

“Kingdom Power” Citizens of the Kingdom – Pt. 4

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (NLT) — 1 When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan. **2** For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. **4** And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, **I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.** **5** I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) — 20 For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.

I. We are citizens of the kingdom of God

A. We are in this world, but we are not of this world

- 1. We are just passing through here...**
- 2. Don’t get too attached**
- 3. This world, and all that’s in it is passing away...**
- 4. All the stuff that we work so hard to accumulate is all going to rust, rot, or burn.**

B. Let me just reflect on this point for a moment...

C. If you want to live this life to the fullest **Keep an eternal perspective...**

- 1. Don’t live for the temporal, live for the eternal**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NLT) — 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. **17** For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, **we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen.** For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

- 2. We are learning to live for another world,**

D. We understand and believe that Jesus Christ is God, Almighty, the Lord of all.

1. Since He is Lord of all, it is vital that I place Him on the throne of my heart and life
2. That I surrender all to Him.
3. Since He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, it is only right to live for Him.
4. He is not a cruel task master or power hungry dictator...
5. He is Love personified, the reflection of the heart of God the Father in flesh and blood.
6. I don't serve Him and submit to Him out of force or fear, but in response to His unconditional love.
7. I desire to give myself to Him the more I know Him

E. Citizens of God's Kingdom have Kingdom Heart

1. a heart that earnestly pursues knowing and loving God
2. Our passionate pursuit in life is to know Him
3. The priority of life is to seek the advancement of His kingdom and His righteousness...
4. AS I live with that priority, His promise to me is that all I need will be added to me.

F. With a heart to know the King, and the priority of my life to live for Him...

1. I think differently and process and reason differently

G. Kingdom citizens have a kingdom mind

1. We think strategically... processing the decisions of life through the grid of what will advance the Kingdom of God in me and around me
2. My mind is set on understanding His teachings and His priorities and living life for the one who died for me.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NKJV) — 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

3. To no longer live for myself will demand that I think differently
4. The choices I make will not be for my own advancement, but for the advancement of God's kingdom
5. This is kingdom mind

H. This leads us to the question, what's on the King's mind? What's the passion of His heart

1. Once a Kingdom citizen knows the heart and mind of the King, they will understand their **KINGDOM PURPOSE**
2. Kingdom purpose is found in the Kings instructions to His followers in all the gospels and several places through the New Covenant
3. It is best summarized by these simple words of Peter...

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) — 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. **He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.**

4. This is God's desire...
5. To share His life and His riches in glory with His creation
6. He doesn't want anyone to miss out
7. He wants everyone to have an opportunity to hear in a way they can understand, so they might receive the gift of relationship and eternal life

I. Citizens of God's kingdom live purposefully

1. ... to preach the gospel to every person, to make disciples of all people, to get the good news out to everyone in our circle of influence, our community, our nation, and the nations
2. This is not the sole responsibility of the pastor or missionary; it is the privilege of every kingdom citizen.

J. When we speak of purposeful living, we speak of looking at that which our King has entrusted to us and use it for His highest purpose...

K. He gave all of us TIME...

1. We all have 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days in a year...
2. We all have time
3. We are all stewards of time

L. He gave all of us TALENTS

1. He has measured out to each of us varying amounts of talent
2. This speaks of our natural gifts and abilities
 - a) There are those of you who can sing, or play music... it just comes naturally
 - b) Some artistic
 - c) Some good with numbers
 - d) Others have a knack with relating to children
 - e) Some gifted with business abilities to gain material wealth
 - f) I'm speaking here of the natural abilities you were born with and given from God
3. Added to our natural abilities are those life experiences, education and training which complement our list to talents and human resources
4. We all have something to offer in service to the King
5. We are stewards of the talents God gave us
6. Do you use the resources God gave you to advance His kingdom? Or are they solely used to advance your own?
7. One day we will all give an account to the King for how we use His resources He gave us

M. WE all have Time and Talents...

N. He has given all of us TREASURE

1. These are the material goods imparted to us in varying measures
2. Like in the parable some were given 10 talents; some 5, some 1.
3. While we all have 7 days a week, and 24 hours in a day, this is equal
4. When it comes to material wealth we are given varying amounts
5. It is the accumulation of money and stuff that makes up our treasury
6. It is important to understand none of it belongs to us, we just get to use it and must give an account to the King of what we did with His stuff.
7. Were you faithful? Did you use what He gave you to advance His kingdom or your own?
8. Were you thinking with Kingdom Mind?

O. We are stewards of Time, Talent, and Treasure

1. To live purposefully... to live with kingdom purpose, is to use that which has been committed to me to fulfill our king's one dream and desire...
2. To see others who don't know Him come into relationship with Him.
3. That's kingdom purpose

P. The mandate of our King is clear...

1. preach the gospel to everyone, everywhere;
2. Make disciples; authentic followers of Jesus
3. preach repentance and remission of sins;
4. Be His witness (read martyr) lay down my life so the influence of the kingdom of God will be spread to all peoples, nations, tribes and tongues
5. Start in my family, with my neighbor, my co-worker, my community, my nation, and to the nations...

Q. That's the mandate; that's the mission; But how...

- 1. Can't I just send an e-mail?**
- 2. How about if I broadcast an e-mail to everyone on in my contact list?...**
- 3. Well that's good... words are necessary...**
- 4. If people are going to give their hearts to Christ, if they are going to put their faith in what Jesus did on the cross... they need to hear**

Romans 10:13–14 (NLT) — 13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” **14** But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

R. Words are powerful and vital...

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) — 20 For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NLT) — 4 And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. **5** I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

S. Words are powerful...

- 1. They have caused nations to rise and nations to fall**
- 2. They have cause hearts to swoon and marriages to collapse.**
- 3. But words can also have the opposite the effect.**
- 4. They can lull the listener, even turn the listener away.**
- 5. Even Paul had the misfortune of having one of his listeners fall asleep and unfortunately fall out of third story window. (Acts 20:9)**
- 6. In the day an age in which we live we are subjected to so much rhetoric...just empty words.**
- 7. In Politics we have politicians who just ramble on and on without seemingly saying a thing.**
- 8. Unfortunately, we have the same problem within the church.**

9. So many times, we ramble on and on with our Christian-ease...but it is no more than a mantra that we have memorized.

10.It's like the Lutheran pastor who always started each service for over 20 years with "The Lord be with you."

11.And for over 20 years the congregation regurgitated back in response, "and also with you."

12.But, one Sunday he had a problem with his lapel microphone...

13.As he stood up to the pulpit to start service he began by saying..."There's something wrong with this microphone."

14.The people responded, "and also with you."

T. The word of God speaks to us today, that we need more than just words if we are to fulfill our kingdom purpose...

U. We need to walk in power

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) — 20 For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.

V. In this verse we see an important truth we must take to heart about the Kingdom of God...

1. The Greek word "logos" is translated here "talk" in the NIV; in some translations it is translated "Word"

2. It means literally... something said

3. The Greek word "Dunamis" is translated "power" = force specifically miraculous power

4. If we were to restate verse 20 based upon these definitions, we would say...

5. "Christianity is more than something said, it is something that is marked by miraculous power"

W.This word "Dunamis" is very key...

1. ... it shows up many times throughout the New Testament.

X. We are instructed, encouraged, admonished, and asked to walk a powerful, and victorious life throughout the Scripture, not just speak the words.

- 1. People in this world can find all kinds of philosophies to follow**
- 2. But the vain philosophies of this world cannot fix their infirmities or deliver them from their dysfunction**
- 3. The pills they pop, no longer bring them peace**
- 4. The swill they drink at the local pup, only deadens the pain of their past for so long**
- 5. The Pot they smoke may get them high, but it doesn't improve their life circumstance**
- 6. The knowledge they have received through their endless years of education cannot fill the hole in their soul**

Y. People have real life problems, and real pain, and real emptiness; and they don't need just another philosophy, or another nice sermon... they need an encounter with the Living God

- 1. If Jesus is just another good teacher or religious figure from the past...**
- 2. If He is like all the others that came and went and set certain moral standards to live by...**
- 3. If that's all He is, that won't help me today in this post modern, post religious society in which I live**
- 4. I need something tangible, something real, something that makes a difference**
- 5. Words are powerful, but there is something more than just words.**
- 6. When we accept Christ, we become something new... citizens of His Kingdom**
- 7. We are not only placed into His Kingdom, but His kingdom comes in us**
- 8. And with that change there are some things that have become available to us.**

9. We have more to offer than nice, encouraging words or another philosophy or religious system

10. We have a power that is available to those who are willing to search out the source and live to fulfill our Kingdom purpose.

Z. What I'm talking about today is KINGDOM POWER

1. We are going to look at several power points that are available to those who are Kingdom citizens

I. INHERENT POWER

A. According to Thayer's Greek dictionary...this is a power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) — 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

1. When you accept Christ, you receive a new nature

2. The old nature is gone, you are given a new nature

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NLT) — 19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, **20** for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

3. When God comes into this house, something happens.

4. The very same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead comes to dwell in you.

5. The Apostle Paul said it this way...

Colossians 1:27 (NLT) — 27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: **Christ lives in you**. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

6. The Spirit of Christ is in you; residing in you

1 Corinthians 1:24 (NLT) — 24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

7. If Christ is dwelling in you, then you have inherent power dwelling in you

B. Do you realize what's in you today?

Romans 8:11 (NLT) — 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

- 1. Christ, the power of God dwelling in you.**
- 2. Like the battery in the cell phone... it brings the phone to life**
- 3. Take the battery out, there's no power, there's no life**
- 4. This is what God does for us...but we cannot tap into that new life power unless He dwells in us.**
- 5. He completes you and makes you whole and empowers you to live life to its fullest.**
- 6. That is why Paul said that God is His sufficiency.**
- 7. This is just the beginning...there is so much more.**
- 8. We must move beyond talking about it, and begin living it.**
- 9. We must learn to access and release what is resident in us.**

C. #1. Inherent Power... power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature

II. MIRACLE POWER

A. Peter and John were at the gate beautiful.

- 1. There was a man lame from birth.**

Acts 3:1–8 (NLT) — 1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. **2** As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. **3** When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. **4** Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" **5** The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. **6** But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" **7** Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. **8** He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

Acts 3:12 (NLT) — 12 Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. “People of Israel,” he said, “what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?”

Acts 3:16 (NLT) — 16 “Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.

2. Why is it when we pray for healing and God answers...we are surprised!

3. This type of power is promised over and over in scripture to us.

Zechariah 4:6 (NLT) — 6 Then he said to me, “This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is **not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit**, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

Matthew 18:19–20 (NLT) — 19 “I also tell you this: **If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.** **20** For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

John 14:12–14 (NLT) — 12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me **will do the same works I have done, and even greater works**, because I am going to be with the Father. **13** You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. **14** Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

4. Supernatural, Miraculous, Life Changing Power has been granted to us.

5. Notice the Apostle Paul’s testimony to the Corinthians...

1 Corinthians 2:1–4 (NLT) — 1 When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan. **2** For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. **4** And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, **I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.**

B. It’s not just talk, it’s power

- 1. Lay hands on the sick,**
- 2. Cast out demons**
- 3. heal the sick**
- 4. Supernatural provision and protection**
- 5. This is available to Kingdom citizens**
- 6. Are we walking and living out kingdom power?**

C. Inherent power

D. Miraculous power

III. MORAL POWER

A. There is a third power that is granted to us to walk in...

B. It is a moral power...or the ability to live a holy life

- 1. A holy life is one that is characterized by being separate from the ways of this world**

Ephesians 1:4 (NLT) — 4 Even before he made the world, **God loved us** and **chose us** in Christ **to be holy and without fault in his eyes.**

Hebrews 12:14 (NLT) — 14 Work at living in peace with everyone, and **work at living a holy life**, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NLT) — 15 **But now you must be holy in everything you do,** just as God who chose you is holy. **16** For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”

- 2. Resident in you is the power to live a life of holiness**
- 3. I am no longer sin’s slave**
- 4. The power of sin has been broken in my life**
- 5. I can choose to present the members of my body to serve sin or serve holiness**
- 6. It’s possible to say no to the lusts and desires of the flesh**
- 7. I don’t have to be chained to my addictions any longer**

Romans 6:11–13 (NLT) — 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. **12** **Do not let sin control the way you live;** do not give in to sinful desires. **13** **Do not let** any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

C. The day you surrendered your life to Jesus a power was granted to you through the Blood of Jesus Christ...

- 1. a power that can bring you excellence of soul.**

2. **Are you walking in that power or just talking about it?**
3. **Are there habits you have in your life that you have said I will never be rid of?**
4. **I tell you today that is a lie from the pit of hell.**
5. **You can walk in the freedom Christ won for you on the cross, starting today...**
6. **The power of every addiction was broken on the cross... you can walk free today, right here and right now!**

D. Moral Power is part of the Kingdom power available to you as a Kingdom citizen

IV. POWER OF ATTORNEY

Mark 16:17 (NLT) — 17 These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.

John 14:12–14 (NLT) — 12 “I tell you the truth, **anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done,** and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

John 15:16 (NLT) — 16 You didn’t choose me. I chose you. **I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit,** so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

John 16:23–24 (NLT) — 23 At that time you won’t need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. 24 You haven’t done this before. **Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.**

A. There are two shining examples of this truth in the book of Acts; one positive, one negative

1. **The first example comes from the town of Ephesus where Paul and Silas are ministering**

Acts 16:16–18 (NLT) — 16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.” 18 This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her.

2. The second example from the same town this time with a group of Jewish, itinerant, exorcists

Acts 19:13–16 (NLT) — 13 A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, **“I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!”** **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. **15** But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, **“I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?”** **16** Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

B. When we become Kingdom Citizens and submit to our heavenly Father we come under his jurisdiction.

- 1. With our submission to His Lordship in our Life he returns to us some incredible perks.**
- 2. One of those perks is power of attorney**

C. Power of attorney is the legal right to conduct business in the name of another

- 1. The person who holds power of attorney for another has the legal right, with all the same power and privilege to conduct business on behalf of the person who gives them that power.**
- 2. When our hearts are set on fulfilling the kingdom purpose of seeing God’s name glorified in all places everywhere**
- 3. When we live to know the will of the King and do the will of the King**
- 4. When we pray and ask in the name of Jesus...**
- 5. That means when we are doing what Jesus would do, on His behalf, in that circumstance,...**
- 6. ...when we ask and pray in the name of Jesus, the Father will do it.**

Philippians 2:9–11 (NLT) — 9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

7. Friends, there is power in the name of Jesus!

D. Kingdom Power...

- 1. Inherent power**
- 2. Miracle power**
- 3. Moral power**
- 4. Power of Attorney**

V. POWER IN UNITY

A. One last power we will focus on today... it is the strength we receive when we walk in unity of heart and purpose

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT) — 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Galatians 6:2 (NLT) — 2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

- 1. There is strength in numbers.**
- 2. There is a reason why God put us together as a church...to help one another.**
- 3. It takes work to not only function, but also flourish as a church...**
- 4. ... there is power when we do more than just talk about...**
- 5. Loving One Another**
- 6. Forgiving One Another**
- 7. Meeting each others needs...**
- 8. This is where we begin to step into the Dunamis power that the Church was intended to be in.**

Acts 4:32–35 (NLT) — 32 **All the believers were united in heart and mind.** And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so **they shared everything they had.** **33** The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. **34** There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them **35** and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

- 9. When you study the word of God, you discover many admonitions toward unity**

10. In John 17:23 Jesus prayed to the Father that we would be brought into complete unity

11. IN Romans 15:5 Paul prays that God would give us a Spirit of Unity

12. In Ephesians 4:3 we are admonished to guard the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

13. Colossians 3:14 teaches us that it will require love to unite us together

B. And when we are united, there is great power

- 1. When we are one is purpose, and heart**
- 2. When we are all talking the same talk...**
- 3. There will be great power seen among us**

Genesis 11:6 (NKJV) — 6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them."

- 4. Power in unity**

C. CONCLUSION

- 1. President Franklin D. Roosevelt got tired of smiling that big smile and saying the usual things at all those White House receptions.**
- 2. So, one evening he decided to find out whether anybody was paying attention to what he was saying.**
- 3. As each person came up to him with extended hand, he flashed that big smile and said; "I murdered my grandmother this morning."**
- 4. People would automatically respond with comments such as "How lovely!" or "Just continue with your great work!"**
- 5. Nobody listened to what he was saying, except one foreign diplomat.**
- 6. When the president said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning," the diplomat responded softly, "I'm sure she had it coming to her."**

D. Words are meaningless unless they are backed up with power

- 1. I have said a lot to say “God’s Way is not a matter of mere talk; it’s an empowered life.”**
- 2. Is your life empowered?**
- 3. Do you realize that you are a new creature?**
- 4. Do you have the miraculous available to you**
- 5. Do you have “excellence of soul” = are you living a holy life**
- 6. Do you know the Power behind the name you bear?**
- 7. Do you understand the concept of power in unity? – are you united with God’s purpose in us and among us**
- 8. Are you giving yourself to His Kingdom purposes?**

E. We are Kingdom Citizens...

F. We have Kingdom Power to use to fulfill Kingdom purposes

- 1. God wants to fill us with His life and His power so that people will have faith in Him**
- 2. There is coming a move of God’s Spirit among His people**
- 3. An outpouring of the Spirit that will surpass anything we have known or that has been recorded in the history of the Church**
- 4. Signs and wonders and miracles will characterize this move of God**
- 5. A word wide revival unlike anything that has ever been seen.**
- 6. There will come a great ingathering of souls**
- 7. Ordinary Kingdom Citizens who are submitted to the Lordship of the King will walk in Kingdom power to fulfill God’s Kingdom Purposes.**
- 8. Prepare yourselves by seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness**
- 9. Live with Kingdom Heart and Kingdom Mind for Kingdom purposes.**
- 10. It will require a dying to self in order to live for Him**

11.A paradigm shift in how you live and do life.

12.Let's seek Him with all our hearts

13.Let's pray with intensity and believe God to use us to usher in this last great awakening.