

# First Light

Power is a word with a true dual meaning. Mention that word to one person and get a smile as thoughts of strength or authority come to mind. Say the word to someone else and get a sneer as one is reminded of how demeaning it is to be subject to someone else's decisions, whims and treatment. It's a word that probably deep down we all want to possess but it can carry a lot of baggage with it. In the right hands we see it do a lot of good, but in wrong hands, power has been used to destroy lives, plans, temples, nations, and futures. Part of the problem with power is its limits. Seems like stronger is always better, right? More weight on the barbell and you get more powerful. More letters behind your name and you're more professional. More people answering to you and you start to feel the grip of power in your pen. But what if that kind of power is pretty much the opposite of what our Lord defined as power? What if his definition of power is more in the realm of a tsunami kept in a sack? What if his view of power is exactly what his Father uses to move us to greater patience, service, endurance and love? Is it possible that the most amazing power isn't visible at all to the naked eye? True power for a disciple of Jesus Christ is something way different than anything Einstein or Fermi or Hollywood or the NFL or Dodge or the Pentagon could dream up. For that matter, it's something none of us can quite get our head around. The power of Christ is manifested in the creaky manger, the dusty woodshop, the money-changing temple, the somber home of the centurion, the hardened road to Jerusalem, the transfigured mountain, the sweet-smelling home of Simon, the bleeding garden, the cold hall of Pilate ...and that wooden cross. In the last moments of his life on that terrible cross, he bore powerlessness as a badge - which was required of his mission. But there was one more place where he redefined power... the tomb. As he rose, he unleashed the cosmic, super-human, God-breathed power that spawns universes and is beyond any man's capacity to witness or dream. The same power that God mustered to lift his only begotten son out of that cold nasty cave is precisely the same voltage, the same dynamite, the same energy, the same spiritual magma that is at our disposal as well. So, the question to us is do we seek to be powerful or can we accept sometimes being powerless? Perhaps we are most powerful when we feel the least so. When instead of punching or cutting or maligning, we stand still and quiet and calm. It may be at that very moment, we realize that all of the power in the world isn't needed. What we need is power that is out of this world. And to think...that power has been right here with you all of the time.

I Kings 19:10-13

Colossians 1:9-14

Ephesians 1:18-23

Matthew 3:11

Romans 1:16

1 Corinthians 1:18

1 Corinthians 6:14