

Sustainable Power 1 - Intro and self reliance to sonship

Intro

- Luke 24:47-49 Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in (my) name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”
- Repent to see the kingdom

1. Pride of Self-reliance

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2. The disciples journey: how does self reliance manifest?

- Enemies
 - ‘So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven’ (Matt. 5:44–45)
- Approval
 - ‘Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...your Father who sees in secret will reward you’ (Matt. 6:3–4)
- Provision (personal & for ministry)
 - how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him’ (Matt. 7:11)
 - "He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts" (Mark 6:8)
- Prayer
 - ‘your Father knows what you need before you ask him’ (Matt. 6:8)
- Supernatural Breakthrough/Healing
 - 'And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. (Luke 9:16)
 - And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Be opened.” (Mark 7:34)
- Wisdom
 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. (John 5:19)

- Disciples journey with Jesus was one lesson after another on learning to walk in reliance to the Father

3. The source of self reliance: our view of God

- 'I have difficulty praying the Lord's Prayer because whenever I say, "Our Father", I think of my own father, who was hard, unyielding and relentless. I cannot help but think of God that way.' (allegedly spoken by Martin Luther)
- Conditional Love: Romans 5:8: 'But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'
- Poor Communicator: Psalm 73:24: 'You guide me with your counsel.'
- Controlling & manipulative: Galatians 5:1: 'For freedom Christ has set us free;
- Unreasonable & harsh: Psalm 103:13–14: 'As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.'
- Fickly & unreliable: Isaiah 26:4: 'Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.'
- Cold & aloof: Psalm 63:7: 'For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.'
- Unforgiving & merciless: Psalm 103:12: 'As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.'
- Stingy: James 1:5: 'Ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.'

4. How do I change?

- Forgiveness & repentance
- Listen to & obey the Holy Spirit

Conclusion

- Church is called to power
- Journey of repentance enable power to flow
- Starts with repentance self reliance