

Strengths Theology - 05

God is Our Energy

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We had a great campout with our scouts this weekend. Our Rodeo Weekend Campout is an annual event and we always have a lot of fun. Thursday afternoon we were just finishing up the dishes and I grabbed the wire handle on a pot of hot water and immediately knew I had made a big mistake. The wire handle was very hot and, well now I have blisters on three of the fingers of my left hand. About 10 minutes later we were cleaning the stove we had been cooking on and with my right hand I grabbed the grill on the end of the stove we had been using to heat our water for doing dishes. I burned a finger and thumb that time. Friday afternoon I was collecting firewood in anticipation of a delicious peach cobbler cooked by Monty in one of our dutch-ovens that evening. I spied a nice piece of wood thrown into the middle of a bush and I went in after it. I discovered the bush was a cat-claw bush and soon, I had cuts and scratches all over my hands. Later that night while cooking dinner I was lighting a gas grill to cook a portion of the evening meal and it flared up (blew up) and singed the hair off of my right hand. About 30 minutes later I was trying to light the gas grill again to wash dishes and – well you can guess how sore my right hand is today. I am happy to report though, that no scouts were injured on this trip.

I am telling you about this because sometimes we ignore the power of some things in our world, and then in an instant we are made aware of them in a very revealing experience. The title of my sermon is, **GOD IS OUR ENERGY**. Sometimes we get lost in the efforts of trying to serve Him, or we get lost in the hurry and scurry of everyday life and we forget about the power of God available to us. For most of us one of the most difficult things Jesus asks us to do is share the love of God with others. There are a couple of reasons for this.

- First most people are intimidated by the prospect of witnessing to others, telling them that they need God. But witnessing can never be effective unless it is done in the power of God and that power of God is not predominately there for us to tell others that they need God. It is not usually there to empower us to say the right things at the right time so someone will decide to accept, and live for Christ. Now sometimes that is necessary and when it is God has someone who has that gift in the right place at the right time so that can be accomplished. But usually that is not the most effective way to witness to others about the love of God.
- The most effective witness of the love of God to others is to be yourself and just love them in the natural way you live your everyday life. This is how the power of God can be most effectively put to use to bring others into His Kingdom. We will talk more about this and how it relates to our mission in a moment.

Listen to what Paul told the Ephesian Church in...

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NASB)

[14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, [16] that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with **power** through His Spirit in the inner man, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in **love**, [18] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the **love** of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Our mission statement is "**Investing In Eternity**". We use the acronym **A-C-T-S** which stands for the words:

- **Acquire**
- **Continue**
- **Take**
- **Share**

The Third word we use to explain our mission statement is **Take**. We are to invest in eternity beyond acquiring our personal salvation through the blood of Christ. We must go beyond investing in eternity by spiritual growth in an intimate personal relationship with God. We are to **Take** the investment home. What we mean by that is that we must bring the love of God home to Family and close Friends.

I have an idea that the biggest hindrance for most of us in taking the love of God home to family and close friends is the fact that we are just plain tired, at the end of our rope so to speak. Now the following scenario may not be exactly what happens in your life every day but I have an idea you can identify with it in some ways.

- As a parent at home one deals with the moment by moment needs of the children in your home. This drains one of all of the energy that may have been gained in a night of broken rest. I say broken rest because usually the needs of children creep into the dark of the night and rob parents of precious rest time. Add to that the mountain of chores to keep a household running and you have a formula for low energy, a short temper, and a lack of needed patience.
- As a parent at work all day, one deals with the demands of a job description. Many times you deal with supervisors, and co-workers that blow your job description out of the realm of possible accomplishment. Add to this the nerve wracking commute to and from the office and you have a formula for low energy, a short temper, and a lack of needed patience.
- Now bring together these two adults with the screaming kids and the unreasonable expectations they have for each other and you have an atmosphere that is not very conducive to love.
- Then on top of that, try to have family and friends over from time to time so you

can build relationships with them to show the love of God in your life.

Now you may not have a home full of children, and you may not have a job that keeps the pressure on but most of us are much busier than we should be. Our resources in energy, time, and money are stretched to the limit. We live on the edge of breakdown all the time. The point is - showing the love of God is something we are not usually capable of, especially on our own. In fact doing anything outside of survival in everyday living is outside the realm of reasonable expectations in most of our minds. We need help. The ability to **Take** the love of God home to family and close friends comes from the power of God in our lives and that only comes about by a growing personal relationship with God.

1. Taking the love of God home to family and close friends takes living for God so others can see His love in our personal life. There is no power like the love of God. When we let it permeate our moment by moment lives it spills out into our world. You see the way we can be effective in showing the love of God to family and close friends is not by being perfect all the time. The most effective witness to others is for them to see the love of God in your life as you live with the ups and downs that everyone else lives with.
2. Taking the love of God home to family and close friends takes an energy level that is beyond most of our comprehensions and abilities. We need the power of God. *God must be our Energy.*

There are three important things we need to see as we consider the statement, *God is our Energy.*

First: The power of God is available to all, and for a specific purpose.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NASB)

[14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, [16] that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with **power** through His Spirit in the inner man, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.**

[20] Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that works within us, [21] to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

When Jesus met with His disciples for the last time before He was taken up into heaven He told them to share the love of God with their world. But notice that He did not send them out by their own strength and power.

Acts 1:6-8 (NASB)

[6] So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at

this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" [7] He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; [8] but you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Second: The power of God must not be seen in just a general way. The power of God must be seen in **MY** personal life. The words of Isaiah are for you, today.

Isaiah 40:31 (NASB)

[31] Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

Third: The power of God at work in real humanity – Elijah – our example

1 Kings 19:1-8 (NASB)

[1] Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. [2] Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." [3] And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. [4] But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers." [5] He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat." [6] Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake *baked on* hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. [7] The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you." [8] So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, (*From Beersheba to Mt. Horeb is over 200 miles.*) the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:9-19 (NASB)

[9] Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" [10] He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

[11] So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the

earthquake. [12] After the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. [13] When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" [14] Then he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

[15] The LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, (From Horeb to Damascus is almost 400 miles.) and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; [16] and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. [17] "It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. [18] "Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

[19] So he departed from there and found Elisha...

Ray Pritchard refers to Elijah the prophet as God's mountain man. If God can do that for a prophet in Israel why can't he do it for you and I? The scriptures declare that He wants to do that for all His children.

CONCLUSION:

Read *Fire and Rain* by Ray Pritchard, pages 119-120. You see when you **Take** the love of God home to family and close friends, outside of being in the process of allowing God to help you grow spiritually, you don't need to give a single thought to your weaknesses or your circumstances. God knows you better than you know yourself, He created you. You need only to always remember that God is your energy, He is the power you need moment by moment every single day of your life.

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CWS-NT - Complete Word Study of the New Testament.

CWS-OT - Complete Word Study of the Old Testament.

- Both the **CWS-NT** and the **CWS-OT** are parts of the AMG Complete Word Study Dictionary - Based on the lexicon of Edward Robinson (as revised by Alexander Negris and John Duncan), with constant reference to and citations from the works of John Parkhurst and Hermann Cremer.

(**dgb** Comments in parenthesis are personal comments that I make concerning quotes or information from other sources.)