



KNOWING THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF GOD

LESSON THREE

HOPE

Read Ephesians 3:16-21 as a prayer for yourself, asking God to strengthen you with power through His Spirit and help you know the love of God and His power at work within us.

Our hope is in knowing Jesus, allowing ourselves to be taught by His example and doing the ministry of Jesus: what He taught His disciples to do.

Matthew 4:19 tells of the invitation of Jesus to the first disciples “*Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” So He is beckoning us to follow Him and He will make us fishers of men. The Church today is to be an example by doing what Jesus did and what He taught His disciples to do.



CONSIDER THIS CONCEPT: The church is the body of Christ and as present day disciples **listen and obey God’s directions, they grow** in their ability to be a **part of the ministry of Jesus.**

Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ..... speaking the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by supporting ligaments, **grows** and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.***

WHAT DID JESUS DO?

1. Mark 1:34 Jesus healed many who had various diseases and drove out demons.
2. Mark 1:35 Jesus went off to a solitary place where He prayed.
3. Mark 1:38 He left some villages to go to others so He could preach there also, explaining, “That is why I have come.” Matthew chapters 5 to 25 tell of Jesus teaching about the Kingdom of God.
4. John 3:16 Jesus died on the cross to take upon Himself the sins the world so that through faith in Him, we can have eternal life. He died that we may live.

HOW DID THE FIRST DISCIPLES LEARN TO DO THE MINISTRY OF JESUS?

Mark 3:14 Jesus appointed twelve, designating them apostles that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. Read Matthew 10 and Luke 10:1-24. As the disciples sat at the feet of Jesus, so disciples of today are to learn from Him and go forward as He directs, following His instructions for each situation. Therefore we are to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and obey.



HOW CAN THE PRESENT DAY DISCIPLES DO THE MINISTRY OF JESUS?

1. John 14:23 NIV Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." John 15:5-8 NIV "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful... If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
2. First Corinthians 12:1 NIV Now, about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 12:4-6 NIV There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. **There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit distributes them.....** 12:7-11 NIV Now to **each one** the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. **All these are the work of One and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines.** 12:27-31 NIV Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it. And in the church **God** has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.
3. Matthew 28:19-20 NIV Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
4. John 8:31-32 NIV Jesus taught, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."



I believe that God has a purpose for each disciple and each church. How can we know God's intent? I believe God gives us words, understanding, clues of some fashion about His intent so we can live in agreement with Him. Our responsibility is to learn to be teachable and then obedient. The primary way we learn of God's intent is from studying the Holy Bible. Testimonies of other disciples also help us understand how God uses His people. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and instructs in a wide variety of ways including an inner voice or pictures, dreams, visions, or insights (aha moments.)

Ask the Lord each day what you are to know, what you are to do, what you are to say and pray. Write down your insights to remember. May you know His Presence and His power to His glory. Amen.