

## The Promise of Empowerment

One of the last messages of G. Fred Bergen, Director of George Muller's Orphan Homes, was: **"Tell my younger brethren they may be too big for God to use them, but they can never be too small."**

As we consider today, **"The Promise of Empowerment,"** we need to ask ourselves the question, **"Are we too big for God to use?"**

### I. The Promise of Equipping Empowerment

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**The believer's equipping empowerment is to be the Holy Spirit.** Their power was to be spiritual and supernatural. It was to be *the very power...*

- of God Himself,
- of the Supreme Being of the universe,
- of His presence,
- of His Spirit

God's very own Spirit was to dwell within the heart and life of the believer.

As believers we are given a task by God, a mission to carry out on this earth. (Ephesians 2:10)

- **But we do not have the power to carry out that work.** The power of God Himself, of His Spirit, is needed.
- The word **Power** translates the Greek word *dunamis*, from which the English word "dynamite" comes

**We need to experience the release of that power in our lives. But how?**

1. Through not grieving the Spirit by sin. (Eph. 4:29-30)

- All sin is painful to God, but sin in His children breaks His heart.

## 2. Through being filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)

- Paul is telling us that if we truly allow the Holy Spirit to fill us, we will no longer be in control, but the Holy Spirit of God will control and use us powerfully!
- This takes place as we yield moment by moment control of our lives to the Holy Spirit and to the Word of God. (Col. 3:16)
- The result of being filled with the Spirit is expressed by Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16, 20.

## II. The Promise of Physical Empowerment

**Colossians 1:29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

The only way we can experience the physical energy and power of Christ is to use up all our own strength.

- When we are completely empty, then Christ must step in or else leave us and abandon us and disregard the promise of His Word. And this He will never do.
- Therefore, when we have no more strength to walk and labor, it is then that He infuses us with His own supernatural energy and power.

**Ephesians 1:19-20** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might<sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places...