

Reflecting on Power Ministry

Thesis: We have a wonderful history in the Lord. We continue to be on a journey with the Lord. It is helpful to reflect on what the Lord has done through the years, to celebrate what the Lord is doing, and to pray into what God has promised. In the midst of an anti-supernatural culture, we want to continue to believe God and to partner with the Lord in expressing his reality and kingdom to those around us.

Text: Luke 10:1-11; 17-24

Context:

Calvary Community Church has an incredible history in the Lord. During **Ministry Team Training** and **Discover Calvary**, we talk about our history in the Lord and some of the corporate experiences with the Lord through the years. And, we talk about our journey in how the Lord led us to our vision of intimacy, community, and kingdom.

At MTT in June, someone in **Foundations for Power Ministry** asked the question, "Why don't we see those corporate experiences today which God gave us in the first decade of the church?"

Then, at **Discover Calvary** in our first session, after we talked about our history in the Lord, someone asked the same question. "Why isn't God doing those [corporate] things today at Calvary?"

Those are good questions.

As a matter of fact, our staff team has been spending time in reflection and asking the Lord some similar questions starting in late June and early July.

The Context of Power Ministry:

1. **For us, power ministry takes place in the context of the vision of the church with the Lord gave to us.**
 - a. **A transformed life intentionally engages a mental model of transformation.**
 - b. **Intimacy:** reflective lifestyle where we listen to God and give our word to what he is doing to redeem and restore people, systems, and institutions to their redemptive calling

- c. **Community:** authentic community of shared lives that leads to shared vision
 - d. **Kingdom:** radical obedience which leads to a missional life (on mission with Jesus)
2. **Intimacy:**
- a. Establishing people in intimacy with God involves living a reflective life: engaging the practice of reflection with and pursuit of relationship with the Lord.
 - b. We learn to receive God's love and to love God, to pay attention to the Lord, to hear the way the Lord speaks to us, and to respond to what God is saying and doing.
 - c. Everything flows from intimacy with God: to know God and to be known by the Lord.
 - d. **One of the core outcomes of intimacy with God is awareness:** growing in our capacity to be aware of the God who is with us.
3. **Community:**
- a. Expressing true Christian community involves learning to share our lives with one another, to care for one another, and to love others like Jesus loves.
 - b. Community is about experiencing an authentic fellowship of shared lives that leads to shared vision.
 - c. Community involves doing the works of Jesus together with others.
 - d. **One of the core outcomes of community is authenticity:** growing in the capacity to be open and honest with one another (1 John 1:7).
4. **Kingdom:**
- a. Extending the kingdom of God in the earth involves radical obedience with leads to a missional life. We are a people who join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others.
 - b. Extending the kingdom of God in the earth involves doing the works of Jesus (John 14:12; Luke 4:18; 9:1-2; 10:1f; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
 - c. We are called to Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others.
 - d. So, we partner with the Lord and others.
 - e. **Two of the core outcomes of kingdom are alignment and action.**
 - i. Growing in our capacity to align with the ways of Jesus.
 - ii. Growing in our capacity to get in action around the leadership and direction of Jesus.
5. **Equipping the saints for their works of service is the role of gifted men and women** (Ephesians 4:11-13).
- a. We also believe in equipping every follower of the Lord to do the works of Jesus and grow in the vision the Lord has given us of intimacy, community, and kingdom.

- b. The clergy aren't called to do all the work of the kingdom of God.
- c. Titles aren't as important as what is happening downstream from the gifted men and women who are given to the church to equip the saints for their works of service.

Reflecting on Power Ministry:

Today, I want to spend some time reflecting on power ministry.

Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12 NIV84).

1. What are some of the kingdom purposes of God for his church in the earth?

- a. In Ephesians 4:11-13, the Lord spells out what the bride of Christ will look like: **a church of intimacy, unity, and maturity.**
 - i. *Ephesians 4:11–13 (NIV84) 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*
- b. In Ephesians 5:25-27, the Lord declares that we will be **a church of purity.**
 - i. *Ephesians 5:25–27 (NIV84) 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*
- c. In Matthew 21:12-13, the Lord declares that we will be **a church of prayer.**
 - i. *Matthew 21:12–13 (NIV84) 12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer," but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'"*
- d. In Acts 2:17-21, the Lord declares that much of his power will get displayed through his people. We will be **a church of power.**

- i. *Acts 2:17–21 (NIV84) 17 “ ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”*

2. What is power ministry?

- a. **Power ministry is doing the works of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and through the leadership and for the glory of God.**
- b. **Doing the works of Jesus** (John 14:12; Luke 4:18; 9:1-2; 10:1f; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

3. Power ministry is one of the prophetic parameters of the end-time church.

- a. The same Spirit who anointed and empowered Jesus will be poured out in great measure upon the church. There is at least one simple reason why we have not seen much of God's power: when he has released a little, we have abused it. When God begins to anoint someone with power, we often see them use it for self-aggrandizing or personal kingdom building. We simply have not had the apostolic character necessary to bear apostolic power. But that is about to change. As we move further into God's final purposes, we will begin to become the church that God has prophesied we will become. As we begin to enter into maturity, unity, purity, prayer, and intimacy with Jesus, God will find in us a people with the character to bear his power. We are going to enter days when God will be able to trust us with incredible amounts of his power. (*The Last Great Revival*, Steve Meeks.)

Questions that we used to reflect upon power ministry at Calvary:

1. What are the evidences of the works of Jesus in our congregation over the past 3-4 years regarding salvation, healing, deliverance, and encouragement (power ministry and power encounters).
2. Where are we seeing the power of God?
3. What are we doing, if anything, to hinder, restrict, or squelch the activity of God in our midst? Ask the Lord what he is saying to us.

Evidence of the works of Jesus among us:

1. The Lord is still touching people. People are being saved, healed, delivered, and encouraged.
2. Whole families have responded to God, decided to follow the Lord, and are being transformed.
3. The Lord is still transforming the lives of individuals and families.
4. God is still moving, like at **Ministry Time**.
5. Guests are still encountering the Lord when they come into Calvary (like Sadjah Echols when she first visited the prayer room). People are still talking about encountering the Lord.
6. The Lord is still drawing people.
7. It is easy to take for granted what we have and what the Lord is doing in our midst because it is so daily... we are so used to the presence of the Lord in worship, in our services, through the teaching, and through the mundane.
8. God is still speaking to different people in Calvary regularly. (Cheryl Moses' testimonies are amazing of God speaking to her.)
9. We see growth in people:
 - a. People are growing in their awareness of the Lord.
 - b. People are growing in their capacity for authenticity.
 - c. People are growing in their ability to align with the ways of the Lord and to get in action on the mission of Jesus.
10. The Lord is moving in and through our small groups.
11. The Lord is transforming the lives of youth and children.
12. The Lord is moving in our spheres of influence. **We hear incredible testimonies of how you are loving others, helping others, praying with others, serving others sacrificially.** The Lord is healing, saving, delivering, and encouraging people in our spheres of influence.
13. We see God reaching **drop out believers** and returning them to their first love and to community.
14. The Lord is speaking, people are listening, and God is answering prayer.
15. God is at work powerfully in our spheres of influence. The testimonies are so encouraging of divine appointments, spiritual conversations, answers to prayer, healing, breakthroughs, etc.
16. We regularly **Share the Story** of what the Lord is doing in our lives, encounters with others, small groups, servant-leadership teams, and other contexts. **Those stories are inspiring and compelling.**
17. **Have Becky Gressett come up and share about the last night of Summer Blast.**

Let's reframe: Luke 10:1-8; 17-24

Luke 10:1–9 (NIV84) 1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 5 “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. 8 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’”

Luke 10:17–24 (NIV84) 17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” 18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” 21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. 22 All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” 23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

Summary:

Power ministry is a part of the kingdom of God. Power ministry is part of the works of Jesus. Power ministry flows through the anointing and work of the Holy Spirit.

But remember: everything in the kingdom of God flows from intimacy with the Lord.

Power ministry is not the goal; knowing and loving God is our primary focus.

And, we cannot love God without loving others and caring for them (Matthew 22:37-39).

God will give the Spirit to whomever asks (Luke 11:13). But the character to bear power and to become like Jesus comes from abiding in the Lord (John 15:5) and from being conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29).

So, let's celebrate what the Lord is doing in our midst.

Let's not grow weary in well-doing.

Let's continue to believe God for even greater things, for the glory of this latter house will be greater than the former.

And, let's encourage each other all the more in the days ahead.

Ministry Time: