



KNOWING THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION TO LESSONS

Years ago, when I had a women's Bible study in my home, I experienced a crisis. The Bible study went well and as the women learned to trust me, they called during the week and asked for prayer and advice about personal problems. I felt helpless to make any difference in their lives and the weight of hearing their concerns grew heavier and heavier. I called my pastor and said I needed to meet with him. I told him that I see a world that is hemorrhaging and I only have a Band-Aid and Band-Aids do not help hemorrhages! When I met with him he offered three suggestions. The first was to take a vacation. I thought to myself, yes, but when I come back my problem will still be there. He said that I could get a co-leader for my group. I thought to myself, and then both of us would be in trouble. I don't remember the third option. But before our meeting ended he said, "Let's pray." The last sentence of his prayer was, "And let Beverley know the power of Your Holy Spirit." As soon as I heard that sentence, I knew that was the key to my problem. I stayed up for hours that night using the concordance at the back of my Bible to find Scripture about the power of the Holy Spirit. Starting with the Old Testament and progressing through the New Testament, I was amazed at what I was learning. In the morning, I called him and said that I have discovered the key to what I need. I continued my research in the Bible and then started reading biographies and testimonies about the power of the Holy Spirit. What I discovered was that I was operating in human power when I could be empowered by the Holy Spirit who is available to every Christian. Though I had been active in church from childhood, and at a young age dedicated my life to the Lord, I had no recollection of receiving teaching about Him.

Since those early years, I have been privileged to witness the wonder of the Holy Spirit giving truths and specific instructions to God's people and equipping them to serve others. Of great importance is the character of those chosen vessels whether they are lay people or ordained, teachers or prophets. An important example for us can be found in the Book of Daniel in the Holy Bible.

THE CHARACTER OF DANIEL

Daniel and his three friends were in exile serving the king of Babylon. Daniel 1:17 tells that God gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. Chapter two explains that King Nebuchadnezzar was greatly concerned by a dream but would not tell anyone the content of the dream. He gathered the magicians, enchanter, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed and the meaning. When they could not do this, he said he would kill them. Daniel urged his friends to plead for mercy from God so that they would not be killed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. The first thing he did was to praise God. Then he told the king that no man could explain what he was asking, but God revealed to Daniel what the king wanted to know, not because Daniel had greater wisdom than any other living men but so the king would have understanding.

Daniel was gifted by God and when he met a challenge: (1) he asked his friends to pray to God for help. God answered by giving Daniel a vision. (2) Daniel praised God in prayer. Then (3) he told the king that he was going to tell him the answer not because Daniel was of greater wisdom than others but because the revelation from God was to help the king understand. In other words, Daniel did not take the credit himself for being able to explain about the king's dream. (4) He said that God gives information to one person to help another. That is how loving God is and one of the many ways He cares for us.

Later Daniel was called to interpret another dream of King Nebuchadnezzar which was a warning from God which the king did not heed. Instead the king proclaimed that it was due to his own mighty power and for his own glory and majesty that the great Babylon was built. The king lost his royal authority for a period because of his pride. (5) Daniel was faithful to God to forward even the messages people would not like to hear.

A MESSAGE FOR NOW

My instructions from the Lord on November 28, 2018 as recorded in my journal were [Awake My people to My presence and power that can and should be part of their daily life.] Then on December 31, 2018, I recorded His words [Teach from the Book of Acts for Me and declare it for My church today.] A few weeks later I began to teach a ten week course at our church on The Book of Acts and the Church Today which emphasized the power of the Holy Spirit and the everlasting command for us to go and make disciples. February 4, 2019, a person praying for me spoke words from Isaiah 43:18-21 including the sentences: *See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

I often ask the Lord to make what is most important to Him be most important me and I write in my journal what I believe He is teaching me. I had recently written His words to me: [I am doing a new thing. Watch Me work.] Then on February 13, 2019, I recorded His words: [This is the time and place for My people to know Me and respond to My call: to come and taste what life is like being My disciples, doing My bidding in My timing.]

God has given me an inner joy and peace that I have not been able to explain. While preparing lesson three, I was praying, asking the Lord why He gave me the word HOPE as the title for the lesson and I discovered Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* I do trust the Lord. My hope is in Him – a gift from the Spirit of God. The amazing joy and peace that I have seems to be a result of choosing to trust the Lord. Over and over He has reminded me to trust Him and watch Him work. What a life of adventure this is. Thank You, Lord.

My part in the body of Christ is to be an encourager of the faithful. I believe this series of lessons is to help us learn God's priorities as we each learn to listen to Him and dare to walk in obedience to His guidance. We are all created to be uniquely gifted parts of the body of Christ. In order to fulfill God's call on our lives, we need to be able to recognize His guidance and then have the courage to step out in obedience. Scriptural references and personal testimonies can help us gain the courage necessary to follow directions from the Lord. An important step for all of us is recognizing how the Lord communicates with His people.

Narration and artwork for these lessons by Beverley Roehr. This series compiled in 2019

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