

## PP Psalm 24:1-10 (ESV)

- <sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
- <sup>2</sup> for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.
- <sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- <sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah
- <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
- <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- <sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah

## PP The Power of God

Psalm 24

07/25-26/2020

Thank you Helen for reading this chapter for us.

The power of God is Awesome and Amazing. We would truly benefit from a deeper study of this attribute for the strengthening of our faith and trust in who HE is. It would give us confidence in His might so that we can listen and obey whatever HE asks us to do.

Let's look at a couple examples of God's mighty power in the Old and New Testament. I'm just going to reference the stories and you can read them in their entirety on your own to truly be blessed.

This Psalm begins by looking at Creation, so why don't we start there.

**PP** In Genesis 1 we read that there was NOTHING and God created EVERYTHING. The power of God created all that you see around you, for His glory and our pleasure. He demonstrated that power by simply speaking everything into existence.

**PP** Turn over to Cpt 12. God's call on Abram. **Genesis 12:1-3**

- <sup>1</sup> ***Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.***
- <sup>2</sup> ***And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.***
- <sup>3</sup> ***I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."***

The problem was that Abram was 75 and his wife Sarah was 65. How was God going to accomplish that???

As you read through the story, you'll be amazed that God can do whatever He pleases. He chose to give Abraham and Sarah a child when he was 100 and Sarah was 90. Impossible??? NOT with God.

Then a few years later Abraham was asked to take his only son Isaac and offer him up as an offering to the Lord. Gen. 22 tells this story. We see in V:3 that he didn't argue with God, but it says that "Abraham rose early in the morning..." He believed God and obeyed Him unquestioningly.

As he was ready to sacrifice his son, God stopped him, and, lo and behold, there was a ram provided in Isaac's place. How'd that ram get there??? Think about that. God put it there for just this moment. Why didn't Abraham see it as they were setting up the alter???? GOD'S POWER!!!

Let's look at one in the NT.

**PP** We talked about this one when we studied the Book of Luke. Cpt 8:22-25

Jesus said to His disciples, let's get in the boat and go to the other side. While in the middle on the Sea, a storm came up that even the experienced seamen were afraid. Where was Jesus? Sleeping in the back of the boat, which is exactly where the disciples should have been. But the power of God was evidenced when Jesus stood up and rebuked the wind and the waves. Notice that He didn't rebuke the water. The water was not the problem; it was the wind and the waves caused by the wind. Immediately calm was restored.

**PP** Definitely the most powerful display of God's power was The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Death was defeated that Sunday morning. If that power had never happened, we would be without hope. He would have been like any other religious leader who died.

Two quick stories from modern times: A man on his way to work got a flat tire in New Jersey. This caused him to be late for work. God did this. That was 7am on Sept. 11, 2001. He should have been at work in one of the towers, but God's power and will, spared his life.

On Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004, a missionary family was vacationing at a resort in Phuket, Thailand, a beautiful resort town. At 7:15am they finished breakfast down at sea level and the kids wanted to go swimming. It was a warm sunny morning and the water looked so inviting. But dad insisted that they go back up to their room and have their morning devotion. They trudged up the side of the mountain and sat down together in their room. At 7:59 the worst disaster of modern times hit South East Asia. A 30' wall of water slammed the beaches of Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Maldives. Around 225,000 people perished that fateful morning. This family looked out their window and where they were sitting 45 minutes ago was completely covered in debris, water and nothing was left in its original place. God demonstrated his protecting power and spared them to be able to finish the work He brought them to Thailand for.

Today is an important day for Helen and me. This is the final message I will be preaching as a Staff member of Cornerstone Church. We became members of Cornerstone back in 1999 and I came on staff July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. That was 13 years ago. Over the past couple years, we have been sensing that what God brought us back to the USA for has been accomplished. What we've discovered over the 43 years of marriage is that when God begins to stir up something in our hearts, we need to pay attention. I can't tell you how many times that has happened, but suffice it to say, it been a lot. One thing I can tell you is that we have NEVER, can I say that again, NEVER been disappointed in following God, wherever He might take us. His power to lead is awesome and fulfilling.

I'm 64 now and Helen is 43 😊

And like Abraham, we are facing an uncertain future, and we are not immune to having doubts.

- What if one of us gets cancer while in Thailand?
- What if the economy tanks here in the USA, how will we make it out there???
- What if we can't get around like we should??
- Will we miss our grandkids ball games, concerts, graduations, and other major events???
- What if I can't change my own diapers???



- The “what ifs” can go on and on.

I don't know what “what ifs” you are struggling with, but take courage from the 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

His power is sufficient to handle any of our “what ifs”

**PP** V: 1 says that **The Earth is the Lord's and Everything in it.** That includes you and me.

Remember last week Pastor Tim was teaching us that God is Self-Sufficient. He doesn't need anything and that He owns everything and everything we **think** we own is because God loaned it to us to steward for Him. Have you thought about that? How well are you doing with all that God has blessed you with????

V:1 is saying that again. Everything belongs to the Lord including you!!!

Because God is the Self-Existent One and doesn't NEED anything. He doesn't need us, but He chose us to be His hands and feet here on this earth. He could reveal Himself any way He'd like, but He asks us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

Since He is All-Powerful and owns everything, we can go with confidence, knowing that He will provide everything we need to accomplish all the work He wants us to do.

- ✓ **PP** He has the power to protect
- ✓ **PP** He has the power to provide
- ✓ **PP** He has the power to lead us into the path that is best for us and brings glory to Him.
- ✓ **PP** He has the power to help mend those broken relationships
- ✓ **PP** He has the power to comfort during the time of lose
- ✓ **PP** He gives us the power to say NO to sin and yes to righteousness
- ✓ **PP** He gives us the power to be bold in our testimony and witness

On and on it goes, He can do whatever He chooses to do

Sounds simple, doesn't it??????

David goes on in V:3-6 to describe those who are worthy to be in the presence of the Lord.

**PP** Those who have **Clean Hands, Pure heart and who do not Lie.**

When we take that a face value, there is NO hope for us, at all. We have all lied, had impure hearts and dirty hands. But the grace and power of our Lord is greater than our sin

**PP 1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV)** tells us that:

<sup>9</sup> ***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.***

Who we were and who we are now, because of Christ, is the difference between light and darkness. We once walked in darkness, but when we placed our hope and trust in the finished work of Christ, we were changed, given a new life, or became new creations in Christ. He has put a new nature in us. **PP Change happens as a result of God's power through Christ toward us.**

If you are here today and have yet to make the decision to follow Christ and receive the forgiveness of your sins, why not do it today. Nothing would make me happier on my final weekend on staff at Cornerstone, that this would be your 1<sup>st</sup> day as a believer in Jesus.

We are new creatures in Christ, and we can rejoice like David did in V: 7-10

Lift up your head and see the King of Glory. Who is HE? The Lord who is strong and mighty and the Lord of Hosts.

Where do you need to experience God's mighty power?

- **PP** Power for direction
- **PP** Power for protection from the evil one's attacks
- **PP** The power to say NO to sin
- **PP** Power for provision
- **PP** Power over doubt
- **PP** Power to face the future
- **PP** Power to conquer fear
- **PP** Power to live a spirit-filled holy life

God's power is all around us and we can tap into that power as we walk daily with Him

Remember who you are and WHO you belong to.

**PP** In each area you are struggling in, God is powerful enough to help you through them.