

of moral energy. There is the real crisis.

Now we have said, that here is a little nickel. It has enough energy and power stored up in it to supply great needs. But in the book of Eph. there are two or three words that offer to us a source of power that will help us in the moral crisis, in the personal crisis, in the time of our sorrow, in the time of our defeats and failure, the time of our sins. There are two or three words that will help us.

Let us look at them.

B I. THE BOOK

There is power in the word of God - right here in this simple Bible. It is more than just a story and history of the Hebrew nation. It is more than just a religious book of faith - it is a holy book. This we believe is the word of God. And in this book there is power - the power of God, that works through his word.

Jesus called the Word the seed. He said it was the power of the seed in the Parable. A sower went forth to sow and to cast seed. The seed grew and multiplied a hundred fold.

Now we can see that happening in the miracle of the Word. We get up and preach the Word of God. When we sow that seed, maybe something does not happen right then. But the seed is there. And you see it later. It is springing up

and growing with the power to do so again and again.

We had a missionary that went to Nigeria. And there worked among the Moslems. There was no work or no Christians. But he worked as though he worked on a rock. He planted the seed, sowed the seed. And little by little, until today there are at least 100 churches after 15 years - a lonely missionary sowing seed. It multiplied a 100 fold, a thousand fold. That is the power of the this word. The power that works in your heart and in mine as the word of God is opened.

13 II. BREATH

The power of the Holy Spirit is something that we need to note. The presence within us is God's guarantee that he will really give us all that he promised. And the Spirit's seal upon us means that God has already purchased us and that he guarantees to bring us to himself. This is just one more reason for us to praise our glorious God. V. 14.

We discover here that the Holy Spirit is the one who comes - and that is what Jesus meant two thousand years ago - that there would be spiritual power and resources. When we come, the Spirit comes near and breathes upon us. His mighty power.

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SBC President Accosted in Pulpit by Berserk Youth

A bearded 21-year-old white man with disheveled hair and shirt open to the waist accosted Adrian Rogers during his first appearance in the pulpit since his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. William E. Cotton of Memphis was forcibly restrained by staff and choir members of Bellevue Church who intercepted him near the pulpit.

Cotton was scheduled to appear in city court later in the week on charges of disturbing a religious assembly and two counts of aggravated assault.

Rogers was preaching a televised sermon on "The Christian's Relationship with This World" when Cotton, shouting at the top of his voice, bounded through a side door and leaped onto the platform. Rogers said he threw up his hands, and Cotton stopped. "I feel he was stopped by the power of God," Rogers declared.

After a momentary pause, the assailant struck Leonard Garland, a choir member and former "Golden Gloves" champion who leveled him with a round house left.

Rogers said he tried to calm the young man with prayer as church leaders held him. But Cotton began raging incoherently again when he was released, so

police were called. "I told my people, it's exciting being president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Rogers said.

Associate Pastor Elmer Bailey said, "We could not tell if he was trying to attack the pastor. I think that he was trying to get attention. About the only intelligible words that I could understand were 'please help me, help me.'

"When Rogers started praying over him, I could hear him saying, 'Don't lay that on me; they're killing me,' which was either the cry of a deranged person or possibly a person who is demonized," Bailey said.

Police said Cotton, a new member of Bellevue, was rational but evasive and blamed the outburst on "the generation gap in the city." Police added that Cotton told of drinking a bottle of beer before going to church and telephoning his father that he planned to be on TV.

Rogers said he finished his sermon and more than 40 persons responded to the altar call, adding, "God uses the axe that the devil sharpens."

Church members said they plan to have more security for the pulpit area of the 10,400-member congregation. (BF)

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Someone has said, God does not make us into storage batteries. And he does not give us power at the beginning of each month, or each week, or day.

It is a moment by moment contact in communion with our God. Now that is why we need to walk day by day in this way. The early believers realized that they had no power of their own. And they must look to this bountiful supply - moment by moment. If there is one thing that the church needs today - it is this. Christ will reveal unto our hearts the power of God. Moment by moment - for victorious living. The Holy Spirit is God's power that makes men realize here, obey, enjoy what God is doing for them.

In one spirit we have access to the Father. You are built for a dwelling place of God. What do these references to the Spirit show us. It describes a testimony to the Ephesians of the resurrection. But it also gives authority in Heaven and in earth.

If we did not have the Holy Spirit to breath upon us, we would not believe in the resurrection. It would be a tale or some other event.

14 III. THE BLOOD

Now this is the something that sounds so simple and plain. But our real resources to settle the moral crisis that we lack energy for - is found in the book, it is found in the breath, and it is found in the power of the blood. In that day, blood was life. You gave your blood - you gave your life. And Christ gave his life for us. He died on the cross. He that was without sin, gave himself for me a sinner. He took my place in a very real sense. He gave his life for me and I gave my sins for him.

And it is through that kind of experience and acceptance, that Jesus Christ is the one who gives righteousness to every life through his blood. There is power in the blood.

It is very simple - it is like the power in that little nickel that I was talking about. God has put that power there, in the book, in the Holy Spirit, and in the blood. And if we are going to live victorious lives, we must live it in that light.

Jesus became flesh and humbled himself, and dwelt among us. And we find that he, through the blood, became the propitiation for our sins. To make reconciliation for us.

Now in the Old Testament there were several words that were used that we might draw from.

First, pitch. Gen. 6:14. It was used for the covering of the Ark.

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Appease - Gen. 32:20. It means literally to cover the face.

Atonement - Lev. 16, 17:11. Where it means to substitute - to make things as one. To reconcile.

Satisfaction - Num. 35:31.

Ransom - Job 33:24.

Put it off - Isa. 47:11

Reconciliation - Dan. 9:24

Pacified - Eze. 16:63.

Now if we put all of these English translations together, they do not by any means exhaust the real meaning of this word. But they show light on the word propitiation. They tell us that in the death of Christ, God has found a ransom for sin and for man. And that a covering has been provided, to shield us from judgement.

God has an answer to all of these. God was in the oil business with John D. Rockefeller, you remember. And John D. Rockefeller had learned to put aside 1/10 from the Lord, and under his guidance his name became synonymous with oil and gasoline. It is possible that the Rockefellers have given more to Christian causes than any other family.

But he felt that the tithe was sacred and the giving of his money to God was a use of his stewardship.

God is our provider. And is able to provide every need. Let me close with this illustration. A little boy with his mother in the grocery store, was told by the owner to take a hand full of candy from a certain box.

He hesitated - so the man took out a hand full and put it in the boy's pocket.

Later when his mother rebuked him for his shyness - he said, I wanted him to do it. Because his hand was bigger.

One of the most important lessons for life is that we learn, when God provides it will be better than anything that we could have done for ourselves. Here is the solution. If you have not claimed it - will you not claim it this morning. By just coming and committing yourself to Jesus Christ. And saying, I believe what you say, about the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and the blood. A lot of things you may not understand - but you can come as a babe in Christ and grow as a Christian.

If you are already a Christian, maybe you do not have the energy power that you need and ought to have in your life. Maybe you need to come and rededicate your life, and say I am going to commit my life to that kind of power and victorious living.

Or, maybe everybody thinks that you are an active church member, but you lack that power. You need to come and commit and rededicate, and say that I want to start anew and afresh today.

If you are a fellow Christian and a member of another church, come and join this church - maybe by letter or by baptism. Whatever the need may be. Whatever the energy crisis in your life may be. You need to know that God is your provider.