

Sermon Notes

THE Power - Rom 1:16-17

January 18, 2026

I. Introduction

Saul is skeptical because David is small and Goliath is large. He thinks of power in terms of physical might. He doesn't appreciate power can come in other forms as well. Malcolm Gladwell

- a. let's revisit last week for a minute... David and Goliath... why did David pick up five stones... did he think he'd miss... nope, Goliath had 4 sons... the battle is the Lord's... 1Sam 17:40... "David chose five smooth stones from the brook... put in his pouch..." 2Sam 21:15-22... "these four born to the giant... killed by David and his soldiers..."
- b. nouns and verbs are required in order to be victorious... faith is coming to the specific place and person of Jesus... belief is the action to trust He is able to win our battles... 1Sam 17... "the Lord will rescue me... I come against you in the name of the Lord..." 1John 5:4... "this is the victory that has conquered the world... our faith..." **pistis** (n)... conviction of the truth of anything; belief... 2Chron 20... "battle is not yours, but God's... believe in the Lord... you will succeed..." John 6:29... "this is only work God wants from you... believe in the One He has sent..." **pisteou** (v)... think to be true; place confidence in; trust Jesus is able to do it...
- c. power is necessary for victory... but where does that power come from... pray... Deut 20:4... "the Lord fights against your enemies to give you victory..." 1Sam 19:5... "the Lord brought about a great victory for Israel..." Psa 20:6... "the Lord gives victory to His anointed... mighty victories from His hand..." Psa 44... "my arm, bow, sword does not bring me victory... You give us victory..." 1Cor 15:54-58... "death has been swallowed in victory... victory thru our Lord Jesus..."

II. THE Power

- a. why are some very good, very well-meaning Christians losing battles right and left... Gal 1:6-12... "amazed you are turning to a different gospel... not that there is another gospel... but there are some who distort the gospel of Christ... if anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received... curse be on him... gospel not of human origin... came by revelation of Jesus..." Gal 4:21-31... "women represent covenants (Hagar law / Sarah grace)... Hagar bears children into slavery... get rid of slave and son... son of slave never share inheritance with son of free woman..."
- b. many Christians are not victorious because they are mixing covenants... it won't work... not saved by grace, then continue by law... it's grace, grace, and more grace... Mark 2:22... "no one puts new wine into old wineskins... they burst... lose both..." John 1:16-17... "received grace upon grace... law given thru Moses... grace and truth thru Jesus..." Acts 13:43... "Paul urged them to continue in the grace of God..." Acts 20:24... "ministry I received... to testify to the gospel of grace..." 2Pet 3:18... "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
- c. OC blessings came by obeying all law or offering sacrifices... NC blessings in Christ... Deut 28... "obey all the law, blessings will come... do not obey all, curses will come..." Exo 20:22-26... "make altar... sacrifice offerings... I will come and bless you..." Gal 3:10-18... "all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse..." Eph 1... "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ... for benefit of the church..."

- d. so what power can help you be more victorious in the battles you face... THE gospel... Rom 1:16... "not ashamed of THE gospel... THE power of God for salvation to all who believe..." THE... definite article; one and only; points to specific person, place, thing; indicates specific noun... just what exactly does THE power of THE gospel do... Rom 1:16-17 **GSV**... "not ashamed of the one and only proclamation of the grace of God... it is the specific power for performing physical, moral, and financial miracles... to all who think it to be true; who place their confidence in it; who trust that Jesus is able to obtain or do something..."
- e. the gospel is many things... don't let preachers confuse you... very simple answer... 1Cor 15:1-6... "I want to make clear the gospel I preached to you... Christ died for our sins... was buried... raised on the third day... according to the Scriptures..."
- g. the gospel is grace and grace is the gospel... Acts 20:24... "my ministry is to testify to the gospel of God's grace..." Gal 1:6... "turning from Him who called you by grace... turning to different gospel..." Gal 2... "presented the gospel... truth of the gospel... do not set aside the grace of God..." Phil 1:7... "you are all partners with me in grace... in the confirmation of the gospel..."
- h. what difference does that make... it's the difference between victory and defeat... God loves me unconditionally. Jer 31:3 / Rom 5:8 / 1Cor 13:5-8 / Eph 3:17-19 God accepts me just the way I am. Rom 8:15-17 / Rom 15:7 / Eph 1:6 God has forgiven all my sins. Acts 13:38 / Rom 4:7-8 / 2Cor 5:18-19 / Eph 1:7 / Col 1:14 God holds nothing against me. Psa 103:12 / Isa 43:25 / Luke 24:46-47 / Acts 5:31 / 1John 2:12 God makes me righteous. Rom 3:20-28 / Gal 2:16; 3:11 / 2Cor 5:21 / Titus 3:7 God makes me brand-new. Rom 1:7 / 1Cor 6:17-19 / 2Cor 5:17 / Eph 1:4 / Heb 10:22 God adopts me into His family. Rom 8:15-32 / Rom 9:4 / Gal 4:1-7 / Heb 11:7
- i. the Apostle Paul spent his entire ministry talking about THE power of grace... it was radical then and it's still radical now... that's too good to be true... no, that's grace... Rom 6:14-15... "sin will not rule over you... because you are not under law but under grace..." 1Cor 1:4-9... "because of the grace of God... He will strengthen you to the end..." 1Cor 15:10-11... "by the grace of God I am what I am... worked harder than all... by grace..." 2Cor 5:19... "in Christ... God was no longer counting people's sins against them..." Eph 1:3... "we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ..." Eph 2:5... "God made us alive in Christ... even though we were dead in sin... by grace..." Titus 2:11-12... "grace appeared bringing salvation... instructing us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures... and to live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness and devotion to God..."
- j. grace is not a doctrine... not a podcast... not a tweet... not a sermon series... it is the very person of Jesus... that is why it is THE power to help you be victorious... Luke 4:14... "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit..." Luke 6:19... "power was coming out from Jesus and healing them all..." 1Cor 5:4... "when you assemble in the name of Jesus... I am with you with power..." 2Tim 4:22... "the Lord be with you..." Philemon 1:25... "grace be with you..." 2Pet 1:2... "may grace and peace be multiplied to you thru the knowledge of Jesus..." 2Pet 1:16... "we made known to you the power of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
- k. gospel preaching will leave you praising God and thanking Jesus... anything less will have you making promises you can't keep and condemn you for not keeping them... biggest mistake you can make is to believe the gospel of grace is for others... *grace is for sinners, not good church-goers like me...* it's grace 24/7/365 for all of us... pray... 1Cor 1:23-24... "we preach Christ crucified... Christ is the power of God..." 1Cor 2:2... "determined to know nothing among you except Jesus and Him crucified..." Col 1:9-14... "filled with wisdom... bearing good fruit... strengthened with all power... in Him..."