

August 20th, 2017

# “The Tragedy of a Powerless Church” Terry Baldwin

PRAYER ( Praise God for what happened last week! )

---

( Jesus on the mountain of Transfiguration with Peter, James, & John )



[ Mark 9:14–18 NLT ]

14 When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. 15 When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him.

16 “What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked. 17 One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. 18 And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

.....This is the scene Jesus saw when He came down

## Huge ARGUMENT between religious teachers and 9 Disciples

- Religious people gave Jesus’ most Resistance??
  - Worshipping TRADITIONS will remove us from what God is doing now
  
  - A large Crowd was witnessing it all...
  - World many times witnesses Church FIGHTING
    - They know what we are against...
    - They see all kinds of infighting...
- 

This Account shows us 2 Things

## 1. What the Devils Does to People ....Still TODAY.

[ Mark 9:17b–18 NLT ]

*...He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. 18 And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid.*

### 1. devil seizes people

- They are no longer able to control themselves—another power is in control of their lives.
- They Think, Say, and Do the wrong things.

### 2. He throws them to the ground

- satan doesn't come to build up.... but to TEAR DOWN
- The ultimate end is down even for those who consider themselves successful and have no need of God.

## The Effect of the devil is seen in the life of those he influences

1. Foaming at the mouth / Embarrassment before God and people
2. Gnashing of teeth / A foretaste of hell, and a present act of despair
3. Becoming rigid / Rigor mortis is the spiritual condition....  
incapacity and inability to change.

- Jesus came to reverse all these effects of the Devil.
- And He has left His Church to reverse these affects as well.

**Many times the Church sees the World.....** *(those under the terrible influence of devil)*  
**.....as it's Enemy to fight and Argue with**

**We are called to lead as many as we can to the Salvation Knowledge of Jesus**

.....But a POWERLESS CHURCH is no help  
 .....Powerless Churches Argue and fight!

This Account:



## 2. Reveals a Powerless Church



[ Mark 9:18.b NLT ]

*...So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."*

- Disciple were unable to set the boy free.... arguments then ensued
- When the mighty works of God are absent....  
all that is left is Arguing
- Arguments cannot save..... **Only God Saves!**
- If the world is to be saved.... the Church needs more than ARGUMENTS

**The Church is powerless when it negates the Holy Spirit and operates in the Natural....**

- To run an Organization, you don't need God!

QUOTE: Samuel Chadwick

- *"The Church that is man manages instead of God Governed is doomed to failure. A ministry that is college-training but not spirit filled works no miracles.*

*The church that multiplies committees and neglects prayer maybe fussy, noisy, enterprising, but it laborers in pain and spends it strength for nought.”*

- The World is powerless to save itself in the Natural....  
what makes us think we can help without Holy Spirit???
  - It's possible to excel in the mechanics but fail in the Dynamics
- 

## **WE NEED SUPERNATURAL POWER!!!**

- The Presence of the Spirit is vital and central to the work of the Church.
- **We need the POWER of God to:**
  - LOVE People / WITNESS without fear
  - PRAY the heart of God over people
  - Prayer energized by the Spirit is not prayed in vain
  - DESTROY the works of the devil through mighty Works of God!
- Apart from Holy Spirit:

### **- THE WORLD MUST WITNESS GOD'S POWER in the Church!!!**

- Power not only in our Words.... but CHANGED LIVES
- Power of RESTORED Relationships
- Power of SUPERNATURAL JOY & PEACE
- Power of SUPERNATURAL LOVE
- Add to that.... the Miracles only GOD can do!!!

- Wisdom becomes folly
  - Strength... weakness
- 

## The Church's Power Source is the Continual Presence of the Holy Spirit

### CHURCH... **We are Supernatural People**

- We are citizens of a Supernatural Kingdom.... not this World's
- We are the Tabernacle for the Holy Spirit
  - Immediately the enemy conjures an Image (imagination) of low intelligent person acting "super spiritual crazy"

### We Must Be Filled With God's Spirit



[ Ephesians 5.18-20 NLT ]

*18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Just as person filled with wine is under its influence....
- Christians need be filled with Holy Spirit is under His influence

### FOR EXAMPLE:

- Luke 4:1 describes Jesus as "full of the Holy Spirit."

- One of the men, Stephen, is described (6:5) as “a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Later (Acts 11:24), Barnabas is described as “a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.”

*“To be filled with the Spirit is to live with every conscious area of your life yielded to the Spirit’s control”* - Steven Cole

It’s not just praying and then expecting God to Remote control your every move

- It’s YIELDING to God...
  - Through obeying all you know
  - Fighting your flesh

### **PENTECOST TRANSFORMS PEOPLE!!!**

Encourage those who came forward last Sunday!

We are a Church that is HUNGRY for more of Holy Spirit

### **A powerless church is no help to those dominated by the Devil.**

---



---

## MUSIC

### **WE’VE LEARNED:**

- When we’re saved the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Jesus Christ
- Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit for the great works we are called to
- That the Promise of the Holy Spirit is for us Today!!!
- God has given us a Spiritual Language (tongues) to pray in the Spirit

(TESTIMONY Alyssa Campbell)

TODAY - WE'VE LEARNED:

The Church's POWER SOURCE is the Holy Spirit