

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

TREMBLE THOU EARTH AT THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD PSALMS 114

Text: Psalms 114:7

Psalm 114:7

⁷ Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

Introduction:

One problem today in churches is that more emphasis is placed on human influence than divine power.

Often, we depend more on who we know in Washington D. C. or in city hall than we do on WHO is in Heaven.

We live in a day when God's people need to become hungry to experience the power of God at work in our midst.

Hungry to know that the work that is happening among us is not a work that has been "worked up," but prayed down.

Hungry to be part of something that cannot be explained in terms of men, but only in terms of GOD!

Hungry to see divine power change people's lives, including our own!

In this Psalm, we are told about the power that God gives, as the Psalmist recounts how God demonstrated His power on Israel's behalf.

I believe that we can learn some important lessons about how we might experience God's power among us.

Notice what we are told here about the power God gives.

1. THE REQUIREMENTS OF SPIRITUAL POWER (VS. 1-2)

Psalm 114:1-2

¹ When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; ² Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

God does not bestow His power upon every person who requests it.

Instead, we are told here that there are three principles which must be applied to our lives if we are going to experience the reality of God's power at work in us.

A. Calling from God (vs. 1) – “went out of”

Psalm 114:1

¹ When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;

As a Child of God we are called to live a life that is separate and apart from the influence of the world.

That's what the Psalmist is saying when he mentions how the people were called to separate themselves from a people of foreign tongue.

The point is not that the language of Egypt was sinful, but that the thoughts of the world of the Egyptians were counter to the thoughts of God.

Remember Romans 12:2:

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When we think as we ought, it leads us to choose as we ought and consequently live as we ought.

Illustration:

A college freshman was giving her friend a tour of the college she attended.

They saw very little of the classrooms or the library as most of their time was spent observing the spots for meeting people.

She pointed out the various recreational sights in the area and the numerous places for eating out.

When they returned to the dorm, the freshman reminded her visiting friend that they needed to be quiet because her roommates were studying. Before they entered the room she whispered to her friend, "All they do is study. Honestly, I don't even know why they came to college."

Just like the college freshman had forgotten why she had gone to college, too many of God's people have forgotten why God has given us His Word.

If you want to experience the power of God at work in your life, focus on your calling to live a Christ-like life through renewing your mind according to the thoughts of God!

Note not only our calling from God but note also:

B. Communion with God (vs. 2)

Psalm 114:2

² *Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.*

The statement here about the people being the sanctuary of God is a reference to God's presence being in their midst.

Too often today God's people do not live each day do not live each day aware of His presence.

It is important that I live daily with an awareness of the fact that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit - which the Lord has taken up residence within my life!

Living each day with an awareness of His presence will motivate us to live as we should for Christ. The key to living a life with a daily awareness of God's presence is daily communion with Him.

We have considered our calling from God and our communion with God but note also:

C. Commitment to God (vs. 2b)

Psalm 114:2

² *Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.*

If we are to know much of the power of God at work in our lives, we must be willing to let the Lord's desires for us have dominion over every aspect of our being! In other words, my commitment to Christ must have priority over my commitment to anything or anyone else!

This is crucial if we are going to see God's power.

Quote:

"Everyone goes into the shrine of the heart and bends the knee to something; something has the place of supreme allegiance.

Some bow the knee to what others will say. They look around before they act. They don't act; they only react. Their god is public opinion. 'Everybody does it,' decides it for them.

Others bend the knee to themselves. Self-interest is supreme. Their first reaction is: 'How will that affect me?' Their god is self.

We could name others: money, sex, ambition, fear - any one of these may be the center of allegiance.

Everybody bends the knee to something."

When we are seeking to live separated, sanctified, & surrendered lives, we will be in a position to be led by God and empowered by God.

We have considered the Requirements of Spiritual Power note secondly:

2. THE RESULTS OF SPIRITUAL POWER (VS. 3-8)

Once these principles we just looked at are applied then God's power will be seen as:

A. Barriers Are Overcome (vs. 3-6)

Psalm 114:3-6

³ *The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.*

⁴ *The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.* ⁵ *What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?* ⁶ *Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?*

Illustration:

There is a story to the effect that a certain society in South Africa once wrote to David Livingston, "Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to know how to send other men to join you."

Livingston replied, "If you have men who will come ONLY if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come even if there is no road at all.

Many today do not experience much of the power of God in their lives because they never attempt anything that requires the power of God! Instead, let's be like William Carey, who said, "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."

As we seek to live separated, sanctified, surrendered lives for Christ, let's expect God to enable us to overcome any obstacles that might stand in the way of our accomplishing great things for His glory!

Not only will barriers be overcome but also:

B. Unbelievers Are Overwhelmed (vs. 7)

Psalm 114:7

⁷ Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

When God's power goes to work, those in the world will sit up and take notice.

Illustration:

Former Commander General John Galvin was once asked what it was like being in command of so many troops. He replied, "I feel like the director of a cemetery. I have a lot of people under me, but nobody listens."

Too many Christians are like that. They have people all around them who do not take them seriously because there is no evidence of the power of God at work in their lives. But when we see to live separated, sanctified, surrendered lives for Christ, all that changes.

Remember 1 Pet 3:15

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Not only will barriers be overcome and unbelievers will be overwhelmed but also:

C. Believers Are Overjoyed (vs. 8)

Psalm 114:8

⁸ Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

The Psalmist refers to two experiences that Israel had with obtaining water from a rock. The first is mentioned in Exodus 17:1-7, where Moses was told to strike the rock.

The second is mentioned in Numbers 20:1-13, where Moses was told to speak to the rock that he had struck the time before. These two incidents where water was obtained from the rock at mount Horeb are mentioned by the Psalmist to illustrate why believers are overjoyed when God's power is free to work in their lives.

First, they are overjoyed . . .

- At the Power of God the Redeem (vs. 8a)

Psalm 114:8

⁸ Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

The first time God produced water from the rock at mount Horeb, He had Moses strike it, which is a picture of the work of Christ as redeemer - being struck down by our sin, for our sakes, at Calvary.

When the power of God is free to work through the lives of His people as a result of their living separated, sanctified, surrendered lives for Christ, unbelievers will

be drawn to Christ! Believers will be overjoyed at the power of God to redeem, and . . .

- At the Power of God to Refresh (vs. 8b)

Psalm 114:8

⁸ Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

The second time that God produced water from the rock at mount Horeb, He told Moses to speak to it, a picture of the work of Christ our refresher. Once we know Him as redeemer, we can go to Him and speak to Him and through that communion be refreshed!

When God's power is free to work within the lives of His people, unbelievers will be redeemed and God's people will be refreshed; and all this is cause for rejoicing!

Close:

May we see the power of God in our lives personally, and as a church corporately.