

A Spiritual Man is Powerful

Servants' Meeting
4.27.14



The Powerful

- Definitions:
 - Having the ability to influence people or things
 - Having a strong effect on someone or something

The Powerful

- Is the Triune God
 - Father: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...” (Rom. 1:20)
 - Son: “Jesus said to him [Caiaphas], “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matt. 26:64)
 - Holy Spirit: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

God's Power and Me

- We receive our power and authority from Him
 - “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy...” (Lk. 10:19)
 - “Without Me you can do nothing.” (Jn. 15:5)
- All of God's children should be powerful
 - David and Goliath - “Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”
(1 Sam. 17:45)
 - Three Holy Youth - “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...” (Dan. 3:16-17)
- All ascribe all power to God

Characteristics of a Powerful Christian

1. Power of the spirit



- Physical power ≠ spiritual power
- Spiritual power is to overcome sin
 - Those who do not overcome are those who quit fighting
 - “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” (Heb. 12:4)



2. Power over the Self

- To remain immovable in faith despite external pressures
- “Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.” (Ps. 27:3)
- Job - “Curse God and die.” (Job 2:9)
- *“The powerful is not the one who overcomes others, but the one who overcomes himself.”* (HH Pope Shenouda)
- *“No one can do harm to a person unless such a person does harm to himself.”* (St. John Chrysostom)



Job by William Blake

3. Power of Self-Control

- The tongue
 - “If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.” (Jam. 3:2)
- Thoughts
- Anger
- Food
- Spiritual responsibilities



4. Power over the Nerves

- The weak person is enraged or angered over trivial matters
- They cannot tolerate criticism
- “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” (Rom. 15:1-3)
- The strong in faith should lovingly and joyfully identify themselves with the weak

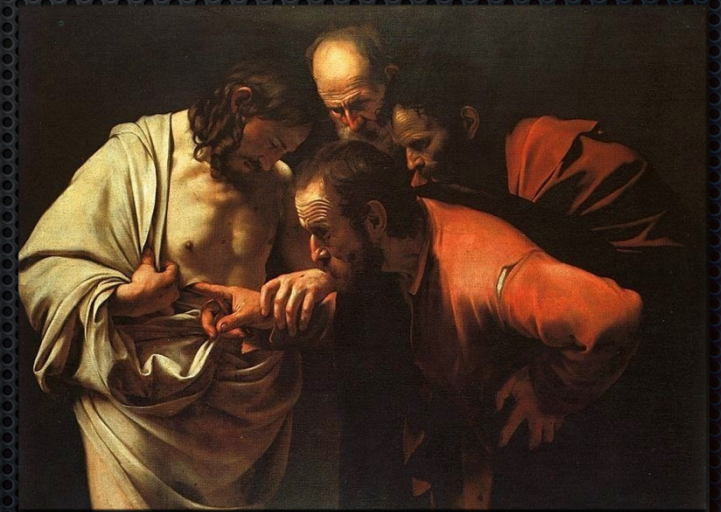
4. Power over the Nerves

- The powerful endure, while the weak hurt others
- The Lord Christ on the cross
 - “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” (Matt. 27:40)
- *“You have borne the oppression of the wicked.”* (Liturgy of St. Gregory)



5. Power of Love

- “For love is as strong as death...Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.” (SS 8:6,7)
- Its strength comes from giving and sacrifice
- Respects others
- Tolerates the weaknesses and shortcomings of others
- The Lord Christ with Sts. Peter and Thomas



Power of Personality

- Has a clear stance on particular and important matters
 - Supports them with clear reasoning
- Does not follow rumors
 - When needed, examines the matter and searches for the truth.
- Does not obey wrong counsel
 - King Rehoboam vs. Daniel

Summary

- Power is the ability to influence or strongly affect others
- The spiritual man does not search for power where the world does.
 - Physical strength, intellect, money, fame, position, etc.
- The true source of power can only come from God
- The powerful Christian is characterized by these types of power: the spirit, over the self, self-control, over the nerves, of love, and personality.