



THE PRESENT POWER OF GOD

Sunday 16th August, 2026

Ps Dave

1. Present, Yet Un-accessed

Luke 5:17 (NKJV) - *“Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.**”*

Heal = restoration to wholeness

Throughout Scripture and history, God has never been without power. We see it manifested in the earth in different ways & degrees.

But Luke highlights a striking truth: **the power of the Lord was present before anything visible actually happened...before the physically impaired entered the room.**

- A crowd of teachers & Pharisees was gathered...enjoying or criticizing His teaching
- Nothing outwardly had shifted—**yet power was in the room.**

This reveals a profound spiritual reality:

Divine power can be present but not accessed.

“...present to heal them.” (who’s them?)

The power of the Lord was present to heal. Some needed healing in their bodies;

Others needed healing in their hearts, thinking, and relationship with God.

They may not have been physically sick, but they were not necessarily whole

Presence does not automatically equal experience.

The Pharisees sat in the same room as the paralyzed man, heard the same Jesus, and breathed the same atmosphere, yet walked away completely unchanged.

The question wasn't simply whether healing power was present—it was whether they **recognized their own need and responded to the One who was present.**

We can sit in the presence of God’s power and remain spectators to what He wants to do.

You can sit in the presence of the power that could transform you and remain unchanged because you don't recognize where you need healing.

Our families, communities, and cities do not simply need more education, counselling, or administration.

There are situations that yield only to the intervention and power of God.

- **Sovereign Power:** Belonging to God alone, exercised according to His sovereign purpose.
- **Delegated Power:** Made available to His people—to be **accessed by faith** and exercised under His authority.

2. Faith That Moves Through Obstacles

Luke 5:18–20 (NKJV)

*“Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was **paralyzed (without power)**, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. When **He saw their faith**, He said to him, ‘Man, your sins are forgiven you.’”*

Here was a man whose physical condition reduced his natural capacity.
He couldn't get himself to Jesus; he was entirely dependent on others.
But notice what activates the environment:

When Jesus looked up, **He saw their faith**.

- Where the crowd saw a barrier, these men saw a way.
- Where the door was blocked, they bypassed it via the roof.
- They refused to let proximity issues dictate their friend's miracle.

Faith was not an abstract concept to them—it had action attached to it. **Faith climbed. Faith tore away tiles. Faith lowered the helpless into the presence of Christ.**

Natural limitations do not limit supernatural authority.

God's power is never constrained by human weakness, only by our willingness to align with what He is doing.

3. Take Up Your Bed

Luke 5:22–24 (NKJV) *“Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? But that you may know that the **Son of Man has power on earth** to forgive sins’—He said to the man who was paralyzed, ‘I say to you, **arise, take up your bed, and go** to your house.’”
Immediately he rose up before them, **took up what he had been lying on**, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. [26] And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”*

Jesus makes the invisible reality of forgiveness visible through a tangible command. But He doesn't merely tell the man to *arise*—He tells him to **take up his bed**.

- That bed carried deep symbolic weight:
- **The bed** represents a condition ...**state of living that had defined the man's life**
- What had been a sign of his incapacity or inadequacy became the evidence of Christ's power.
The bed represents that which had governed his life.

When the power of Christ entered the situation, what had governed him no longer governed him.
He didn't leave his past behind; he carried it home under new authority.

When Comfort Becomes a Bed

A bed provides rest, but when clung to, it breeds paralysis.

- It is comfort that reduces life to ease.
- Comfort that avoids risk and rejects responsibility.
- Comfort that normalizes passivity.

Eventually, what once comforted you becomes the structure keeping you powerless.

When Jesus speaks, the progression is clear:

“Arise” — Step out of settled passivity.

“Take up your bed” — Assume authority over what once controlled you.

“Go to your house” — Step into restored responsibility and action.

4. **His power is not constrained by a persons natural or physical qualities but by faith, conviction & alignment.**

Ap Paul in the bible carried a power that caused the cripple to walk, prison doors to open, civil influence & shaped the early church

...yet physically unimpressive - short, bald, bow-legged, big nose, mono brow & not a good speaker...yet full of grace

At times appearing with “the face of an angel.”

Had a powerful indwelling presence!

5. **Present — Will We Access It?**

The central question facing us is not whether God possesses power. **It is whether we will move from analysing to breaking through the roof.**

Psalms 71:18 (NKJV)

*“Now also when I am old and greyhead, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare **Your strength to this (the next) generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.**”*

Our responsibility is not to preserve memories of what God used to do, but to manifest His strength in our time.

The same power that parted the sea, brought down Goliath, opened prison doors, and raised Christ from the dead is present today.

What once governed your life does not have to govern it forever—it is time to arise, pick up the bed, and move.