



Connecting With God For a Strong Finish

So we'll be Ready when the Time Comes

CHAPTER 9 Strength to Influence People with the Gospel Message

“When the eagles are silent the parrots begin to jabber.”

Sir Winston Churchill

This world doesn't need another sound bite echoing the party line. It needs a compelling and provocative message delivered with deep conviction. Paul reassured the church at Thessalonica that:

*our gospel did not come to you **in word** only, but also **in power** and **in the Holy Spirit** and **with full conviction**; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. (1 Thessalonians 1:5 NAS)*

Unleashed from their constrained roost, prophetic messengers soar into heavenly realms where the word of life reverberates with clarity and distinction. Spiritual eagles proclaim an inherently powerful and eternally vital message. They connect with God to activate eternal connecting points for every person in every people group.

*But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; **They shall mount up with wings like eagles**, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isa 40:31 NKJ)*

The Inherent Power of the Message

The Gospel exerts a far-reaching and unquenchable influence. It asserts God's love and affirms His dynamic sway. Paul said,

*For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for it is the power of God for **salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Rom 1:16 NAS)*

We proclaim the Gospel with great power because it generates a crucial lifesaving influence. This message exerts profound change—it saves, heals, delivers, and restores. In a climate plagued with demonic deception, the Gospel does not merely offer another choice among various intellectually derived and emotionally spun tales. God’s word is spirit and it is life. It wields life-transforming power distinguished from other information be it legal, political, philosophical, historical, fictional, religious, or humorous. No other message generates this kind of power and influence. It

- Instigates repentance and activate faith
- Transforms depraved sinners into the glorious Bride of Christ
- Establishes bonds of intimacy with Jesus

*For we did **not follow cleverly devised tales** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. (2 Pet 1:16 NAS)*

*But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant, but their power. For **the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.** (1 Cor 4:19-20 NAS)*

The Power of God’s Word backed with Persuasive Deeds

- The word of the cross is the power of God
- The word of God is living and powerful
- Jesus upholds all things by the word of His power
- Spiritual power demonstrates the Gospel message
- The Lord speaks with mighty power

*For **the word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it **is the power of God.** (1 Cor 1:18 NAS)*

For **the word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb 4:12 NKJ)

And **He** is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things** by the **word of His power...**
(Heb. 1:3 NAS)

And **my message** and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but **on the power of God.** (1 Cor 2:4-5 NAS)

For thus **the Lord spoke** to me **with mighty power**, and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, (Isa 8:11 NAS)

The Dynamic Power of the Message

- This message commands our attention and unique authority
- It dominates the spirit realm with supernatural influence

... **All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing**, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. (Col 1:6 NIV)

And amazement came upon them all, and they began discussing with one another saying, **“What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.”** (Luk 4:36 NAS)

Eagles are not parrots echoing trite clichés
They declare with deep conviction
The most life-giving news ever heard