

**Friday, June 5, 2020**

**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"**

*Romans 1: 16-17*

We live in a world where "power" is respected and weakness is often taken advantage of. For the past week there has been a "power struggle" going on in our society. It's a struggle between liberals and conservatives. It's a struggle between the masses and the individuals. It's a struggle between what should be allowed to happen and what should not be allowed. The world's definition of "power" is wrapped up in a thing called "force." It is seen as the ability to overcome rather than to be overcome. Power is craved by those who feel they have no power. And where power exists, it is sometimes abused to serve personal agendas. I happen to believe that the underlying emotion behind the lust for power is fear.

To God, power serves an entirely different purpose. To God, power exists to bring about what is good for people. The most "powerful" thing that God ever did came disguised as weakness. This Power came in the form of a baby who was placed in a manger. This Power came in the form of a young child who needed to be kept safe from a jealous king. This same Power lived an absolutely sinless life on our behalf. This Power allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross for the sins of the world. And this Power rose again from the dead!

The purpose of power is love and service. The cross of Jesus is power! It has the POWER to wipe away all of our sins. It may have looked as if those who were pounding the nails into Jesus' hands and feet were the ones with the power, but Jesus was the One in power that day. Jesus said, "No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."

The gospel has power. It has the power to snatch people from the clutches of Satan, and place them in the loving hands of God. God works His power mostly in things that appear to be weak. The Bible says, "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong."

So, we do not need to fret when it seems that evil has the upper hand in this world. Its existence is temporary and its efforts are futile. It will lose in the end.

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim