

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Shemiyah — Last night Yônêq talked about the race and the great race, the first 3½ years of the great tribulation, which we are going to be facing before we flee to the wilderness. Paul talked about running in such a manner that we may win (1 Cor 9:24). We need to take it very seriously that there is a race set before us. The runner doesn't signal the beginning of the race, but the man with the gun starts the race. We need to be completely prepared.

We have to fix our eyes on our Master Yahshua, looking away from everything else that would distract us. The sin that so easily entangles us is the way we treat one another in a way unworthy of the Body of Messiah. It is amazing that our Father is preparing us for the race by speaking the same things we've always heard. It's like the Book of John — the message we've heard from the beginning, that we ought to love one another.

That's the manner in which we need to run, if we are going to win — that we would not judge one another or consider one another according to the flesh, that we would not see one another in a natural way. We will fall into it if we are not crying out for wisdom and understanding.

Acts 1:8 — Our Master did not tell them when He was going to set up His kingdom on earth, or restore Israel to be a kingdom of twelve tribes, but He said they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Eph 1:19 talks about two kinds of power; one is virtue and the other is might or strength. We have all heard about the "Pentecostal" way, that when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you start doing something outlandish, but that is not the effect of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will know how to treat each other. We will cast off the sin that entangles us.

The power of the Holy Spirit is virtue and strength. It is inherent power. The power of the Holy Spirit is an increased persuasion (faith) that engages our will and gives us the ability, the endowment of grace, to do our Father's will. He gives us faith to pray and to act, but He does not do it apart from our will. It activates our will.

Let's understand it that way. The power of the Holy Spirit is love. We can walk in love, virtue, and understanding, being empowered by faith from our Father to employ

our gifts, to do the works prepared for us. It is wonderful how Shemiyah brought that back, how we run so as to win. We will not win if we don't have the power of the Holy Spirit upon us. He affects our will to do something, to love one another, to speak to one another. You can't encourage someone without the power of the Holy Spirit. We might think the power of the Holy Spirit would be the ability to do something sensational, but we've understood it wrong.

It's a wonderful understanding to know that the power of the Holy Spirit is to enable us to love, to do good deeds, to encourage one another, to make the Body grow and increase.

David Zerubbabel — Ironically, what the Pentecostals call the power of the Holy Spirit is actually something of the world, calling attention to themselves, puffing themselves up, but not building the Body of Messiah. I'm thankful that our Father demystified 1 Jn 2:15 for us last night, putting it in the light of verse 16, and getting it out of the subjective realm. "Now let's see, if I love the world or the things of the world, the love of the Father is not in me. So let's see whether I can figure out what is of the world..." It's much easier to read the next verse, and consider whether something is *of the Father*. That connects with our own self-judgment a little more; it's more objective. If we know our Father, we know what's pleasing to Him. We won't be so likely to fool ourselves to think that something is pleasing to Him if it isn't.

Sho'er — I was thankful to hear what the power of the Holy Spirit is. It's not falling down and barking like a dog, but it is the energy to love, to care, to encourage. To run the race with endurance, we need to encourage one another, and it takes the power of the Holy Spirit to really encourage your brothers and sisters. The power of the Holy Spirit is to build up the Body of Messiah.

We also talked last night about 1 Jn 2:15-16. Anything that is not of the Father is of the world. Knowledge can be that way. You can puff yourself up with all kinds of knowledge, but does it build up the Body of Messiah? If it does not build up the Body of Messiah, it is of the world. If anything we do does not build up the Body, then it is of the world. Is it encouraging your brothers and sisters? Is it giving them the power to run the race set before us? If it is not, then it is probably of the world.