

The power at work within us

by Ekkehard Hornburg

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us.*

Ephesians 3:20

The word of God is at work in us! The power that is at work in us is, for one thing, the word of God if we receive it. The word is like a seed that is sown and then works and becomes active in the ground. A woman conceives life through perishable seed, and we receive life from God through the imperishable seed of the word of God (1 Pet 1:23). *Yet to all who did receive him [the Word], [...] he gave the right [power, strength] to become children of God* (John 1:12). In 1 Thess 2:13, Paul writes to the Thessalonians that they received the word of God that is now at work in them who believe. The word brings about rebirth and makes us sons of God. Every promise of God is a seed that starts to work in us as soon as we receive it and meditate on it. Mary pondered in her heart the words the angel brought to her and the word in her came alive; it became flesh and Jesus was born.

The resurrection power of Jesus (healing) is now at work in us who believe. This power brings about healing for our whole body. *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you* (Romans 8:11). Here it speaks of mortal bodies, not dead bodies. In other words, our body is mortal but as long as we are living here on earth, God's resurrection power, the Holy Spirit, brings about health and a long life in us. Jesus was made sick with our diseases so that we could have his health. Isaiah 53:10 literally means: *He [God] made him [Jesus] sick*. This happened substitutionally on the cross for us so that we need no longer be sick. In the same way, Jesus was made sin on the cross so that we no longer need to sin (2 Cor 5:21). In Ephesians 1:17–19, Paul prays for the Ephesians that they would grasp the exceeding greatness of his power towards us and in us who believe. That power is activated through our faith.

The Holy Spirit is at work in us now and making us into living testimonies of Jesus here on earth. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses, Jesus said to his disciples. This power is at work in us now and every believer is living proof that Jesus is risen and that he saves, heals and baptizes with the Holy Spirit. Without the power of the Holy Spirit we are like a bicycle tube without air, like a furnace without fire, like a car without an engine.

The power to acquire riches is now at work in us. But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth [acquire riches], *and so confirms his covenant* (Deut 8:18). Being rich is better than being poor. Jesus became poor for our sake, so that through his poverty we could become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). God wants you to be rich so you can do more good. Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:17ff: *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves [...] for the coming age*. If you had more, you could give more. It is not a sin to be poor, but you do not have to stay poor. Believe God for more and become a blessing for more people. God wants us to take action until he returns and not bury our talent but multiply it.

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