



On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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All Scripture presented is from the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise noted. Comments and notations by this author within Scripture text will appear in brackets.

The Great Power Of God

II Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge [*epignosis* = precise and correct knowledge, with the emphasis on ethical and Divine] of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge [*epignosis*] of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The Word of God offers wonderful guidance in all things pertaining to life and our relationship with God.

Of significant note in this regard is the importance of the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. It is this knowledge that enables us to enjoy the exceeding great and precious

promises of God while simultaneously escaping the decomposing world of lust. This knowledge is therefore priceless.

However, true and untainted knowledge such as we require may only be found in the Scripture. It is vital that the knowledge of God we seek be precise and correct. Such knowledge is only to be found in God's Word and is the apex of all that is ethical.

While we may find knowledge in the words of men it is only as these words remain true to Scripture that they can be trusted and provide answers.

It is His Divine power alone that sustains and guides us in all of life's undertakings.

The following words given to David by revelation ring loudly in my heart:

II Samuel 22:31-33

As for God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him.

For who *is* God, save the LORD? and who *is* a rock, save our God?

God *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect.

The following verses concur:

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.

Our God is a God of truth! He is without iniquity for He is just and right!

Psalms 12:6

The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Proverbs 30:5a

Every word of God is pure: . .

Certainly the above cannot be said about the words of men, yet many of us are held spellbound by the same.

Numbers 23:19

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make *it* good?

This verse in Numbers not only speaks of God's honesty but also that man can be (and often is) mendacious.

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

God is incapable of lying! Mankind however, is quite a different story!

Psalms 116:10,11

I believed [Him], therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:

I said in my haste [alarm, amazement], All men [mankind] are liars [false, fail and disappoint].

The above passage is quite revealing isn't it? Yet this truth should come as no surprise to any of us. Should it? Nevertheless, it is most humbling to come to grips with.

I'm also reminded of the following:

Jeremiah 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

In truth, we only "think" we know what we are doing. Perhaps I should say, we only "think" we are "thinking."

Thus, our thoughts ought to be constantly filled with His Word. Then and only then can we be sure our actions are sound.

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

With His Word in your heart you can walk righteously before Him.

Psalms 37:5

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

Psalms 55:22

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

I Peter 5:7

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Obviously there is great reward to committing our words and deeds to God and His Word. To say this is wisdom is a great understatement.

On the other hand:

Psalms 49:6-14

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

(For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.

For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

Their inward thought *is*, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names.

Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish.

This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

This passage in Psalms 49 is so timely it could have been written today. This commentary on mankind is as relevant today as it was when God gave this revelation to the Psalmist so very long ago.

Yet, generation upon generation have misplaced their trusts and desires.

Proverbs 23:4,5

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

I've watched many a dollar sprout "wings" and fly away. Haven't you? Still, the majority of humanity continues to pursue the unattainable, all the while lauding the words and status of men.

Psalms 146:3

Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help.

The Bible in Basic English:

Psalms 146:3

Put not your faith in rulers, or in the son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

Mankind continues to look for salvation in men. Sometimes it's a politician, sometimes a scientist, sometimes a technician, engineer or inventor. All are incapable of helping and many have agendas which conflict with the welfare of humanity. This despite hype and outward appearance.

Psalms 118:8,9

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes [rulers].

Looking to mankind for answers is a fruitless endeavor, one which we Christians must avoid.

Jeremiah 17:5-11

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited.

Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the

river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

As the partridge sitteth *on eggs*, and hatcheth *them* not; *so* he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

There's a record in the Book of Acts that I'd like now to call to your attention. This record comes on the "heels" of a great persecution against the Church at Jerusalem.

Acts 8:5-24

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched [made astonished] the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

This man Simon used sorcery to bewitch the inhabitants of Samaria. They were amazed at Simon's magic and so became bewildered and confused. They were in bondage and quite miserable. Thankfully, God sent Philip and when they believed the Word he spake they were delivered. The result was ". . . great joy . . ."

What got them in trouble? They gave heed to Simon's giving himself out as some great one AND lauded his praises saying, "This man is the great power of God."

When they changed their point of reference from Simon (a man) to God's Word they received deliverance.

You can be certain when any man or woman sets themselves forth as “some great one” they are anything but. More often than not they are a devilish counterfeit leading their followers down a destructive path.

Individuals such as this often reach great popularity among the masses as did Simon. But popularity is not a criterion for truth. The Samaritans exacerbated their situation by collectively regarding Simon as “the great power of God.”

Whenever people do that, I RUN in the other direction. And you should too, as this type of unnatural idolization invariably leads to trouble.

Ultimately Simon himself was delivered, albeit he had difficulty in ridding himself of old habits.

Verses 13-24

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.

Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

This passage in the Book of Acts should serve both as a lesson and warning. We must never magnify men to “god-like” status.

We should remain cognizant of this great truth:

Psalms 62:11

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.

Men may hold power for a time as today is man's day of judgement. However, men do not hold true power nor can they save us. Only God can. He alone has that power.

We must never allow ourselves to be electrified by men and the craftiness of their ways.

God's Son when he ascended gave “gifts” that we be not defrauded.

Ephesians 4:7-16

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

If what I've shared with you thus far is true (and it is), then there's no need to look to politicians and scientists for salvation. They are what they are and though some make notable contributions, they are not our salvation. Only God's Son, Jesus the Messiah is. He alone is our salvation and God's provision for our righteousness.

Never allow yourself to be hoodwinked into looking elsewhere!

Psalms 33:16-22

There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

An horse *is* a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he *is* our help and our shield.

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

How blessed we are to have such a wonderful God to call Father! How thankful we should be for His matchless Word which tells us so much about Him and His Son.

The more we know about Him, the more we trust Him.

Psalms 9:10

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

To know His name you must seek His Word! As you seek Him, you will get to know Him and as you do your trust in His Word will abound.

May our hearts be as David's was when he gave this prayer in dedication to the Temple that Solomon his son built for God.

I Chronicles 29:10-17

Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed *be* thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and

the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things *come* of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

For we *are* strangers before thee, and sojourners, as *were* all our fathers: our days on the earth *are* as a shadow, and *there is* none abiding.

O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name *cometh* of thine hand, and *is* all thine own.

I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

The Postage Stamp

I had a little postage stamp,
No bigger than your thumb,
But still it stuck right on the job
Until its work was done.

They licked it and they pounded it
'Til it would make you sick!
But the more it took a lickin'
The tighter it would stick.

Let's be like the postage stamp
In living the Christian life;
And just keep on a-stickin'
Through the conflict and the strife.

For the stamp stuck to the letter
'Til it saw it safely through;
There's no one could do better;
Let's keep stickin' and be true.

The Anvil -- God's Word

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling eye,

"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
"And so," I thought, "the Anvil of God's Word

For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."