true that this poor depraved heart is to become as holy as that of God? And is it true that this poor spirit, which often cries, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this sin and death!" shall get rid of sin and death—I shall have no evil things to vex my ears and no unholy thoughts to disturb my peace? Oh! happy hour! may it be hastened!

Just before I die, sanctification will be finished. But not till that moment shall I ever claim perfection in myself. But at that moment when I depart, my spirit shall have its last baptism in the Holy Spirit's fire. It shall be put in the crucible for its last trying in the furnace, and then, free from all dross and fine like a wedge of pure gold, it shall be presented at the feet of God without the least degree of dross or mixture. O glorious hour! O blessed moment!

Methinks I long to die even if there were no heaven, if I might but have that last purification and come up from Jordan's stream most white from the washing. Oh! to be washed white, clean, pure, perfect! Not an angel more pure than I shall be—yea, not God Himself more holy! And I shall be able to say, in a double sense, "Great God, I am clean—through Jesus' blood I am clean, through the Spirit's work, I am clean too." Must we not extol the power of the Holy Ghost in thus making us fit to stand before our Father in heaven?

2. Another great work of the Holy Spirit which is not accomplished is *the bringing on of the latter-day glory*. In a few more years—I know not when, I know not how—the Holy Spirit will be poured out in a far different style from the present. There are diversities of operations. And during the last few years it has been the case that the diversified operations have consisted in very little pouring out of the Spirit.

Ministers have gone on in dull routine, continually preaching—preaching—preaching and little good has been done. I do hope that perhaps a fresh era has dawned upon us and that there is a better pouring out of the Spirit even now. For the hour is coming, and it may be even now, when the Holy Ghost shall be poured out again in such a wonderful manner that many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased—the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the surface of the great deep, when His kingdom shall come, and His will shall be done on earth even as it is in heaven.

We are not going to be dragging on forever like Pharaoh with the wheels off his chariot. My heart exults and my eyes flash with the thought that very likely I shall live to see the out-pouring of the Spirit when, “the sons and the daughters of God again shall prophecy, and the young men shall see visions and the old men shall dream dreams.”

Perhaps there shall be no miraculous gifts—for they will not be required. But yet there shall be such a miraculous amount of holiness, such an extraordinary fervor of prayer, such a real communion with God, and so much vital religion, and such a spread of the doctrines of the cross, that everyone will see that verily the Spirit is poured out like water and the rains are descending from above. For that let us pray. Let us continually labor for it and seek it of God.

3. One more work of the Spirit which will especially manifest His power—the *general resurrection*. We have reason to believe from Scripture that the resurrection of the dead, whilst it will be effected by the voice of God and of His Word (the Son), shall also be brought about by the Spirit. That same power which raised Jesus Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies.

The power of the resurrection is perhaps one of the finest proofs of the works of the Spirit. Ah! my friends, if this earth could but have its mantle torn away for a little while, if the green sod could be cut from it, and we could look about six feet deep into its bowels, what a world it would seem!

What should we see? Bones, carcasses, rottenness, worms, corruption. And you would say, “Can these dry bones live? Can they start up?” “Yes! in a moment! In the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, the dead shall be raised.” He speaks, they are alive! See them scattered, bone comes to his bone! See them naked, flesh comes upon them! See them still lifeless, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain!” When the wind of the Holy Spirit comes, they live and they stand upon their feet an exceeding great army.

I have thus attempted to speak of the power of the Spirit and I trust I have shown it to you. We must now have a moment or two for practical inference. The Spirit is very powerful, Christian! What do you infer from that fact? Why, that you never need distrust the power of God to carry you to heaven. O how that sweet verse was laid to my soul yesterday!

*“His tried Almighty arm
Is raised for your defense;
Where is the power can reach you there?
Or what can pluck you thence?”*

The power of the Holy Spirit is your bulwark and all His omnipotence defends you. Can your enemies overcome omnipotence? Then they can conquer you. Can they wrestle with Deity and hurl Him to the ground? Then they might conquer you. For the power of the Spirit is our power, the power of the Spirit is our might.

Once again, Christians, if this is the power of the Spirit, *why should you doubt anything?* There is your son. There is that wife of yours for whom you have supplicated so frequently, do not doubt the Spirit’s power. “Though he tarry, wait for him.” There is your husband O holy woman! And you have wrestled for his soul. And though he is ever so hardened and desperate a wretch, and treats you ill, there is power in the Spirit.

And O you who have come from barren churches with scarcely a leaf upon the tree. Do not doubt the power of the Spirit to raise you up. For it shall be a “pasture for flocks, a den of wild asses,” open, but deserted, until the Spirit is poured out from on high. And then the parched ground shall be made a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water, and in the habitations of dragons, where each lay shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

And O you members of Park Street! You who remember what your God has done for you especially, never distrust the power of the Spirit. You have seen the wilderness blossom like Carmel, you have seen the desert blossom like the rose. Trust Him for the future. Then go out and labor with this conviction,

that the power of the Holy Spirit is able to do anything. Go to your Sunday-School, go to your tract distribution, go to your missionary enterprise! Go to your preaching in your rooms, with the conviction that the power of the Spirit is our great help.

And now, lastly, to you sinners—What is there to be said to you about this power of the Spirit? Why, to me, there is some hope for some of you. I cannot save you. I cannot get at you. I make you cry sometimes—you wipe your eyes and it is all over. But I know my Master can. That is my consolation. Chief of sinners, there is hope for you! This power can save you as well as anybody else. It is able to break your heart, though it is an iron one, to make your eyes run with tears though they have been like rocks before.

His power is able this morning, if He will, to change your heart, to turn the current of all your ideas, to make you at once a child of God, to justify you in Christ. There is power enough in the Holy Spirit. You are not straightened in Him, but in your own heart. He is able to bring sinners to Jesus. He is able to make you willing in the day of His power. Are you willing this morning? Has He gone so far as to make you desire His name, to make you wish for Jesus?

Then, O sinner! whilst He draws you, say, “Draw me, I am wretched without You.” Follow Him, follow Him, and while He leads, tread in His footsteps and rejoice that He has begun a good work in you, for there is an evidence that He will continue it even unto the end.

And O desponding one! Put your trust in the power of the Spirit. Rest on the blood of Jesus and your soul is safe, not only now, but throughout eternity. God bless you, my hearers. Amen.

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