

Power

*“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid,
but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

As a lover of cars, I am always interested in the engines in my vehicles and how much horsepower they generate. I find something exciting about pushing the accelerator down and having the vehicle surge forward. Power is a fascinating thing. It can be intoxicating if you are not careful.

In our verse today we have a precious promise of power to live for the Lord. Such power is needed because 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV) says, “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

We are encouraged to be strong in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” No child of God needs to buckle under the temptation of Satan. We are encouraged rather to take our stand in the face of the devil and his henchmen.

In Scripture we are assured

that we will never experience a temptation that can overpower us. God provides with each powerful temptation the means to overcome. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

Our verse today also says that God works on our love life to cause us to love the good and hate the evil. That is vitally important as sin can be very attractive and easily entice us to do wrong – if we are not careful. In our spiritual journey we find ourselves loving the will of God and wanting to become more and more obedient to the law of the Lord.

Our verse today also mentions self discipline – and this is where the power of the Lord is fully operational. Things we previously found to be in charge of us – such as a favourite sin – no longer has a grip on us. We discover that we are more and more inclined to steer away from sinful situations and thoughts and into the holy things pleasing to the Lord.

It is exhilarating to look back on our pilgrimage through life and see how the Lord has given us power to conquer temptation and boldly live the life that pleases the Lord. It is also a wonderful discovery to see that we love doing what is right in God’s sight. Our lives are more and more in harmony with the perfect will of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Do not be discouraged at how little progress you have made in the Christian life. Rather take heart that there is progress. Know that the Lord will empower you each and every day. Finally the day will come when, as John puts it, 1 John 3:2 (NIV) “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

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