

REAL POWER

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

2 Timothy 1:7-12

There are those who believe that believing in God, Jesus, heaven and hell, life after death and following the teachings of Christ is a sign of weakness and only those who are insecure, unhappy and not very intelligent need it.

In other words: "Only wimps and weak people need faith and religion...."

Now, they may be right as far as manmade religions are concerned. But they are absolutely wrong when it comes to the Living eternal God, the creator and sustainers of all things.

As a matter of fact it is absolutely the opposite. The dedicated believer and follower of Christ no longer relies only on his or her own strength and abilities, but being connected to the source of all power, wisdom and love, enjoys the supernatural pleasures and gifts that come from God through His Holy Spirit.

In 2nd Timothy 1:7-8 we read: "*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.*"

Here Apostle Paul is referring to the Holy Spirit, who indwells in the true follower of Christ.

The Holy Spirit does not generate fear in us, but rather gives us power, love and discipline. Every true believer needs all three!

POWER. God gives us a Spirit of power. There is unlimited strength at our disposal through the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul in prison and about to be martyred wrote to Timothy:
"*God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear) but a spirit of power.*"
Obviously Paul does not sound like a timid, scared man here.

Now, when a religious leader sitting safely in his or her comfortable office, home or ivory tower sends a letter or writes a book telling people not to worry or be afraid because they will be protected by the spirit that is a **theory**.

But when someone in prison and about to die unjustly writes that, that is **power**! That is real manifestation of power, which is experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit, not just a theory.

The Holy Spirit helps the believer to live and serve without fear, endure, persevere patiently, suffer and even die with dignity.

REAL POWER

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

2 Timothy 1:7-12

Apostle Paul just before he was taken to Rome to be imprisoned, he wrote to them: *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father’”* **Romans 8:15**

As for me, the Apostle says: “I can do everything through him who gives me strength”
Romans 4:13

This power was not given only for a certain period of time in the past, and only to a selected group of people. But this power was and still is available to all.
“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

This power is available to you and to me through the Holy Spirit....

LOVE God also gives us a spirit of love. Our love for God drives out all fear and makes us willing to surrender our lives to Christ, and not count the cost. The Holy Spirit then helps us to love unconditionally.

In **Galatians 5:22** we read that: *“The fruit of the Spirit is Love.”*

Our love for Christ, for the Word of God, for other believers, and unbelievers comes from God the Holy Spirit.

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” **Romans 5:5**

In fact, it is our love for others that makes us willing to endure all kinds of persecutions and abuses and repay them with kindness.

DISCIPLINE The American author Steve Paulina said: *“The more disciplined you become the easier life gets.”*

This kind of discipline does not come easy or naturally.

Our nature says act quickly, and usually our responses are based on our emotions rather than logic and love.

No matter what the circumstances are, we should act carefully, we must keep our cool, (to use a common expression.)

REAL POWER

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

2 Timothy 1:7-12

When the Holy Spirit is in control of our life, He gives us self-control to live disciplined lives. He helps us act carefully and not rashly.

Discipline actually is the same as self-control. Self-control is one of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. In **Galatians 5:22-23** we read: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

Self-control is not possible without the work of the Holy Spirit.

Of course the best example of someone demonstrating all three, **POWER, LOVE and DISCIPLINE** is Jesus Christ.

But many others have and are following in His Footsteps.

The question though is AM I, are you walking in His footsteps?

AM I, are you, experiencing the power that comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life.

The Bible says that we can receive this power.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **Acts 1:8**