



Experiencing GOD'S POWER

We are in part 2 of *Knowing and Experiencing God*. This is a very important subject. To experience God in a powerful way we must first be passionate about spending time in His presence. We must give it a significant priority in our life!

1. How bad do you want to know God?

- A. Some people know *about* God, others know God theologically. Some just attend church or give Him the leftovers of their time. But there are those who know God deeply and experience Him on a daily basis. (Matthew 13:3-23)
- B. The Greek's approach to knowing something was to understand the information. The Jewish approach was very different, to know God involved experience.
- C. Philippians 3:7-14 *...I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His Resurrection... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

2. Experiencing God's (unlimited) power.

- A. Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us,...*
 - This is a great verse to remind ourselves of God's supernatural ability. However, it's the second part that explains how: "according to the power that is at work in us." It seems that God's power is related to our capacity to allow God to work in and through us.
- B. **According to His power that is at work within us...**
 - "...is at work" means a continuous, fresh and daily infilling of His Spirit (Acts 13:52; Ephesians 5:18).

- C. **The amount of spiritual power in my life** is directly related to the size of my relational "container."
 - **Illustration** • A small glass submerged in a large body of water can only hold a small glass full. A pitcher can hold a pitcher full. A bucket a bucket full, etc. Many times, we want a "bucket of God's power" when we only have the capacity for a glass full.
 - Mark 9:17-18 — The disciples had a small, limited capacity to believe in their attempt to cast out a demon.
 - 2 Kings 6:14-17 — Because Elisha had a deep relationship with God, he overpowered the enemy army with seemingly unlimited power. He was able to see God's invisible chariots of fire protecting him and his servant.
- D. **A reservoir or a river?** A reservoir holds a limited amount of water. A river, however, is a continuous flow from its source.
 - **Illustration** • Years ago, living near the Colorado River, I loved to swim across the river to California and return. To do so I would need a plan because the current towards the middle was very strong *and* clean. I then noticed that isolated little coves with no running water would collect debris and slime. God's power flowing through us keeps us clean and growing.
 - John 7:38 *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

3. Keeping it practical.

- A. **Last week**, we identified a place and a regular time to meet and spend time in His Presence without the distraction of a device (phone, tablet).
- B. **This week**, continue your time with Him and let Him enlarge your capacity to experience first His presence and then His power as you obey His Word. Remember, God's ability is unlimited, He is not relying on your ability but on your willingness.