

Our Future and Present Power

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A few years ago, I attended a Chamber of Commerce function. On the tables were several handouts of differing colors. On the back of one of the handouts was the following saying from Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President. It really intrigued me. I had never heard it before. The saying is:

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.”

The annals of history have proved again and again that man has always abused the power given to him. Man has never used power solely for good purposes over an extended period of time. Power has a corrupting influence on human nature. It can distort reality. It can separate close friends. It can totally change a man's attitude and way of life from a loving person to a cruel despot. It can destroy a man's character.

How many of you have ever read the book “Animal Farm” by George Orwell? This was mandatory reading when I was in school. (That makes me sound so old). “Animal Farm” was a novel about animals who revolted against the farmer and created their own government and society after ridding themselves of the farmer. The novel was actually an analogy of the Russian Revolution when the animals (the Bolsheviks) took over the farm (Russia), kicked out the farmer (Tsar Nicholas), and created a new society (communism). One of the main themes of the novel was

“Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely”,

a quote attributed to Lord Acton.

Power is like a drug which has been misused by everyone who has had it. Once someone has power, human nature will push the person to maintain that power, sometimes at all costs. Again, power corrupts the mind and turns people into paranoid fanatics, such as the 20th Century dictators Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union, Adolph Hitler in Nazi Germany, Mao Tse-Tung in Communist China, and Pol Pot in Cambodia. Together, they killed well over 100,000,000 of their own people in order to stay in power.

But our Heavenly Father has called us out of this world in this present age in order to prepare us to receive power and to help His Son, Jesus Christ, our elder brother, in the future in reigning on this earth and helping to administer Jesus' governance on the earth during the 1000-year period that we all refer to as the Millennium.

Today, brethren, in my sermon entitled “Our Future and Present Power”, I want to discuss the subject of power, the power we will have in the future and the power we have right now.

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary defines *power* as “the ability to act; the capacity for action or being acted upon; capability of producing or undergoing an effect”.

The Hebrew word most often translated as *power* in the Old Testament is “כֹּחַ” koakh – Strong’s #3581 which means “strength” or “power”. This word “koakh” appears over 120 times in the Old Testament, and it is used in connection with the power of Yehovah, the power of angels, the power of nations, and the power of individual men.

The Greek word for *power* is “δύναμις” dunamis Strong’s #1411 which means “force” (literally or figuratively); “miraculous power” (usually by implication, a miracle itself). From this Greek word “dunamis”, we get the words dynamic, dynamo, and dynamite.

In today’s sermon, I would like to explore this power using three points.

Our Future and Present Power

The first point concerning power is:

1. God Our Father is the Almighty and the All Powerful One

Unfortunately, brethren, so much gets lost when we go from one language to another. Slight differences in meanings and connotations, idiomatic expressions, plays on words, humor, and cultural backgrounds and references all get lost in translating from the original language to any subsequent language.

Such is the case with the word “God”. In the first verse of the Bible, in Genesis 1:1, the third word in the Bible in Hebrew is the word “God”.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* (KJV)

Although the Hebrew words אֱל (El) Strong’s # 410, אֱלֹהִים (Elohim) Strong’s #426, and אֱלֹהָהּ (Eloha) Strong’s # 433 all appear in the Hebrew texts and are translated “God” in the English, the overwhelming majority of the appearances of the word “God” in English in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word אֱלֹהִים (Elohim) Strong’s #430.

In fact, “God” is introduced in the first scripture of the Bible in

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* (KJV)

The Hebrew word for God in this verse is *Elohim*.

Elohim is a plural form of the Hebrew word *Eloha*. This Hebrew word means “Mighty Ones”. Although *Elohim* is used occasionally in the Old Testament to refer to angels or to human judges, the word is used most often to refer to the Divine Being who was being worshipped. This word appears 2,598 times in the Old Testament.

Again, *Elohim* is a plural noun, but its verbs are conjugated in the third person singular as if it were referring to “He”, not in the third person plural such as “They”.

Throughout the Old Testament, the saints and patriarchs viewed their “God” as their divine “Mighty One”. So even the word given to describe God Our Father from the very beginning was “Elohim” – Mighty One, which automatically denotes a position of power and authority.

This position of power and authority is not conferred to the word “God” in its translation to English. To an English speaker, the word “God” has its own connotations, its own meaning, its own understanding, and its own interpretation over the centuries. And that meaning, which is brought out immediately in Hebrew, has been lost.

In writing the first five books of the Bible from Moses’ historical vantage point of the previous 2,500 or so years of Biblical history, this verse is the first instance where Moses wrote the name of Yehovah in scripture. And he wrote Yehovah’s name along with another title.

Genesis 2:4 *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, (KJV)*

The term “LORD God” in Hebrew is “יהוה אֱלֹהִים” (Yehovah Elohim), or Yehovah, the Mighty One.

In Exodus 20 Yehovah introduces a contract for living His way of life to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Our Heavenly Father introduces what we refer to as the Ten Commandments beginning in verse 2.

Exodus 20:2 *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

3) *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (KJV)*

The term “LORD thy God” in Hebrew is “יהוה אֱלֹהֶיךָ” (Yehovah Eloheka) meaning Yehovah your Mighty One.

So, Ancient Israel was to have Yehovah as their Mighty One, and they were to have no other Mighty Ones above Him.

So, even the word “God” in Hebrew – the word “אלהים” – Elohim – the Mighty One – connotes power and authority.

in Genesis 17, we read the account of where Yehovah, our Heavenly Father, introduces Himself to Abraham for the first time.

Genesis 17:1 *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. (KJV)*

The Hebrew words for Almighty God or God Almighty are “אל שדי” (El Shaddai – Strong’s #7706 – God Almighty).

In Exodus 6 Moses was told by Yehovah that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had not known Him by the Yehovah.

Exodus 6:2 *And God [Elohim] spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD [Yehovah]:*

3) And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH [Yehovah] was I not known to them. (KJV)

The Hebrew words for “God Almighty” in verse 3 were “אל שדי” (El Shaddai). This is the title by which Abraham knew our Heavenly Father. Exodus 6 shows that Abraham did not know our Heavenly Father by His name Yehovah.

Please turn with me to Job 5. We all know the story of Job, and how Yehovah allowed Satan to afflict Job, and how Job’s friends came to “comfort” him in his deep affliction. Throughout the book of Job, Yehovah is repeatedly referred to as “אל שדי” – Shaddai – the Almighty. In Job 5:17, Eliphaz the Temanite (one of Job’s friends) says these words:

Job 5:17 *Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore, despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: (KJV)*

Yehovah is referred to, simply as “אל שדי” – Shaddai – the Almighty 31 times in the book of Job.

In Genesis 48 Jacob was nearing death, and he knew it was time to bless Joseph’s sons.

Genesis 48:1 *And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.*

2) *And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.*

3) *And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, (KJV)*

In Genesis 35 we read the account of this event that Jacob referred to in verse 3 which we just read.

Genesis 35:9 *And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.*

10) *And God said unto him, thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.*

11) *And God said unto him, I am God Almighty [“יְהוָה לְאֵל” – El Shaddai]: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;*

12) *And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land. (KJV)*

Again, at least between the time of Abraham to the time of Moses, God Our Father was known as God Almighty – “יְהוָה לְאֵל” – El Shaddai.

In 2 Corinthians 6 the Apostle Paul was discussing the subject of our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

2 Corinthians 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

17) *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

18) *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (KJV)*

In verse 18, the words “Lord Almighty” in the Greek are “Κύριος Παντοκράτωρ” – Kurios Pantokrator.

As we have explored in previous sermons, “Κύριος” (Kurios) without the definite article “the” in the New Testament is the way that the Greeks translated the name Yehovah in the Septuagint (which is the Greek Old Testament) and subsequently, in Greek in the New Testament.

The Greek word “Παντοκράτωρ” (Pantokrator – Strongs #3841) means “all powerful” or “all mighty”.

Malachi 3.

Malachi 3:1 *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. (KJV)*

In verse 1, the Hebrew words for LORD of Hosts is “יהוה צבאות” (Yehovah tzeva’ot). We can read about Yehovah tzeva’ot in the New Testament in Romans 9:29 and in James 5:4, where this term was directly transliterated from the Greek, which had been directly transliterated from the Hebrew.

Please turn with me to James 5 and we will read verse 4.

James 5:4 *Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. (KJV)*

In the Septuagint, this term “יהוה צבאות” (Yehovah tzeva’ot) was translated into the Greek as “Κύριος Παντοκράτωρ” – Kurios Pantokrator.

So “Κύριος Παντοκράτωρ” – Kurios Pantokrator in 2 Corinthians 6:18 means “Yehovah Almighty” or “Yehovah of Hosts”, a consistent continuation of Old Testament references to God Our Father in the New Testament.

In my last sermon, we learned that God Our Father is referred to in Revelation 1 as the Ho Erkhomenos – the One Who is coming. But we also read in Revelation 1 that God Our Father is referred to with another title.

Revelation 1:4 *John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;*

5) And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (KJV)

So, we can gather that the Being *Who is and Who was and Who is to come* is God Our Father because that Being in verse 4 is differentiated from Jesus Christ in verse 5.

So, as we explored in the last sermon, the title “The One which is, which was, and which is to come” in Greek is “ὁ ὢν καὶ ὁ ἦν καὶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος” – ho on kai ho eyn kai ho erkhomenos, meaning that God Our Father is “the One who continues to be, the One who has always been, and the One who is coming.

But in verse 8, God Our Father is given another title which is “*the Almighty*”, which in Greek. is “ὁ Παντοκράτωρ” (ho Pantokrator), the Almighty. So, God Our Father is the Almighty and the Yehovah of Hosts.

Revelation 11:16 *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*

17) Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and was, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. (KJV)

We learned in our last sermon that the Greek phrase “which art and wast” is a translation of the Hebrew title of “Ehye Asher Ehye” in Exodus 3:14, and instead of the Hebrew title being translated as *I Am that I Am*, it would be better translated as “*I am continuing to be who I have always been.*”

The Greek words for “Lord God Almighty” in verse 17 are “Κύριος ὁ Θεός ὁ Παντοκράτωρ” – Kurios ho Theos ho Pantokrator – Yehovah the God Almighty. This is a direct translation of the Hebrew terms “אל שדי” – יהוה – Yehovah El Shaddai and “יהוה צבאות” (Yehovah tzeva’ot).

The twenty-four elders also state in verse 17 that our Heavenly Father has taken to Himself His great power.

King David wrote many scriptures about the power of Yehovah, our Heavenly Father. Notice Psalm 62.

Psalm 62:11 *God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. (KJV)*

Psalm 106:1 *Praise ye the LORD [Yehovah]. O give thanks unto the LORD [Yehovah]; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. (KJV)*

Continuing in verse 7

7) Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea

8) Nevertheless, he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. (KJV)

In his psalms, David wrote much about Yehovah’s, his Mighty One’s, power. As we jump forward in time a few thousand years, to Revelation 19, where we read about a future time that is soon to come.

Revelation 19:1 *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God:*

2) For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. (KJV)

Again, in verse 1, the word “Lord” is Κύριος – Kurios without the definite article “the” – Yehovah – God Our Father. So, the phrase “Lord our God” in Revelation 19:1 in Greek is “Κύριος ὁ θεὸς ἡμῶν” means Yehovah our God and are the exact same words as in the most important verse to Jews in the Bible in Deuteronomy 6:4, which is known as the “Shema”.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [“יהוה אלהינו” – Yehovah Elohenu – Yehovah our Mighty One] is one LORD [Yehovah]: (KJV)*

Brethren, the titles and the name of our Heavenly Father are consistent throughout the Bible, from the very beginning in Genesis to the very end in Revelation. And His name and titles show and refer to His absolute and awesome power as the Almighty and All Powerful One.

The second point in today’s sermon is:

2. God Our Father will give us incredible power in the future

Through His power, God Our Father will give us salvation into eternal life in the First Resurrection when His Son, Jesus, arrives at the earth to gather His Father’s elect.

Romans 1. The gospel of Christ, the good news of God Our Father’s spiritual Kingdom and mankind’s salvation and entry into that spiritual Kingdom for an eternity, shows the power of our Heavenly Father to give salvation to all who believe. Notice in Romans 1.

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (KJV)*

In Revelation 20, we read some very well-known verses to the brethren in the Churches of God. In a little over a week, we will be celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebratory festival of our Heavenly Father which pictures the Millennial rule of Jesus Christ on this earth. The saints will all be ruling with Him over the earth. And we will be hearing many messages about this during the Feast.

Revelation 20:4 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

5) *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

6) *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – God Our Father] and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.* (KJV)

The saints will be kings and priests unto our Heavenly Father, and we will reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:8 *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

9) *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

10) And hast made us unto our God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – God Our Father] kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (KJV)

In Revelation 2 we read Jesus' words concerning the message to the Church in Thyatira.

Revelation 2:25 *But that which you have already hold fast till I come.*

26) *And he that overcomes, and keeps My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:* (KJV)

So, Jesus will give us power over the nations to reign with Him. This will truly be a glorious time for the saints, and it will be a glorious time for mankind.

So, brethren, are you suffering severe trials? Are you suffering for keeping our Heavenly Father's commandments and all that go with them? Are you suffering for being faithful to God Our Father and to His Son, Jesus the Anointed One? Do we sometimes wonder whether it is all worth it? The Apostle Paul addresses this question in 2 Timothy 2.

2 Timothy 2:10 *Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

11) *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

12) *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:* (KJV)

So, brethren, if we suffer patiently, if we are faithful, if we are just and righteous in our daily lives, we will reign with Christ! What will that be like? Please turn with me to Isaiah 30. Have we really stopped and thought and meditated on how that really will

be like? We will work with Christ to renew the earth during the Millennium, to teach mankind our Heavenly Father's way, to teach mankind a better way to live, to steer mankind, individual by individual, so as to avoid the pathway of sin.

Isaiah 30:21 *And your ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.* (KJV)

Whose voice will that be? It will be your voice. It will be our voices.

Revelation 3 shows we will be acknowledged as God's Children -- What a glorious time!

Revelation 3:9 *Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.* (KJV)

How awesome is that? The simple fact is that our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ do not need our help to rule the world. Christ could rule the world all by Himself. But from the deep love that They both have for the saints, They will elevate the saints in front of the entire world and will let them rule with Jesus.

Just like Jesus said in Matthew.

Matthew 6:16 *That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly", our Heavenly Father will reward us openly in front of the entire world and in front of the whole Host of Heaven.* (KJV)

Brethren, we will have the opportunity and the high honor of assisting God Our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, in creating and administering a new governmental system, a new moral code, a new way of life, a new culture, and a new true worship of our Heavenly Father.

Again, God Our Father and Jesus Christ do not need our help. They do not need our help in governing the earth during the Millennium. They have the power, the skill, and the will to do it all Themselves. But They want to share with us Their reign on the earth. It is Their good pleasure to honor us in that way, because we have honored Them in this life.

So, God Our Father will give us incredible power in the future.

The third point in today's sermon is:

3. God Our Father gives us incredible power now

Although our Heavenly Father will give us incredible and unbelievable power in the future, He has already given us incredible power in this life now.

In Acts 10, when talking to Cornelius, the Apostle Peter talked about the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:37 *That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;*

38) *How God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – the God – God Our Father] anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – the God – God Our Father] was with him. (KJV)*

Jesus received power from His Father through the Holy Spirit. And that same Holy Spirit is given to each of us, just as it was to the disciples.

On the Feast of Pentecost, the disciples were to receive power from the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (KJV)*

In Ephesians 3 the Apostle Paul was exhorting the Ephesian brethren to have faith in God Our Father in the power that is working in us.

Ephesians 3:20 *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

21) *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. (KJV)*

That power working in us as “called out ones” of our Heavenly Father is the Holy Spirit. In 2 Timothy 1, the Apostle Paul encourages Timothy concerning the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – the God – God Our Father] hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (KJV)*

Paul is telling Timothy that our Heavenly Father has given us a spirit of power.

Brethren, we will have great power in the future ruling with Christ on the earth as spirit beings, as children of our Heavenly Father. But we have incredible power now.

Brethren, we have all been called by our Heavenly Father to be part of an end time work. The Apostle Paul writes that this is a work of faith with power.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (KJV)*

Saints in the past, have been used mightily to further the work of the Father. One example given in Acts 6, is Stephen. Stephen had been ordained as a deacon and was used mightily by our Heavenly Father.

Acts 6:8 *And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. (KJV)*

In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul wrote about the spiritual war that we are waging and that we must be prepared for, in order to have the power to withstand our spiritual enemies.

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

11) *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12) *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

13) *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – the God – God Our Father], that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14) *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

15) *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

16) *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

17) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God [ὁ Θεός – ho Theos – the God – God Our Father]: (KJV)*

The Greek verb in verse 13 translated as “be able to” is “δύναμαι” (dunamai – Strong's #1410) which is the verb form of the noun “δύναμις” (dunamis – Strong's #1411), which we discussed at the beginning of the sermon. The verb “δύναμαι” (dunamai) means “to have power to do something”.

So, brethren, we must put on the whole armor of our Heavenly Father so that we will have the power to withstand the trials and tests and temptations of Satan and of our evil world.

Look at 2 Corinthians 13. The Apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthian church that the power that our Heavenly Father gives us is for the edification or the building up of others.

2 Corinthians 13:10 *Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath*

given me to edification [or building up], and not to destruction [or tearing down].
(KJV)

Brethren, do we use that power to build up others or to tear down others? Are we edifying one another, exhorting one another, helping one another, forbearing one another by using the very power of our Heavenly Father's Spirit?

Our Heavenly Father gives us hope. He is the God of hope. Even though we may be in severe trials and tests, we have a hope that the world just does not have. That hope fills us with joy and with peace during our trials and tests.

Romans 15:13 *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.* (KJV)

So, brethren, through the power of the Holy Spirit, God Our Father fills us with all joy and peace. What a wonderful blessing that we have in the hope that we have!

Brethren, we have incredible power from our Heavenly Father right now.

- We have the power to be kind to one another.
- We have the power to encourage one another.
- We have the power to comfort one another.
- We have the power to show compassion and mercy to one another.
- We have the power to be patient with each other.
- We have the power to give of our blessings to others.
- We have the power to give of our time for others.
- We have the power to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- We have the power to do unto others as we would have them do unto us.
- We have the power to overcome our sins, not some of our sins – all of our sins.
- We have the power to overcome our trials and difficulties and messes of life.
- We have the power to overcome our suffering and wrongs in our lives.
- We have the power to overcome our hate and bitterness toward others.
- We have the power to reconcile with our brethren who are offended.
- We have the power to be a better husband, a better wife, a better father, a better mother, a better son, a better daughter.
- We have the power to live our lives in a way that imitates the way that Jesus Christ lived His life.
- We have the power to be a better person than we are today.

- We have the power to make time for our Heavenly Father through prayer and study.
- We have the power to draw closer to our Heavenly Father through meditation and fasting.
- We have the power to love our Heavenly Father with all our heart, soul, and mind.

So often, we await the opportunity to do big things in a big way. We are perhaps waiting for an opportunity to make a big difference. But our Heavenly Father is interested in how we do the little things, the repetitive actions, thoughts, words, and attitudes which, when accumulated together, form our very character and form the very persons we are.

Brethren, where are we on our journey in using this power, this incredible power from the Holy Spirit that our Heavenly Father, God Almighty, our Mighty One, has given to us? In doing the little things, the little acts of kindness, the little acts of selflessness, the little acts of patience and forbearance and longsuffering, the little acts of encouragement to others, the little acts of faith in the midst of trials and tests, and the little acts of love for others each and every day?

Brethren, we have incredible power today that our Heavenly Father has given us! The question is: Are we using it? Do we use it when opportunities come our way to do the little things? Or do we let those opportunities to do the little things go by as we wait to do the big things?

In today's sermon, we have explored three points concerning our future and present power:

1. God Our Father is the Almighty and All Powerful One. Our Heavenly Father has all power and is more powerful than any other being. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8 – *If God Our Father is for us, who can be against us?*
2. God Our Father will give us incredible power in the future. At the First Resurrection, we will be given immense and incredible power by our Heavenly Father as new spiritual beings to assist His Son, Jesus, in administering His government and reigning over the earth.
3. God Our Father gives us incredible power now. Through His Holy Spirit, our Heavenly Father gives us power to overcome our weaknesses, to overcome Satan and his devices, and to show love, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy to others, and to imitate in our lives the way that Jesus Christ lived His life.

Brethren, we will soon be celebrating the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the 8th Day, all picturing an age when we will have incredible power in the future to help all of mankind. But brethren, our Heavenly Father has also given us incredible power now to help those who are all around us.

And brethren, I end the sermon today with a question: What will you do with your future and present power?