

January 17, 2021

I want to talk to you this morning about the POWER of God's way.

I believe that God is a powerful God. I grew up believing that God is powerful, I've always believed that God is powerful ... but recently ... I began to understand that God wants that POWER for me.

POWER for me! And POWER for you!

Now, power can be misused. People in powerful places can take advantage of others that are weaker, poorer, more vulnerable and this sinful habit of misusing power has led to very terrible things in the history of the world, and of our country, the United States of America. Today, however, let's talk about the POWER of God's way.

POWER used in God's way is always the right kind of POWER.

For God gave us a spirit – not of fear – but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

My oldest brother is a truck driver in the state of Washington. Most of the time as a truck driver he has been on the road alone in his truck and there has been no interpersonal conflicts in the job. But at the Dispatch Center where his truck was loaded, he often encountered conflict with a particular co-worker.

According to my brother, this coworker was a “real piece of work” and that basically means: NOT A NICE GUY. He was mean to my brother, said ugly things to my brother, made fun of my brother's God and my brother's Sabbath. So my brother avoided him whenever he could. Who wouldn't! But one day while reading his bible, he read this: “*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.*” Romans 12:20

WHAT!!! That was the day my brother realized there was a seed of hate in his heart. A seed of hate can grow into a fully blown BLOOM OF HATE and suck the joy out of your life. My brother dreaded encounters with this man – because his dislike was being transformed into hate.

So my brother decided to do it God's way – to see if God's POWER could handle this particular problem if he followed the Bible's guidance. He started bringing that mean man a Jelly Donut every day. It was a small thing ... it was just a jelly donut. What could go wrong? Worst case scenario, my brother would have two jelly donuts to eat and gain a few pounds.

However, this enemy **did** want the jelly donut and within weeks, this formerly mean and not-nice-man was reciprocating with soda pops, donuts of his own, and one day even tarped my brother's truck for him --- which is a really big, hard, sweaty and **difficult** job.

The POWER of God's way turned a mean co-worker into a **friend**. The seed of hate disappeared and encounters with this man were no longer dreaded or feared. The POWER of God's way revealed to a lonely, angry man God's true character.

If there is someone in your life that has hurt you – that has said mean things to you, that makes you feel small and little – and if you feel that hard seed of anger and hate every time you think of that person then ask God for His guidance so that His POWER can be shown.

We are not helpless in this journey of life – God's POWER is available to us whenever we call upon Him.