



REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

The Power of the Spirit

By Pastor Brian De Jong

There are twin concepts that run throughout the New Testament – the concepts of power and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers, and believers do all that we do by the power of the Spirit.

This was true of our Lord Jesus, who was filled with the Holy Spirit beyond measure. As he went forth in his earthly ministry, he proceeded in the power of the Spirit. This is recorded in Luke 4:14 *And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.*

To the Apostles Jesus made this promise in Acts 1:8 *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.* The Apostolic witness was an ongoing testimony to the power of the Spirit to convince and convert sinners through the gospel.

Paul also testifies to this in 1 Corinthians 2:4 *and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.* Paul clearly relied on the power of the Spirit in his preaching the gospel.

Not only was this related to preaching, but also to Paul's prayers. He tells the Ephesians what he is praying for them, and includes the following in Ephesians 3:16 *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.* We need to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in our inner man (and woman).

Apart from that, we can do nothing good.

This emphasis on the power of the Spirit directly challenges our American sensibilities. We are raised to be rugged and self-reliant. We don't need to rely on anyone else, we can do it ourselves. This tendency toward ourselves is only encouraged by popular culture, which is always telling us to "look within" for the ability to do whatever we need to do.

This essentially American tendency becomes self-idolatry when we think, "I don't need the power of the Spirit to do X, Y and Z..." Relying on our own inner resources, we suppose that we have the capacity to climb every mountain, to ford every stream. In the wretched words of the Sound of Music, "*With each step I am more certain / Everything will turn out fine. / I have confidence, / The world can all be mine! / They'll have to agree / I have confidence in me.*"

If we are thoughtful Christians, we will renounce self-reliance and turn in humble dependence to the Holy Spirit. We will seek His presence and power in our lives, and pray for ourselves and others that we might be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in our inner beings.

Then, and only then, can we do great exploits for God. The Spirit is able to do whatsoever He pleases, and if He is pleased to do His will through us, then we become His instruments to turn the world upside down.



Volume 15, Issue 10
October 2020

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Article</i>	1
<i>MERF</i>	2-3
<i>Ploughman Article</i>	4
<i>Dr. Wingard Article</i>	5
<i>Reformation Conference</i>	6
<i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	7
<i>October Calendar</i>	8
<i>Recipe Corner</i>	9
<i>Spurgeon Corner</i>	10

Mnemonics...

- 10/9 Sub & Game Night
- 10/13 Session Meeting
- 10/24 Men & Boys Leadership Breakfast
- 10/31 - 11/1 Reformation Conference.

Chapter 6: On Gossips

IN Walton church in our county, there is a brink, or scold's bridle, which was used in years gone by to keep women's tongues from troubling their husbands and their neighbors. They did queer things in those good old times. Was this bridle a proof of what our parson calls the wisdom of our ancestors, or was it a bit of needless cruelty?

"It is nothing—only a woman drowning," is a wicked and spiteful old saying, which, like the bridle, came out of the common notion that women do a world of mischief with their tongues. Is it so or not? John Ploughman will leave somebody else to answer, for he admits that he cannot keep a secret himself and likes a dish of chat as well as anybody; only John does not care for cracking people's characters and hates the slander which is so sweet to some people's teeth. John puts the question to wiser men than himself: Are women much worse than men in this business? They say that silence is a fine jewel for a woman, but it is very little worn. Is it so? Is it true that a woman only conceals what she does not know? Are women's tongues like lambs' tails, always wagging? They say foxes are all tail, and women all tongue. Is this false or not? Was that old prayer a needful one "From big guns and women's tongues deliver us?" John has a right good and quiet wife of his own, whose voice is so sweet that he cannot hear it too often, and, therefore, is not a fair judge. But he is half afraid that some other women would sooner preach than pray and would not require strong tea to set their clappers going. Still what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and some men are quite as bad blabs as the women.

What a pity that there is not a tax upon words: what an income the Queen would get from it. But, alas, talking pays no toll; and lies paid double, the government might pay off the National Debt, but who could collect the money? Common fame is a common liar. Hear-say is half lies. A tale never loses in the telling. As a snowball grows by rolling, so does a story. They who talk much lie much. If men only said what was true, what a peaceable world we should see. Silence seldom makes mischief; but talking is a plague to the parish. Silence is wisdom; by this rule, wise men and wise women are scarce. Still waters are the deepest, but the shallowest brooks brawl the most. This shows how plentiful fools must be. An open mouth shows an empty head. If the chest had gold or silver in it, it would not always stand wide open. Talking comes by nature, but it needs a good deal of training to learn to be quiet; yet regard for truth should put a bit into every honest man's mouth and a bridle upon every good woman's tongue.

If we must talk, at least let us be free from slander, but let us not blister our tongues with backbiting. Slander may be sport to tale-bearers, but it is death to those whom they abuse. We can commit murder with the tongue as well as with the hand. The worst evil you can do a man is to injure his character, as the Quaker said to his dog, "I'll not beat thee, nor abuse thee, but I'll give thee an ill name." All are not thieves that dogs bark at, but they are generally treated as if they were. The world for the most part believe that where there is smoke there is fire, and what everybody says must be true. Let us then be careful that we do not hurt our neighbor in so tender a point as his character, for it is hard to get dirt off if it is once thrown on; and when a man is once in people's bad books, he is hardly ever quite out of them. If we would be sure not to speak amiss, it might be as well to speak as little as possible; for if all men's sins were divided into two bundles, half of them would be sins of the tongue. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

Gossips of both genders, give up the shameful trade of talebearing; don't be the devil's bellows any longer to blow up the fire of strife. Quit setting people by the ears. If you do not cut a bit off your tongues, at least season them with the salt of grace. Praise God more, and blame neighbors less. Any goose can cackle, any fly can find out a sore place, any empty barrel can give forth sound, and briar can tear a man's flesh. The flies will not go down your throat if you keep your mouth shut, and no evil speaking will come out either. Think much, but say little; be quick at work and slow at talk; and, above all, ask the great Lord to set a watch over your lips.

Why is it Important to Look at the Old Testament through New Testament Eyes?

Dr. Brian Wingard

There are several reasons that it is important to read the Old Testament through eyes that are informed by New Testament realities. In this brief article, I shall attempt to set some of them before you.

The first reason for us to consider is that reading the Old Testament through the grid provided by the New Testament reminds us that God is Faithful. *He keeps His covenant*, and *He keeps His promises*. Post-modern man denies the concept of truth, and by doing so he denies the relevancy of any authoritative word arising from any source other than the authority of his own heart and mind. God's everlasting covenant and His promises of covenant redemption declare that there is such a thing as truth. New Testament fulfillment of the covenant and its redemption demonstrates that through the centuries those testimonies to truth have been kept.

The second reason I mention the importance of The New Testament as the lens through which we look at the Old is that it reminds us of the unity of Scripture. The Bible is not an anthology of sacred texts from the long-forgotten past. It is one book that is inspired by One Spirit that sets before us one message. Skeptics, if they make use of the Scriptures in any way at all, approach it like antiquarians examining curious writings of the past. Such a view is possible because the unity of Scripture is overlooked by these skeptics. Looking at the Old Testament through New Testament eyes brings us face to face with their unity.

A third reason is that such a method allows us to use the Old Testament correctly. Sadly, many Christians use the Old Testament as if it were *primarily* a book of morals. My emphasis is on the word *primarily*. The Old Testament does contain God's holy Law and Commandments, and we can say with the apostle, "So then, Law is holy, and the commandments are holy and righteous, and good" (Rom.7:12). Morality, however, is not the *primary* function of the Old Testament; it is not chiefly designed to teach us how to be nice.

Neither is the Old Testament merely a book of exciting (and sometimes terrifying) *individual* Bible stories to entertain our children. This is another danger when the Old Testament is cut off from the New. Notice well the word *individual*, for too often Noah's flood, the sacrifice of Isaac, Moses in the bulrushes, David and Goliath, etc., are treated as separate tales that have little, if anything, to do with each other. This leads to the previous issue of a view that is primarily moralistic. After all, what can we do with such dissimilar stories other than using them as sources for moral lessons?

Such a nearsighted views miss the grand theme of covenant grace, blessing, and promise imparted by a vision of the great tapestry of salvation, extending from Genesis through Revelation. In short, looking at the Old Testament through New Testament eyes show us Jesus Christ as the *primary focus* of the whole of Scripture. It was of the Old Testament Scriptures that Jesus said, "[T]hese are they that testify of me" (John 5:39).

Helpful Resources: Dennis E. Johnson, *Walking with Jesus, through His Word*, P&R, 2015; Michael P.V. Barrett, *Beginning at Moses: A Guide to Finding Christ in the Old Testament*, Ambassador International, 1999; Mark Dever, *The Message of the Old Testament*, Crossway, 2006.

Reformation Conference

Speaker: Rev. Danny Olinger,
General Secretary for Christian Education

Topic: Geerhardus Vos

Schedule - **Saturday** morning, 10/31

Session #1 9:00-10:15

Session #2 10:45-12:00

He will preach **Sunday** morning and **Sunday** evening.

We will have a fellowship lunch on **Sunday**.

“Nobody ever outgrows Scripture;
the book widens and deepens with
our years.”

C.H. Spurgeon

October Birthdays

Roger Arndt 3rd
Jason Will 19th
Carla De Master 31st



October Anniversaries

Randy & Lynn Jensema
October 8th 32 Years

Steve & Moni Doro
October 10th 39 Years

Mark & Virginia Berenschot
October 23rd 49 Years

Chris & Sandy Kaeiser
October 25th 17 Years





Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

October 2020

Grace OPC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5	6	7	8	9 Sub and Game Night	10
11	12	13 Session Meeting	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Men and Boys Leadership Breakfast
25 Lord's Supper	26	27	28	29	30	31 Reformation Conference

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
revbriandjong@gmail.com

Pineapple Torte

CRUST:

- 2 Cups Flour (Sifted)
- 2 TBSP. Sugar
- ½ Tsp Salt
- 1 Cup soft Butter or margarine (Not Melted)
- ½ Cup Chopped Nuts

Mix together all except nuts as for pie crust. When well mixed, add nuts.

Press very lightly into 9x13 inch pan. Save ½ Cup crumbs for topping and bake these in another pan. Bake for 10-15 min. at 350 & cool.

Filling:

- 1 Envelope Knox gelatin (Softened) in ¼ cup cool water
- 1 Large can (14 oz.) crushed pineapple w/juice.
- 3 slightly beaten egg yolks
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- ½ Tsp salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 egg whites
- 1 large container of Cool Whip

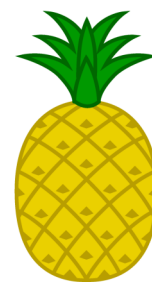
Topping:

- ½ Pint of whipping cream, whipped with ½ c sugar
- ½ Cup of Crumbs saved from Crust

Cook pineapple, egg yolks, sugar, lemon juice and salt together until it begins to boil.

Then add softened gelatin and continue to cook until gelatin is dissolved. Set to cool

And then add vanilla. When it begins to set, (it might take a couple of hours), beat egg whites, gradually adding ½ cup sugar & beat until stiff. Fold into egg yolk mixture. Next fold Cool Whip into mixture. Pour over baked crust. Set into refrigerator to set. Then cover torte with whipping cream and top with remaining ½ cup baked crumbs. Leave in refrigerator several hours or overnight. This makes a very luscious and rich torte.



©DESIGNALIKE

“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

John 6:35



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website: graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
revbriandejong@gmail.com

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

SERMONAUDIO.COM/

GRACESHEBOYGAN

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Spurgeon

Corner

*“Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto
God in the heavens.” Lamentations 3:41*

The act of prayer *teaches us our unworthiness*, which is a very salutary lesson for such proud beings as we are. If God gave us favours without constraining us to pray for them we should never know how poor we are, but a true prayer is an inventory of wants, a catalogue of necessities, a

revelation of hidden poverty. While it is an application to divine wealth, it is a confession of human emptiness. The most healthy state of a Christian is to be always empty in self and constantly depending upon the Lord for supplies; to be always poor in self and rich in Jesus; weak as water personally, but mighty through God to do great exploits; and hence the use of prayer, because, while it adores God, it lays the creature where it should be, in the very dust. Prayer is in itself, apart from the answer which it brings, a great benefit to the Christian. As the runner gains strength for the race by daily exercise, so for the great race of life we acquire energy by the hallowed labour of prayer. Prayer plumes the wings of God’s young eaglets, that they may learn to mount above the clouds. Prayer girds the loins of God’s warriors, and sends them forth to combat with their sinews braced and their muscles firm. An earnest pleader cometh out of his closet, even as the sun ariseth from the chambers of the east, rejoicing like a strong man to run his race. Prayer is that uplifted hand of Moses which routs the Amalekites more than the sword of Joshua; it is the arrow shot from the chamber of the prophet foreboding defeat to the Syrians. Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God. We know not what prayer cannot do! We thank thee, great God, for the mercy-seat, a choice proof of thy marvellous lovingkindness. Help us to use it aright throughout this day!

Morning October 11th, C.H. Spurgeon

Sub and Game Night!

Friday 10/9 at 6:30pm we’ll be having a Sub and Game night here at church. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends for an evening of fellowship and fun! Make sure to sign up on the bulletin board!