



WHAT IS HIS GREAT SECRET?

The final day of the leadership seminar in Pakistan, 2008, with around 3000 participants, was coming to an end. Every evening in the huge festival we had all witnessed great miracles – touching stories of how lives and families were forever changed by God’s love in Christ. I especially remember an elderly Muslim who had been blind his whole life. During the festival he could see again, and for the FIRST time he was now able to see his wife! A young boy who had carried his younger lame brother to the festivals no longer needed to carry him home – the boy could walk on his own! After a Muslim woman and her blind teenager daughter heard about the festival on TV the first evening, they travelled by bus 3 days – hoping to reach there in time. They arrived at the very last meeting in the festival, and the blind daughter was completely healed. And there were MANY more testimonies.

Now, back to the parallel leadership seminar on daytime. Everyone had been eager to learn more about the “Gospel Revolution.” Peter Youngren, the minister in the evenings too, ended the leadership seminar by asking all the leaders to stretch out their hands. Then he said he would put the very secret to the success of his ministry into their hands. Everyone waited with great expectancy. He then said, “I now lay the Gospel of Christ in your hands. Close your hands and put it in the pocket. When you go home you have exactly the same as I have!” Take courage and know that the Gospel of Christ is the Power of God and the very secret to the success of our ministries.



Mary Felde
Editor

WHAT IS THE POWER OF GOD?

By Evans Beecham



God is almighty; He has the power to solve any problem in our lives.
But how can we release the power of God in our lives?

Christians always want the power of God in operation in their lives, and that’s a good thing. Don’t we all want that? We know God is all powerful. Powerful to heal, powerful to save, powerful in every sense of the word! Can we actually pinpoint the source of God’s power for our lives? If we could, then we could go to that very source of power for healing, protection, provision, or whatever the need.

God is Love

We could say that we know that God is love, and that is the power source of God for our lives. It is true, God is love, and 1st John defines for us that love is who God is. So if we could love enough, then we would have His power in our lives. That’s a start, and exceedingly important as you will soon see, but that is not where we “plug in.”

God’s love for us is where it begins, and God’s love is powerful. Like a bolt of lightning in the sky, it is charged with power beyond our capacity to imagine. However we need to somehow plug into

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that power so that we can see it manifest in our lives. So that we can live the life God planned and imagined for you and me - "the good life" as Ephesians puts it. Jesus said: "I have come to give you life, and life more abundantly!" The literal translation of that verse says: "I came that one should have life and should have extra." This word "extra" (abundant) means, according to Thayer's Greek Dictionary, "over and above, more than is necessary, superadded, exceeding abundantly." Wow, that is our God! That's the power He wants for us - the power to live life to its fullest, abundantly, lacking nothing, a healthy and vibrant life. He wants us to have His life.

The revelation of righteousness will release the very power of God into your life.

We still need to find that plug-in, so to speak. How does it become available for us in our day-to-day lives?

Let's take a close look at Romans 1:16-17 NKJV: "16 For I am not ashamed of "the" gospel of Christ, for it is "the" (definite article) power of God to salvation for everyone who **believes**... 17 For in it "the" righteousness of God is revealed, from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

Here is where we begin to see and understand His power plugged into our lives.

Plugging Into the Power of God

There is only one gospel (**the** gospel),

which is "**the** power of God," and you plug into it through "**the** revelation of righteousness." The revelation of righteousness will release the very power of God into your life. This revelation is a revelation of your true identity fully restored in your life in Him. This has already been done at the cross; your belief in this revelation is where your life really begins. To **believe** and receive this revelation of righteousness is to be fully persuaded that it is true and that you are qualified to have it. If you have to "earn" (in any way, shape or form) by performing, then you will always question if you have "done enough" to fulfill the requirements to qualify. The performance requirement produces doubt! Righteousness reveals His life in you!

The only thing to "do," to receive all the benefits of the finished work of the cross, is to believe. Be fully persuaded that because of Jesus' obedience (not yours), you are qualified.

When you believe, then your mind is at rest. We have His rest, and live from His rest, because we have believed.

What you believe will either propel you into His grace or keep you bound in the law.

Think about this: You can rest at night when you believe you are secure. If you wake up thinking you forgot to lock the door, then you find yourself in unrest. Jesus is your security for your health, provision, safety, peace and rest. He finished it at the cross! Do you believe that? Then be at rest my friend. You are

secure in the secret place of the most high where you are ALWAYS accepted and loved!

What you believe will either propel you into His grace or keep you bound in the law. Everything you do daily is based on your belief system. So if you believe right, you will live right, and experience His rest!

The number one thing we so quickly forget is that we are forgiven and therefore innocent.

The Revelation of Righteousness

Righteousness means that we have right standing with God, but it is actually much more than that. It also means (because of what Jesus did at the cross), we are innocent, guiltless, and faultless. Yes, Jesus restored our innocence - we are righteous! The Mirror Translation says it this way: Romans 1:17 "Herein lies the secret of the power of the gospel; there is no good news in it until the righteousness of God is revealed!" God now persuades everyone to believe **what He knows to be true about them**. The prophets wrote in advance about the fact that God believes that righteousness unveils the life that He always had in mind for us. "Righteousness by His faith defines life."

Also Romans 5:17 & 21: "For if by one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **will reign in life through**

the one Jesus Christ. 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness....”

Why is our innocence so important? Let me begin with this truth: If you have been forgiven of ALL your sins, then you are now innocent. Hebrews 9:26 “...He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” And Hebrews 10:17 “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” At the cross you were once for all forgiven, made righteous (innocent) by His grace. You didn't earn it, you didn't merit it, it is a gift, so receive it. God wants us to reign in life, and we need the revelation of righteousness revealed for the power of this gospel of grace to be evident in our lives.

Peter felt it was important to remind the saints of their forgiveness in 2 Peter 1:9 and he told them they became short-sighted even unto blindness because they forgot that they were forgiven.

When we forget we are innocent, we begin to condemn ourselves, falling back under the law and the ministry of condemnation.

He even pointed out in verse 12 the fact that these saints were established in this present truth. Friends, most notably the number one thing we so quickly forget is that we are forgiven

and therefore innocent. Whenever we feel ignored or neglected, self-condemnation quickly follows.

Why is this so important? Because when we forget we are innocent, we begin to condemn ourselves, falling back under the law and the ministry of condemnation (2 Corinthians 3:7&9). Jesus was condemned at the cross so that you wouldn't be. He became sin so that you could be the righteousness of God in Christ. The sin debt was paid - you are now innocent!

Receiving His revelation of righteousness also includes understanding God's intense love for us. He loves us no matter what. His love never changes. Sometimes we forget or feel ignored or neglected, and after some self-condemnation, we try to become righteous by our works (self efforts) in order to qualify for His approval and blessing.

Our efforts bring us to a place of denying His power, by trying to produce the **formula** to bring about that which we desire. I believe that is the form of godliness but denying the power that 2 Tim 3:5 speaks of. “Form of godliness” meaning people appear to be godly. “Form” in that verse according to Thayer's Dictionary means “formula,” suggesting a formula or steps to take to achieve godliness. But we deny

the power which is righteousness by faith, apart from works (or working our own formulas). Mixture tells us to add works, as in a formula, in order to become righteous. There is nothing to complete. Jesus finished the work; we are already righteous.

Grace deactivates pride. We want to be in control instead of resting in His finished work. There is nothing for you to do but believe. When we have His life, understanding who we are in Christ (righteousness revealed), we have that power in our lives. This revelation of righteousness is where we see the power of God released in our lives. It is by grace - not works. So discover all the riches of His gift of righteousness, receive His abundance of grace, and **reign** in life today!



EVAN BEECHAM

Pastor of Grace Without Measure Ministries,
Fort Morgan, Colorado USA
Business Owner

www.gracewithoutmeasure.com



Jesus IS Your Expectation

by Pastor Mylene Evangelista

God wants us to expect from Him. Let us have a look at how such expectations will affect us. We will also look at what may cause our expectations to fail.

Psalm 62:5 (NKJV): "My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him."

Your Vision will Change

Are you expecting something from God today? I hope so! Because God does not want us to go through life hopeless. He wants us expecting, and if we're truly expecting, we'll see three things happen:

The first thing that will happen is our vision will change. We will begin to see what we are expecting. If a rich man promised to take you to the best buffet in town next week, what would you do? You would start visualizing! You would already begin to see that delicious spread of cheese, seafood, steak and dessert. Right? Well the same is true with spiritual expectation.

If you're hearing the good news about Christ, then you will be full of hope — a confident expectation of good.

Take the life of Abraham for example. Abraham was a man expecting from God. He was expecting to have a child because that's what God had promised him, but God didn't just promise him, He showed him. Genesis 15:5 says, God took Abraham outside and told him, "Count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So

shall your descendants be." This phrase "count the stars" means, "to put them in order or sequence." Hence the stars were telling a story and that story is the gospel. Galatians 3:8 says God "preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand." God preached the gospel to Abraham that night through the stars. The stars tell the story of Jesus' finished work and that is what God wanted Abraham to see. He was giving Abraham vision.

Abraham's vision came from the gospel and in the same way, our vision must come from the gospel. What is the gospel? The good news about Jesus Christ. If you're hearing a mixed gospel, then you're expectation will be shaky. If you're not hearing the good news, then it will be hard for you to expect good news! But if you're hearing the good news about Christ, then you will be full of hope – a confident expectation of good.

Habakkuk 2:2 in The Message Bible says, "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming - it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time." The Word of God does not lie and as you read it, it will give you vision. The more you read it, the more you will see, and the more you see, the greater you will expect. True expectation always sees.

Your Speaking will Change

The second thing that will

happen when you're expecting something is your speaking will change. If you're expecting the rich man to treat you to that buffet next week, you will begin to talk about it! You will tell everyone you know that you're going to the best buffet in town! You can tell when someone is truly expecting their dream to come to pass because they're always talking about it. Their words line up with what they're expecting.

In Abraham's case, what he was expecting from God was impossible. But Romans 4:19-20 says he didn't focus on his own impotence or Sarah's infertility and say, "It's hopeless." (MSG) Nor did he doubtfully question God's promise, but instead he gave praise and glory to God! (AMP) Imagine that! Abraham did not talk about what was NOT happening. He gave praise and glory to God for what he knew was going to happen. In the midst of waiting for your expectation to manifest, give praise and glory to God!

Further more, God even changed Abraham's name from Abram, meaning, "father of one," to Abraham, meaning, "father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5). So every time Sarah called Abraham to the dinner table she was speaking her expectation. The town folk must have thought they were crazy! But if you're truly expecting something, you won't be afraid to talk about it! Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." That means we confess or speak our expectation. True expectation always speaks.

Your Posture will Change

The last thing that will happen if you are truly expecting something is your posture will change. You

God always gives us what we need to take the first step and then after that, when we need it, it will be there.

will position yourself to receive what you're expecting. If you're expecting to go to that big buffet next week, you prepare for it! How? You'll make sure you don't eat too much before you go! Some people might even fast to make sure they have plenty of room to try everything at the buffet!

Romans 4:18 says, Abraham decided to live, "not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do" (MSG). This is exactly how God wants us to live. Not according to what we can do, but according to what we expect Him to do. That means we prepare for what we're expecting. So if you're expecting something from God, the question is, what are you doing to prepare for it?

If you're expecting Him to bless you with a car, do you have a driver's license? Or if you're expecting Him to make a way for you to travel overseas, do you have a passport? If you truly believe God's going to prosper you and fill your storehouses, do you have a bank account? God always gives us what we need to take the first step and then after that, when we need it, it will be there. The Jordan River did not part for the children of Israel until they stepped in, and then as they took

each step, the waters continued to part for them. That's how God works. So don't be afraid to step out because if God has given you His Word, you will not fail. If you're truly expecting something, you will position yourself accordingly because true expectation always implies preparation.

Put Your Trust in Jesus Alone

In regard to expectation, seeing, speaking and preparing, those are important but what's more important is, "Who are you expecting from?" Unfortunately, this is where most people, even Christians, miss it. They put their trust in man, or even themselves, to fulfill their expectation and they end up disappointed. But when you put your trust in Jesus and Him alone, your expectation will not fail.

The word expectation in Hebrew is the word "tiqvah" which literally means, "a cord." In fact, it's the very same word used for Rahab's cord in the book of Joshua. Remember Rahab's scarlet cord? Because Rahab helped the Israelite spies escape from Jericho safely, they promised her that when they came to conquer the city, they would spare her and her household. There was just one condition – that she tie the scarlet cord to her window, which she did (Joshua 2:18). So when the Israelites came to attack Jericho, and Rahab heard that they were

They put their trust in man, or even themselves, to fulfill their expectation and they end up disappointed.

circling the city, what do you think she was looking at? The scarlet cord! Her expectation was that the cord would save her and her family. The people of Jericho were trusting in the walls of the city to save them but Rahab put her trust in that scarlet cord. What does

If your expectation is based on Jesus and His finished work, you can be confident that you WILL receive!

that scarlet cord symbolize? The blood of Jesus and His finished work on the cross.

If your expectation is based on your works or performance, you will never be confident that you will receive. But if your expectation is based on Jesus and His finished work, you can be confident that you WILL receive! Rahab and her family were saved, just as she expected, and as you put your trust in Jesus, you can rest assured that you too will receive all that you are expecting. Truly Jesus IS your expectation.



MYLENE EVANGELISTA

Pastor
New Life The Fort, Philippines