

## ***Knowing the Omnipotent & the Power of His Glory***

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of the country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” Heb. 11:13-16

Whatever God commands must and can be accomplished only by divine power. What ever is commanded must be accomplish according to the specifications and directions given by God. It must be according to the righteousness of God. It is a common belief by many persons, that God is not that particular in his requirements, and therefore proclaim, that the way or method by which the command is carried out does not matter, only that the task is done. But is that so? In fact just to reflect on Genesis chapter two and three would indicate that God is very particular. Sin came to our world because our first parents deviated from the express commands of God.

But let it be clearly understood and firmly fixed in the mind, that for us to know God’s ways and walk according to directions, we must have another mind. We are all born the children of this world, with the mind of the prince of this world, satan controlling us. Hence, we are born not knowing God’s ways and walking contrary to his direction. We must therefore be born again.

For God says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isa. 55:8-9

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Prov. 16:25

Every command from God is also a promise. But, promises are not earned, they are gifts. God’s promises are received by faith, and that is the only way we can have them. When ever in the past persons have sought to fulfill God’s commands and accomplish the divine requirements without complete reliance on the **power** and **presence** of God, only failure has resulted.

God commanded Noah to build an ark. Gen 6:14-22. Noah preached and invited the people to accept God's mercy and be saved from the power and destruction of sin. They refused and the flood came. The most terrible physical calamity this world has ever seen. Only eight (8) persons of the millions who lived then were saved by faith in God's love and power. Noah followed God's directions for building the ark with out any deviation. The ark was built in perfect righteousness. There was not a fault with it. The power and presence of God was with Noah and the builders as they followed the directions of God. Had Noah deviated in the least from the direction God had given he would have perished. Had he built it according to his own ideas, he would have failed of God's ideal. Cain followed his own idea in seeking to please God and never did. God cannot be pleased in disobedience and unbelief, or by the faithless good deeds of men .

In Gen. 12 verse 1-4 we have a word from God to Abraham, to leave his fathers land, his father's house, and kindred and journey to a land not as yet known to him. In the command given by God is the enabling grace of God offered to Abraham to accomplish what God had commended him to do. *God had promise his presence to be with him. How only could Abraham leave Ur of the Chaldees, travel through dangerous territories and reach Canaan at last? By the power and presence of God alone. The testimony of the scripture is, he who calls is the one who will do it, so that when Abraham would reach Canaan the testimony is, God is the one who brought me and kept me all the way by his presence and power.* Gen. 15:7; John 15:5.

Abraham did learn, that the only way that he could beget the promise son, Isaac, was by faith in the living power and promise of God. Gen. 17:19.

Did Abraham leave Ur of the Chaldees, his family and friends to go to a place not known to him at the time? Did he in heart give up Ur? Did he come clean out and fully separated himself from his country? Most certainly! And the great joy of it is, he was never home sick, for he was going home all the time - the heavenly Canaan, the city whose builder and maker is God. God placed Abraham in Canaan - the gateway of the world's human traffic at that time, to be an ambassador for God, to spread the truth of God's character of love to the then known world. He had done the same some years before through Melchizedek when he had placed him there.

There is the secret. They gave up this world and held to God and His righteousness. Now the experience of the English reformers, did they give up all?

"The English reformers, while renouncing the doctrines of Romanism, had retained many of its forms. Thus though the authority and the creed of Rome were rejected, not a few of her customs and ceremonies were incorporated into the worship of the Church of England. It was claimed that these things were not matters of conscience; that though they were not commanded in Scripture, and hence were non-essential, yet not being forbidden, they were not intrinsically evil. Their observance tended to narrow the gulf which separated the reformed churches from Rome, and it was urged that they would promote the acceptance of the Protestant faith by Romanists. To the conservative and compromising, these arguments seemed conclusive. But there was another class that did not so judge. The fact that these customs tended to bridge the chasm between Rome and the Reformation, was in their view a conclusive argument against retaining them. They looked upon them as badges of the slavery from which they had been delivered, and to which they had no disposition to return. **They reasoned that God has in his Word established the regulations governing his worship, and that men are not at liberty to add to these or to detract from them.** The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church. Rome began by enjoining what God had not forbidden, and she ended by forbidding what he had explicitly enjoined."(GC88, 289)

" And Mr. Hopkins, in a treatise on the Millennium, declares: "There is no reason to consider the antichristian spirit and practices confined to what is now called the Church of Rome. The Protestant churches have much of antichrist in them, and are far from being wholly reformed from corruption and wickedness." "Concerning the separation of the Presbyterian Church from Rome, Dr. Guthrie writes: "Three hundred years ago, our church, with an open Bible on her banner, and this motto, 'search the Scriptures,' on her scroll, marched out from the gates of Rome." Then he asks the significant question, "Did they come clean out of Babylon?"(GC88, 384)

God has given sufficient evidence in his word, showing that there should be no deviation from his ways or his word, but should be fully relied upon. You can read from Cain to King Saul, to apostate Israel, to Pilate, to the end of the world the results are the same. God calls men to be labourers together with him not because they are good and perfect, but that he may transform them and fit them to labourers with him. The history of Moses illustrate this point, he had much to unlearn when God called him, and spent much time with God learning His ways. " But when he was well-nigh forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, smiting the Egyptian:

and he supposed that his brethren understood that God by his hand was giving them deliverance; but they understood not.

And the day following he appeared unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

But he that did his neighbor wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

Wouldest thou kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian yesterday?

And Moses fled at this saying, and became a sojourner in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons."(ARV, Acts 7:23-29)

Moses afterward learnt, "for man's wrath does not work God's righteousness."(DBY, Jam 1:20) After 40 years in the training of heaven and learning the power, presence and ways of God, he had become a labourer together with God. In Heb 3 : 8 - 9 we are told that 40 years is a long enough time period to learn God's ways and methods. *Moses had to learn, and we must too, that the work of God, is never advanced by human methods or human power.*

"For the arms of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful according to God to the overthrow of strongholds; overthrowing reasonings and every high thing that lifts itself up against the knowledge of God, and leading captive every thought into the obedience of the Christ;"(DBY, 2 Cor 10:4-5)

God restated this point in the message he sent in 1888 through the messengers **E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones**. They clearly stated this truth, that the works of God were finished from the foundation of the world. Every one can have these finished works manifested in the life by believing and receiving the promises of God in his word.

For as many things as have been written before have been written for our instruction, that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."(DBY, Rom 15:4) The word works in them that believe. It works, brethren.

And for this cause we also give thanks to God unceasingly that, having received the word of the report of God by us, ye accepted, not men's word, but, even as it is truly, God's word, which also works in you who believe."(DBY, 1 Thess 2:13)

God intended to deliver Israel through Moses the instrument. Moses understood this; It was in his heart to do God's work. But in his sincere and honest heart he made a mis-step. He needed to understand that the work of God is accomplish by the **presence** and **power** of God. Moses was the best general in the world at that time. He felt confident in his abilities, skills, military training and strategies of warfare. But the omnipotent one who made all things is able to accomplish his work by his power. God withdrew Moses from Egypt and he entered the school of Christ. After 40 years of contemplating the power of God he was commissioned to go to Egypt. As the apostle Paul tells us in philippians 3, if we shall ever be ready for battle in the might and power of God, we must know him and the power of his resurrection - the power of creation - the power of redemption, we must know it now, as a present experience.

*But surely I count also all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all, and count them to be filth, that I may gain Christ; and that I may be found in him, not having my righteousness, which would be on the principle of law, but that which is by faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God through faith, " to know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, if any way I arrive at the resurrection from among the dead. Not that I have already obtained the prize, or am already perfected; but I pursue, if also I may get possession of it, seeing that also I have been taken possession of by Christ Jesus."(DBY, Phil 3:8-12)*

*And now, lo, the cry of the sons of Israel hath come in unto Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them, "and now, come, and I send thee unto Pharaoh, and bring thou out My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."(YLT, Exo 3:9-10)*

*"seeing I have seen the affliction of My people that is in Egypt, and their groaning I did hear, and came down to deliver them; and now come, I will send thee to Egypt. This Moses, whom they did refuse, saying, Who did set thee a ruler and a judge? this one God a ruler and a redeemer did send, in the hand of a messenger who appeared to him in the bush;"(YLT, Acts 7:34-35)*

How could Moses go to Egypt, meet Pharaoh and leave Egypt alive with the Hebrew people? Only by the presence, promise and power of God. We have pharaoh's word. " And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in the day thou seest my face thou shalt die."(ARV, Exo 10:28) Moses had a response. " And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well. I will see thy face again no more. "(ARV, Exo 10:29) The word of God must be Moses surety. *and He saith, 'Because I am with thee, and this is to thee the sign that I have sent thee: in thy bringing out the people from Egypt—ye do serve God on this mount.'*(YLT, Exo 3:12)

In 2 Peter 3:18, we have a divine command. *and increase ye in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to him is the glory both now, and to the day of the age! Amen.*"(YLT, 2 Pet 3:18)

But how are we to accomplish this? Just as the seed grows in the ground. Mark 4:26-27. We may not know how the good seed of the word of God springs up within us, to cause fruit bearing, but that makes no difference. Our part is to yield to the divine husbandman, his part is to cause the growth in us and the production of the perfect fruit.

Now Ex. 3:14-15. " And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."(ARV, Exo 3:14-15)

"But "I AM" what "I AM". That is the idea of that, "I AM" that which "I AM" – "I AM: that "I AM" that which, or what "I AM"! Now, it is not enough, you see, for the Lord to state to men that he is, but we need to know that he is what he is, for the knowledge of himself to do us any good.

Existence is to us not enough to know God – it is not enough for us to know that he exist, **but we need to know what he is and what he exists for in respect of us.** Therefore he did not simply say, "I AM" that is my name." No, but "I AM" what "I AM". That is his name, and, if we will know God truly, we must know not only that he is, but that he is what he is; and until we know what he is, we do not know him. Heb. 11:6.

Well, what is the reward which God gives to those who seek him? It is himself; himself, all he is, and all he has. But if we had all that he has without having himself what good would that do us? You see, if we had all that he has, and were still ourselves, we would be simply supreme – well next thing to devils, would we not? To give a man all that God has, and he still remaining that man that he is, it would be a fearful thing. Therefore, when he gives us what he is, giving us himself, his character, his nature, his disposition, then we can use what he is as well as what he has, in his fear and to his glory.” A. T. Jones 1893

**we need to know what he is and what he exists for in respect of us. David understood this.**

Let us consider the bible record of the war where the Philistines were threatening Israel as found in *1Sam. 17:32-37*. Then we saw a demonstration of the power and presence of God against the power of Satan.

*" and David saith unto Saul, 'Let no man's heart fall because of him, thy servant doth go, and hath fought with this Philistine.'*

*And Saul saith unto David, 'Thou art not able to go unto this Philistine, to fight with him, for a youth thou art, and he a man of war from his youth.'*

*And David saith unto Saul, 'A shepherd hath thy servant been to his father among the sheep, and the lion hath come—and the bear—and hath taken away a sheep out of the drove, and I have gone out after him, and smitten him, and delivered out of his mouth, and he riseth against me, and I have taken hold on his beard, and smitten him, and put him to death.'*

*Both the lion and the bear hath thy servant smitten, and this uncircumcised Philistine hath been as one of them, for he hath reproached the ranks of the living God. And David saith, 'Jehovah, who delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He doth deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul saith unto David, 'Go, and Jehovah is with thee.'"*(YLT, *1 Sam 17:32-37*) verse 37 tells us the power of David's deliverance. *'Go, and Jehovah is with thee.'*

Consider carefully verse 38 – 39. *" And Saul clothed David with a military coat, and put his brazen helmet on his head.*

*And he girt David with his sword over his coat: and he made trial walking with them once and again: and David said to Saul, I shall not be able to go with these, for I have not proved them: so they remove them from him."*(LXE, *1 Sam 17:38-39*)

The principle lesson is, spiritual battles can never be fought with or won by carnal weapons.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"(WEB, 2 Cor 10:4-5)

Now Isa. 61:10-11. " I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."(WEB, Isa 61:10-11)

**God says he will cause his work to go to all the nations.** We can go only in God's garments.

Now verse 40 of 1 Sam 17. " And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand; and he drew near to the Philistine."(WEB, 1 Sam 17:40)

What an armour in which to go to war. The people anticipated the worse and hoped for a miracle.

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"(WEB, 1 Cor 1:27)

That day the gospel of the good news of the character of God was preached to all that assembly and to all the world and it has come down to this generation. What a demonstration of the power of God - *working out of the common order*. God is ready now as he was then to work out of the common order - the problem is - will we recognize it? or will we continue with our popular human originated methods and miss God's way ?

Now verses 45-47 of 1 Sam. 17. " Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.



This day will the LORD deliver thee into my hand; and I will smite thee, and take thy head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day to the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."(WEB, 1 Sam 17:45-47) The Philistines protection had been forfeited by their bold defiance, insults to the God of the armies of Israel, and they non repentant stance. God is speaking to us let us listen.

Now verse 50 " So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was *no sword in the hand of David.*"(WEB, 1 Sam 17:50). David had the power and presence of God and so worked out of the common order.

"Fellow Christian, Satan knows your weakness; therefore cling to Jesus. Abiding in God's love, you may stand every test. The righteousness of Christ alone can give you power to stem the tide of evil that is sweeping over the world. Bring faith into your experience. Faith lightens every burden, relieves every weariness. Providences that are now mysterious you may solve by continued trust in God. Walk by faith in the path He marks out. Trials will come, but go forward. This will strengthen your faith and fit you for service. The records of sacred history are written, not merely that we may read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God's servants of old may work in us. In no less marked manner will the Lord work now, wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power."(PK, 175)

" Now to him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."(WEB, Eph 3:20)

"The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all its goodliness is as the flower of the field:"(WEB, Isa 40:6) All flesh is grass – oh the power that works in the grass – oh it can work in man. That word tell us that if the message was received, the Lord could have come in 2 years, what was the problem then ? Unbelief. What is the problem now ? Unbelief, plain and simple. When we believed the Lord his powerful creative word will work in us 1 Thess. 2:13

It is not our methods and our ways – it is the word of God working in us. We cannot go to war in our own garments. We must have the armour God gives as a free gift. The battle is God's – God's ways and methods must be received by faith from him. We must have his power and presence. He can lead us step by step, moment by moment. He can prompt us where to go, which road to take, as he did with Philip, to come in contact with souls looking for the Good News of Salvation. We must receive the robe of righteousness. The Lord sent his message in 1888 presenting Christ and his righteousness as the power and presence of God to perfect his people and finish the work in all the earth. Here is an experience related by a lady who received the 1888 message of Righteousness by Faith.

*"A sister told me not long ago that before that time four years ago she had just been lamenting her estate, and wondering how in the world the time was ever going to come for the Lord to come, if He had to wait for His people to get ready to meet him. For she said the way she had been at it -- and she had worked as hard as anybody in this world, she thought -- she saw that she was not making any progress fast enough to bring the lord in any kind of reasonable time at all; and she could not make out how the Lord was going to come.*

*She was bothered about it; but she said when the folks came home from Minneapolis and they said, "why the Lord's righteousness is a gift, we can have the righteousness of Christ as a gift, and we can have it now. "O," said she, "That made me glad; that brought light; for then I could see how the Lord could come pretty soon. When He Himself gives us the garment, the clothing, the character, that fits us for the judgment and for the time of trouble, I could then see how he could come just as soon as He wanted to." "And," said she, "it made me glad, and I have been glad ever since." Brethren, I am glad of it too, all the time.*

*Now there is sense in that thing to-day. You know we have all been in that same place. You know the time was when we actually sat down and cried because we could not do well enough to satisfy our own estimate of right doing; and as we were expecting the Lord to come soon, we dreaded the news that it was near; for how in the world were we going to be ready? Thank the Lord He can get us ready. ["Amen"] He provides the wedding garment. The master of the wedding always provided the wedding garment. He is the master of the wedding supper now ;and He is going to come pretty soon; and He says, " here is clothing that will fit you to stand in that place." Now there will be some folks that cannot attend that feast, because they have not on the wedding garment, but the Lord offers it as a free gift to all, and as to the man who does not take it - who is to blame."? **A. T. Jones Lecture 15 1893 bulletin***

Now these final words from our God to our souls.

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

A horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength."(WEB, Ps 33:16-17) "

Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob.

Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name we will tread them under that rise up against us.

For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.

But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us."(WEB, Ps 44:4-7)

" Now I know that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."(WEB, Ps 20:6-7)

"In the vision of the prophet Ezekiel there was the appearance of a hand beneath the wings of the cherubim. This is to teach God's servants that it is divine power that gives success. Those whom God employs as His messengers are not to feel that His work is dependent on them. Finite beings are not left to carry this burden of responsibility. He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, will carry forward His work. He will thwart the purposes of wicked men and will bring to confusion the counsels of those who plot mischief against His people. He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sitteth between the cherubim, and amidst the strife and tumult of nations. He guards His children still. When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands."(PK, 176)

"Those who, standing in the forefront of the conflict, are impelled by the Holy Spirit to do a special work, will frequently feel a reaction when the pressure is removed. Despondency may shake the most heroic faith and weaken the most steadfast will. But God understands, and He still pities and loves. He reads the motives and the purposes of the heart. To wait patiently, to trust when everything looks dark, is the lesson that the leaders in God's work need to learn. Heaven will not fail them in their day of adversity. Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God."(PK, 174)