

FINISH LINE – FINALE

- Paul, writing to a young pastor named Timothy, told him:
- **II Timothy 3:1 – 5 (NKJV)** *But know this, that in the LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of god, ⁵HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING ITS POWER...*

FINALE – Power UP

HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING ITS POWER

- *Denying (Gr. Arneomai) – to reject, to refuse something offered, to disregard.*
- *Power (Gr. Dunamis) – strength, ability, resident power; power for performing miracles (Acts 1:8).*
- **THIS IS TWO-FOLD:** Denying the power of God that can change our personal behavior (character) and denying that Jesus left us with His power as His representatives in the earth.

Genesis 3:15 (GNT) – *I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel.*

- **Luke 4:5, 6 (GNT)** – *Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶“I will give you all this power and all this wealth,” the Devil told him. “It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone I choose.*
- **I Corinthians 2:7, 8 (GNT)** – *The wisdom I proclaim is God's secret wisdom, which is hidden from human beings, but which he had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made. ⁸None of the rulers of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*
- **THINK OF THIS:** If Satan had left Jesus alone and let Him die of old age, God’s plan would have failed. Instead, Satan illegally crucified a righteous man (Jesus) and bruised his heel, clearing the way for Jesus to bruise his head (take back his authority).
- **Matthew 28:18 (NIV)** – *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*
- **TRANSLATION:** God gave authority to Adam...Adam handed it over to Satan...Jesus took it back from Satan...Jesus gave it to us when we were raised up TOGETHER with Him!!!
- The purpose of this authority is for us... *To heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, restore brokenhearted humanity.*

John 14:12 (NLT) – *I tell you the truth, ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME will do the SAME WORKS I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*

- Jesus promised that those who believed on Him would do the SAME WORKS!!
- **John 14:10, 11 (NCV)** – *Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you don't come from me, but the Father lives in me and does his own work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done.*

- **Acts 6:8 (NLT)** – *Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.*
- **Acts 8:4 – 8 (NLT)** *But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. ⁵ Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. ⁶ Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. ⁷ Many evil^[a] spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.*
- **QUOTE:** *Jesus said that those who believe in Him would do the SAME WORKS, and we are not told that the works had an expiration date.*

Dilemma that causes people to doubt the power today: *If we have authority, why do people still die from sickness sometimes when we’ve prayed for them? Why does everything not work out for us like it did for Jesus? Why do we not experience the same level of miracles that Jesus did?*

Answer:

1. *He was thoroughbred powerful with NO CONCEPT of personal defeat. We’ve become thoroughbred powerful but must overcome years of defeated philosophy.*
2. *He understood that His power would not override another’s sin or doubt. We often attempt to undo the deadly seed sown on behalf of someone who isn’t ready to change.*
3. *He spent daily/continual fellowship with the Father. We fight to get in consistent prayer time.*
4. *He lived a life void of the creature-comfort distractions that plague our time. From our phones to emails to television to social media, we have multiple voices screaming for our time and attention.*
5. *He knew NO SIN. We are continually thankful for God’s mercy & grace.*

NOTE: *In essence, Jesus’s brand of Powerful was pure & untainted. Ours is often contaminated & confused. But we can change that!!*

Psalm 115:16 (GNT) – *Heaven belongs to the Lord alone, but he gave the earth to us humans.*

- One of the points on our Culture Code is...
- **WE ARE DEPENDENT:** We totally depend on the power of God. We refuse to rely upon man-made tricks, schemes, or gimmicks. We are creative in our approach to all things and willing to think outside the box. In all things, we acknowledge that God’s power alone can transform a life. Therefore, we rely solely on the power of prayer, the leading of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, and the anointing of God. We stand in faith for healing, provision, and protection that comes only from the power of Christ. ~ *I Corinthians 2:2-5*