

KINGDOM REQUISITES

Matthew 11:12

12) And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

POWER and AUTHORITY

Over one billion Muslims are on earth today. This makes them the second largest religion in the world, with one out of every five humans living on this planet claiming to be devoted Muslims. Recent studies reveal that presently in America today, there are more Muslims than Methodists. The fastest-growing Muslim sect in America is demographically found among African American communities.

For the most part, American Christianity has hopelessly attempted to win the religious war through better ideas of God. They assume the primary issue is an ideological one, so they pit God against Allah, Jesus against Mohammad, and the Bible against the Koran. Their weapon of choice becomes the pen, hoping to appeal to their most important fundamental human reasoning capabilities — logic.

The Oneness Apostolic Christian Faith (the authentic church) stands on the opposite end of the spiritual spectrum by transcending the war of words and elevating truth to its most lofty precept. We contend that “a man with an argument is no match for a man with an experience.” The answer to the Muslim faith is the answer to all mankind. It can be discovered in the reality of the New Covenant experience. Initially, we look no further back in our Bible than the book of Acts, and more pointedly, Acts 2:38 for our launching pad.

The apostolic church today will never match religious wits nor academic prowess with any religious entity, especially the ever-growing Muslim faith. Our claim to legitimacy and authenticity is discovered in our biblical experience, not our academic pursuits. The answer today must be the same exact historical protocols of yesteryear. The answer is spiritual power and spiritual authority. Without these external signs in full operation among us, we become like every other man. For as many as are led by religion. No!! As many as are led by the Spirit are called the sons of God. Acts 1:8 is the prophetic ground zero for our New Covenant reality. And ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you.

Through the grace of God, this newly realized spiritual power enables us to obtain spiritual authority as we grow in faith, knowledge, and understanding. As we add to our faith (2 Peter 1:5), we cultivate the authority to exercise this newfound spiritual power toward the aggressive onslaught of evil forces. The foundation of apostolic truth is rooted in spiritual power and spiritual authority. The results are inherent — the gates of hell shall not prevail against us.

As with all good things from God, our spiritual power comes from on high. Our power is generated by the requisites of Acts 2:38. Our spiritual authority is realized in our submission to God. Power without proper authority is a reckless proposition. James 4:7 is clear on this issue. Submit yourselves unto God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. The beauty of submission highlights the tenets of authority. Total submission then unleashes rivers of spiritual power to confront hell's darkest foes. The more submitted to God that one becomes, the higher in spiritual rank they will climb. The reversing of this principle produces the obvious.

VIOLENCE vs. VIOLENCE

Power without proper authority is demonic on its face. An authority that lacks power is Laodicean, by definition. The church body at large today is cold, shallow, and indifferent. They lack both power and authority. Their refusal to live the cross-life of submission to God, the fact they refuse the stain of being yoked together with Christ, has left them pitifully bankrupt in the arena of spiritual authority. As one devil plainly stated when confronted with powerless men in Acts 19 who also lacked authentic authority — Paul I know, Jesus I know... but who are you? We can conclude from the scriptural narrative that the end results regarding these powerless imposters were embarrassingly disastrous.

The lack of daily spiritual renewal has also diminished the New Covenant experience by reducing it to a form and fashion. We depend on our arguments, posturing, and presentations rather than explosive spiritual power. If our Pentecost cannot offer us power over the devil, the world, and our flesh in virtual reality, we have no Pentecost at all. There can be no spiritual celebration. We rate no higher, nor any better, than any Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, or even our denominational counterparts without a genuine display of spiritual power and authority. We will essentially cultivate an ineffective religiosity built upon the academic creeds and traditions of men. Any such brand of Pentecost reflective of those traits becomes damnable and destructive in short order.

I Cor. 2:4-5

4) And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

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