

Devotion 1:

Our Father Is Powerful

Genesis 1:1—Genesis 11:32

I had a social studies teacher once explain to me what he believed was the essence of “power.” He said picture the president of the United States sitting in the oval office. If he wants a ham and Swiss on rye, all he has to do is say the word and some attendant will get it, pronto.

So the first thing that gets my attention in Genesis is the repetition of these phrases: “*And God said...and it was so.*” We see it five times in chapter one alone. (vv. 7, 9, 11, 24, and 30) When God says something will happen, it happens. No exceptions.

But, unlike us humans, He can create something *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. We need some materials such as paper, wood, or steel to make something. But not our Father. “*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep...And God said, ‘Let there be....’*” (1:2-3) Can you picture that? *That* is power!

The writer of Hebrews grasps this when he writes in Heb. 11:3: “*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*” Jeremiah adds, “*Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*” (Jer. 32:17)

Our Father’s power seems to be intricately connected to His Word. That means His creative power is still at work in the world today. Consider that God through His Word creates faith itself:

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Rom. 1:16)

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Rom. 10:17)

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (I Cor. 1:18)

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.” (I Cor. 2:4-5)

“The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.” (Ps. 29:4)

And consider this: our Father not only created the world by His Word, but He also sustains it by His Word:

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Heb. 1:3)

“I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” (Mt. 5:18)

And He sustains believers by His Word:

“It is written, ‘Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Mt. 4:4)

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (Jn. 17:17)

I realize that it will take some effort and time to read through the entire Bible. Even reading small portions requires some discipline and self-control. But do you realize what you are doing? You will see our Father’s power at work in His Word. For when our Father speaks, a universe is formed and people are saved. And by His grace, you just might experience His power firsthand in your own life and in the lives of those around you.

So keep persevering and reading, patiently and steadily, and believe this each time you do:

“As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Is. 55:10-11)

When our Father says something, it will be so.