

Fear is a very _____

Psalms 111:10a The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

Proverbs 14:27a The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life

Jesus had fear...Isaiah 11:3a And He will delight in the fear of the LORD

Think of a campfire or a fire in the backyard...

Spiritualize His power

Rationalize His power

Manipulate His power

Subvert His power

Sentimentalize His power

There is a sixth thing we must not do with His power — _____ it!

When we were baptized in the Holy Spirit...

Acts 1:8a but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses

Prayer Requests for this week...

For plans regarding apostolic trips into Kazakhstan, Russia (5 locations), Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Turkey, Korea and now Bulgaria

For Anchor's Girls Camp this week - staff from several churches and for Elizabeth our Administrator who is overseeing and running the 5 days

For new outreach opportunities into several major denominational churches - meeting with leaders and elders

Anchor's Boys Camp in two weeks



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Ralph Howe Ministries

"Loving God, Equipping People, Mentoring Leaders, Reaching Nations"

NEW RESOURCES THIS WEEK ON THE WEB

These are free downloads available for you on-line

The Apostles' Perspective - two weekly comments on the Christian Church posted on-line on the web site including Churchquake and one other...

"Just a Thought" - a new daily posting of thoughts and comments about life and faith... 6 a week

Regular daily blogs on a variety of topics where life and faith intersect

New articles, teachings, and other written resources for your growth and ministry

New audio teachings are posted weekly

Pictures and write-ups of ministry events and activities

Testimonies of changed lives and healing posted as they are received

SOBERING SOVEREIGN POWER

Matthew 16:13-15 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

For most their God is too small and much different than the Bible Jesus...

Mark 4:37-41 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?" They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

The way most preachers and thus believers deal with and understand this story...

The real meaning behind the story...

So how do we avoid having to deal with God's power and, more importantly, a powerful God?

How do we avoid the reality of Christ's power?

WE _____ HIS POWER

Make it a matter of personal religious inspiration

Inner psychological storms

Solving emotional problems

Helping us to see our lives more clearly

We de-power the power

WE _____ CHRIST'S POWER

Unexplained miracle power is an offense to modern, rational human beings

The miracle of the loaves and fishes

The healing miracles

Easter Sunday and the resurrection

We remove the mystery and the explain fully the story... and thus no longer have to deal with God's raw power destroying

The power of _____

The power of _____

The power of the _____

The power of the _____

Romans 1:4 (Jesus) ... was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead by the power of God cannot be understood or explained away...

It is a scandalous act of divine power that demands either total rejection or total surrender and submission

We overcome the problem of divine power in our rational world by _____

THE POWER

Say the right words, pray the Bible words....

Believe it and stand in faith...

Confess it and possess it

Isaiah 40:12-13 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? Who has directed

the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counsellor has informed Him?

The God of the Bible as seen and revealed in the Bible Jesus is utterly incapable of being manipulated by prayers, by formulas, by positive confession or positive thinking

The next way we avoid dealing directly with the power of God is we **SUBVERT HIS POWER**

We simply fold it into another gospel theme...

Book about the love of God... Amazon.com write-up:

The author distils the basic principles of Christian love and provides a new model for relationship with God, self, and others that is based not on fear and judgment, but rather on acceptance and care. (His moving insights illuminate ***the gentle nature of God's love*** and teach readers how to continue on the path of love by embracing it day by day."

This is not the God of the Old and the New Testament....

This is not the God seen in the life and ministry of Jesus who came to reveal the Father God...

The Bible Jesus' love includes "acceptance and care" but...

The fifth thing we do with the power of God (building on #4) ... is we _____

THE POWER

God loves and accepts everyone just as they are and if we just live a good life...

The true Bible God as seen in Jesus is compassionate but He is also a devouring _____ as seen in Deuteronomy 4

Exodus 23:27 (NRSV) "I will send My terror in front of you, and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come."

It is a power wrapped in majesty...

Isaiah 6:1-3 "...sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Here's my point:

God loves us so much He will not allow us to become comfortable with Him by explaining away or ignoring His SOBERING SOVEREIGN POWER

Eugene Peterson – The Message Version ... writes in one of His books:

"Will we let God be as he is, majestic and holy, vast and wondrous, or will we always be trying to whittle him down to the size of our small minds, insist on confining him within the boundaries we are comfortable with, refuse to think of him other than in images that are convenient to our life-style? But then we are not dealing with the God of creation and the Christ of the cross, but with a dime-store reproduction of something made in our image."

THE MANAGEABLE GOD OF OUR IMAGINATION

The God of the Bible has tremendous power and it to be feared...

Fear is not _____...

Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.