

1  **Receive God's Power**  
**Command #48 – Luke 24:49**

**Part 2**

2  **Luke 24:49**

- 48And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

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3  **3. The Spirit Tests Us**

- Purpose of Testing – to purify us
  - Should result in obedience to God's Word as directed by the Spirit and in love toward others
    - 1 Peter 1:22 -- *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*
  - Passing the tests brings the power
    - Romans 8:18 -- *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
  - The tests are customized to us ([1 Peter 1:6-7](#))
    - "manifold temptations" = customized trials

4  **Types of Testing**

- Fiery Trials = a trial of our faith
  - 1 Peter 4:12-13 -- *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*
  - James 1:2-4 – Should result in greater godly character and "unswerving constancy"
    - *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

5  **Types of Testing (2)**

- Evil Reproaches = The enemies of God speak evil of you.
  - *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified (1 Peter 4:14).*
  - The Bible says that if a man's ways please the Lord, He will make even the man's enemies to be at peace with him.

- However, that refers to the MAN's enemies, not God's enemies. God's enemies will always hate the righteous.

#### 6 Types of Testing (3)

- Physical Infirmities = "a thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)
  - *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

#### 7 Types of Testing (4)

- Daily Necessities
  - *But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; (2 Corinthians 6:4)*
  - *In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches (2 Corinthians 11:27-28).*

#### 8 Types of Testing (5)

- Relentless Persecution
  - *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).*
  - *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:10).*
  - *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22).*

#### 9 Types of Testing (6)

- Subtle Temptations
  - 1 Peter 5:8-9 -- *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*
  - Two types of temptations
    - #1 – Temptation to fulfill a normal desire in a wrong way
      - Eating and drinking – becomes gluttony, drunkenness, or just eating and drinking in a way that will damage us
      - Friendship – Satan will tempt us to develop wrong relationships

#### 10 Types of Testing (7)

- Subtle Temptations (continued)
  - #2 – Satan arranges an opportunity for us to fulfill the secret lusts he knows are in our hearts.
    - These are lusts we put in our hearts without renouncing or rejecting them
- Dealing with Subtle Temptations
  - We are to guard our hearts "*for out of it are the issues of life*" (Proverbs 4:23).

- We should subject every thought to Christ.
  - 2 Corinthians 10:5 --  *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

#### 11 4. The Spirit Empowers Us

- So the Spirit:
  - Indwells us
  - Fills us
  - Tests us
- When we respond correctly to the tests and trials in our lives, then God brings upon us the power of the Holy Spirit to:
  - Exhibit His fruit in our lives (put Him on display)
  - Give us the power to love others as Christ has loved us

#### 12 5 Responses to Testing to Experience God's Power

- Learning to:
  - Glory in our infirmities (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
  - Demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit

#### 13 1. Give Thanks

- We are to give thanks:
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 -- *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
  - Ephesians 5:20 -- *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*
- How do you thank God when you are being persecuted? Or in trials?

#### 14 Reasons to Give Thanks (1)

- It Came from God
  - Matthew 10:29 -- *Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.*
  - Job
    - Satan did the damage, but it was with God's permission. Note Job's conclusion in Job 1:21.
    - *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*
  - Paul
    - Thorn in the flesh = "messenger of Satan"
    - But it was used to make him rest in God's sufficient grace

#### 15 Reasons to Give Thanks (2)

- It is for Our Good
  - Romans 8:28 -- *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
  - Be sensitive how you use this verse.

- This promise applies to Christians.
- Things do not randomly work together for good; God causes that to happen.
- Psalm 119:71 -- *It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*
- Trials often cause us to spend more time in God's Word.

#### 16 **Reasons to Give Thanks (3)**

##### • It Will Build Character

- The main thing trials do for us is to build in us the character of Christ.
- "Express image" of His son (Greek word *charakter*)
- Romans 8:29 -- *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

#### 17 **Reasons to Give Thanks (4)**

##### • It Will Teach Us God's Ways

- Isaiah 55:8-9 -- *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
- During trials, actively look for the hand of God to see what He is doing.
- Psalm 67:1-2 -- *God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. <sup>2</sup>That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.*
- During trials, look for way to make Christ known to others.

#### 18 **Reasons to Give Thanks (5)**

##### • It Will Bring Peace

- Job lost everything but later received double and God gave him peace.
- Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, was falsely accused, and put into prison. But he became the second-highest ruler in the nation and experienced peace with his brethren and with others.
- Jeremiah 29:11 -- *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

#### 19 **2. Rejoice!**

##### • Rejoice always (Philippians 4:4)

- Thanking God in every situation is an act of the will.
- Rejoicing is an act of the Spirit.
  - It is only possible if we list the benefits of our trials (James 1:2 – "Count it all joy").
  - Job had confidence in future rewards (Job 19:26 – "in my flesh shall I see God")
  - Joseph realized God meant trials for good (Gen 50:20)

#### 20 **Purposes of Our Trials:**

##### • To humble us (James 4:6 – gives grace to the humble)

##### • To produce patience

- Romans 5:3-5 -- *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

- Someone once said that in trials, Satan was trying to drown us while God was teaching us to swim.

#### 21 Purposes of Our Trials (2)

- To give us glory
  - The light of Christ's countenance radiating from us during trials – if we respond to them correctly
  - 1 Peter 4:14 -- *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

#### 22 Purposes of Our Trials (3)

- To Increase Rewards
  - Matthew 5:11-12 – “for great is your reward”
  - Early Christians rejoiced in their sufferings, knowing they had a better reward:
    - Hebrews 10:34 -- *For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*
- To Know Christ
  - Christ suffered without sinning. When we suffer rightly, we enter the “fellowship of His sufferings”
    - We are conformed to His death
    - We experience the power of His resurrection

#### 23 Purposes of Our Trials (4)

- To Bring Christ's Power
  - Paul gloried in his infirmities that the power of Christ might rest upon him (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- To Train for Leadership
  - 2 Timothy 2:11-12 -- *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*
  - David:
    - Anointed king by Samuel, but went through years of torments and persecution by Saul
    - Became Israel's greatest king; mentioned more than any other man in Scripture (except for Christ).

#### 24 3. Engraft Scripture

- Scripture takes on new meaning when you are being persecuted.
- David “encouraged himself in the Lord his God” (1 Samuel 30:6) during times of trials.
- When you find a passage that relates to you:
  - Memorize it (will increase your faith – Rom 10:17)
  - Meditate on it (will give you success – Josh 1:8,9)
  - Record your insights (to share with others)
- Particularly focus on the Commands of Christ to see which ones apply to your trial.

#### 25 4. Appeal to God

- God allows some trials in our lives just long enough for us to realize that WE cannot do anything about them.
  - He is waiting for us to cry out to Him for deliverance. Then He is glorified when He helps us.
  - Jesus waited until the disciples cried out before He calmed the sea (Mark 4:37-41).
    - But they first tried to use all their nautical skills.
- Psalm 50:14-15
  - Have a grateful heart; pay your vows (50:14).
  - Cry out to God and He will deliver you (50:15).

#### 26 **Crying Out to God**

- Psalm 50:14-15 -- *Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*
- Psalm 55:17 -- *Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*
  - David learned to not wait for trials to cry out to God.
  - He made it a regular routine to cry out for God's strength, mercy, and wisdom.

#### 27 **5. Triumph With Good**

- Overcome evil with good.
- Conquer those who reject or revile you for doing God's will with good works and by blessing them.
  - 1 Peter 3: 9 -- *Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*
  - Matthew 5:44 -- *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

#### 28 **The Pattern Exemplified by the Apostles**

- Christ breathed on His disciples and told them to be filled with the Spirit.
- They were given a test – “watch and pray” in Jerusalem for 10 days
  - 3 had already failed to do this for just 1 hour in the Garden of Gethsemane
- After they passed this test, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them and thousands became believers.

#### 29 **The Pattern Exemplified by Paul**

- Paul was filled with the Spirit at the time of his conversion (Acts 9:16-17).
- He went through persecution and tribulation (2 Corinthians 11:24-33).
- Power came upon his life (2 Corinthians 12:9).

#### 30 **The Pattern Exemplified by Christ**

- Christ was filled with the Spirit at His baptism (Luke 4:1)
  - *And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness*
- Led into the wilderness where He was tested for 40 days and then tempted by Satan himself
  - Overcame Satan by the power of the Word
- Jesus returned in power!

- Luke 4:14 -- *And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.*

31  **So Why Do Trials Come?**

- God has a lesson He wants you to learn you won't learn any other way.
- God is trying to teach you how to cry out to Him.
- God has a gift to give you that you won't ask for any other way.
- God wants to show the world He can take care of His children.
- God wants to strengthen you to swim even while Satan is trying to drown you.

32  **Application**

- What trials do you have right now?
- How are you responding to them?
- Have you sought the filling of the Spirit?
- Have you cried out to God for strength?
- How has God used past trials to bless you and bless others through you?
- Is there some worldly pleasure in which you delight that grieves the Holy Spirit and violates a covenant to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?