

The David Series: Week 7 Devotions

In week 7 of the David Series we explored the theme of power in David's life. For this week the daily devotions will help us deal with power in our lives.

Day One

Read:

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creature that move along the ground.'" (Genesis 1 : 26)

Engage:

Has someone ever told you that you either look like someone else, or that you remind them of someone familiar to you? Have you ever dressed up as something or someone other than yourself, or maybe have seen others do that? The desired answer would be "Yes" because for some reason, we all seem to aspire to be someone or something other than what we are already. However, there's something that we all possess as followers of Jesus and as lovers of God; we look like Him. We are the image of God in this world, as it says on the fore-mentioned scripture. That means that you have the appearance, the make-up of Jesus our Lord before God. There is no more powerful an image on this earth than that of the living God. This is important, because some of you might be feeling powerless. You might be feeling like you do not have influence in the spheres of your life. However, please remain encouraged in the knowledge that this week will be a journey for both you and I, a journey where we will learn how to be powerful of heirs of what Christ did for us on the cross. Always know that you are children of God, and that makes you powerful.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you so much that we can rest assured that our identity is in you and in you alone. Thank you that this identity is what grants us power; not the things that we do nor what people say about us. It was you, Father, that established our dominion over all the things in this world. We ask that as we delve deeper in to your Word this week, you would establish our faith in the power that we have in you as well. We love and thank you, Jesus. Amen!

Day Two

Read:

"I will exalt you, Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit." (Psalms 30 : 1 – 3)

Engage:

You might be wondering why there is such a great emphasis on worship in these devotions. Here is one thing you need to get; It is not about making God feel good. There is a real power in this kind of humble worship that David displays in this Psalm. He is praising and thanking God for all that He has done to secure David, to pull him out of the gravest dangers he has ever faced. In other words, David is praising the displays of God's power in his own life. So if we, as believers, know that our power comes from God, then we ought to praise God for that power as well. Don't be fake with it either. Really think about the times that God has come through for you in your life and give thanks for that. Gratitude moves God's heart to compassion. Remind God of all the good things He has done for you, not because He has forgotten or He needs a pick-me-up but rather because you will never forget. It is a great showcase of faith when we thank God for the things He has done, because it shows Him that we know He can do it all again. And He will.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for all the things that you are doing in our lives. Thank you, Jesus, that the cross is always a reminder that you will go to any and all lengths within your means to redeem us from situations beyond our capacity. We appreciate you for that and we ask you to help us be grateful for everything that you do in our lives, so that we may always know that you can do it all again. We love you, God. Amen!

Day Three

Read:

"What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?" (Deuteronomy 4 : 8)

Engage:

Maybe you hate playing by the rules in any and all of the games that you play, or maybe you are that naughty kid that gets kicks from making noise in class. Perhaps you do not wash your hands before you eat. Whichever you slice it, you still get the same cake; people hate laws. They can sometimes feel a bit disempowering because they might prevent us from doing the things that we want to do, and they seem most horrible when we do not even understand the rule and so we just assume that it is stupid. However, I would like to suggest that there is an incredible power in trusting Jesus with everything, even the desires of our hearts. You might want to be a certain kind of person one day; a leader, an influencer or just someone with an important name. You might have certain goals for your life. If you do, God wants to fulfill those things because He loves us but also because he planted those inexplicable aspirations for great things in your heart. The point is that we need to surrender the things that are both of God and not of God to Him, as his Word tells us to seek Him and the way He does things in everything we do (Matthew 6 : 33). From that place of allowing Him to work in our hearts, we can accomplish great powerful things that are not just for ourselves, but also for the kingdom.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for inspiring great things in our hearts that You have the power to birth. We humbly ask that you would show us how You want us to pursue those things, and that You would teach us how to follow Your righteous example. Help us not to just hate the rules simply because we do not understand them, but help us to rather seek Your Will in everything that we do even if we do not get it. Because we know, Lord, that is where the true power of Your blessings lies. It is in obedience to You, it is in adopting the image You first made us with. We love you, God. Amen!

Day Four

Read:

"I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; And I am saved from my enemies." (Psalms 18 : 3)

Engage:

So far, we have talked about how gratitude and obedience can compel the power of God in a person's life. These are the things that should matter and be happening before the trials in our lives. However, if those trials come, there's a redemptive, merciful and gracious power available to you in seeking the Lord. You need to know and believe in this power with everything because, as you would have learnt from "Trials" portion of The David Series, the enemies in your life always take a risk that can only achieve one of two things; Taking you away from Christ or making you stronger in Him. They will try and instill doubt and fear in your heart. However, be persistent like David was. When He felt like God was ignoring him, he did not just shy away in dismay. There are plenty of psalms where he is doing the opposite and he is coming before God with boldness. How much more boldness should we have in Christ? Do the first two things of being obedient to God and gratefully reminding Him of all that He has done for you, and then also be honest with Him and tell Him how you feel about what you are going through. However, never forget to praise Him as though He has already done it because according to His word, he has.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for your restorative power that can save us from any kind of trouble or worry in our lives. We ask you to help us to know that you can not only do everything you have ever done for us again, but that you can exceed what you have done for our sakes. Teach us not to become bitter and silent, but to rather be bold and defiant. Bless us with a heart that has faith for the power of God set in stone. We love you, Jesus. Amen!

Day Five

Read:

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1 : 7)

Engage:

Fear is a form of powerlessness. This is part of the reason why God tells us not to worry about things, not because they are not important but because fearing the obstacles only achieves one particular thing; It makes our faith in God stagnant. Think about it; When we pray about some thing that worries us or makes us afraid, we continually beg God to help us. However, our minds are so preoccupied by the fear that we do not even thank Him or give Him praise for who He is. We may not even tell Him how we truly are feeling towards Him in our hearts as a result of the fear. We get so worried that we are not even praying because we know that God is the answer, but because we are just trying to do anything to solve the problem. Jesus wants you to pray with faith, not with fear. It is not about making Him answer your prayers, it is about actually having power over the situations of your life and not letting fear control you. Because fear should not be what motivates you to pray, but it should be strong conviction that assures you that Jesus is Lord. This is important because it is a testament of faith, the thing that makes mountains move and that pleases God. Do not just pray for solutions to your problems but also pray for the power, the love and the self-discipline to be the solution in Christ.

Prayer:

Jesus, you are so amazingly powerful. Thank you for gifting us with the faith to believe that, and forgive us for when our fear has made us forget who you are and what you mean to us. Help us to know that whatever we are going through, you are with us ready to conquer that thing. Thank you for the grace and love that lives in you that empowers us to be courageously confident that you are God. We love you, Lord. Amen!

Day Six

Read:

"People will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendour of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth." (Isaiah 2 : 19)

Engage:

John 15 : 18 – 25 shares a similar sentiment to the fore-mentioned passage, speaking on how the people treat the realness of God; With fear or hatred. So when you begin to exercise your power and authority in Christ, do not be surprised when certain people in your life start to take a backseat. If people judge you for your faith in Christ, understand that whatever they feel towards you is what Jesus once experienced on the Earth. People hating on you for your faith means that your faith is working. This might seem a bit corny but ask yourself an important question about whether or not you believe that it is true. Now please understand, this does not mean that you do not have faith or that your faith is ineffective. It is just to say that a side effect of being faithful is that people will respond to that faith. The people who do not know God will fear Him and His power in your life, but the people who either know Him or are seeking Him will be attracted like moths to the flame. Jesus can use you to put people on fire for God.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for giving us such an amazing authority in this world that allows us to co-labour with you. We ask you for wisdom in order to deal with people's misunderstanding of who you are and the power that you have in our lives. Help us to love them, as you do. We pray, Lord, that you would inspire us to run into the caves and to jump into the rocks, to show them not the just your power but also your gracious love. We thank and love you, Lord. Amen!

That's it for this week! Look out for next week's devotions on Lust.