

A Heart That Can Discern the Times



David Wilkerson (1931-2011) May 7, 2020

When the economy collapses, jobs are lost and bills are piling up, what will people need? To be a part of a nice, fast-growing church, hearing messages on how to enjoy life? No, they'll need answers. They'll need someone with authority who can interpret what's happening around them, someone who can read the times. And they'll need a word from heaven to keep their hearts and minds in God's peace.

Jesus, though God in flesh, faced the devil as a Spirit-empowered man. He didn't fight Satan on any other grounds. Jesus' disciples had this same power: "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease" (Matthew 10:1). "I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).

The apostle Peter was made of flesh and blood, just like the rest of us, yet he wielded spiritual authority over the devil. He said to the lame man at the temple gate, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). The man was instantly healed and the religious leaders of the day recognized great power in Peter. They asked him, "By what power or by what name have you done this? (4:7).

Nowhere in the Bible do we see any suggestion that this same power isn't meant for us today. What kind of God would empower his people in the wilderness when they needed it and embolden the crowds at Pentecost and then withhold it from his last-days church, when we need it more than any generation?

God entrusts his divine authority only to what Peter calls the "hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle spirit and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:4). Paul says, "The inward man is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). Although the outward man is always on display before others, the hidden man is known only by God. The Holy Spirit is constantly at work in him, strengthening and preparing him to receive spiritual authority.

Beloved, you are being trained and matured in God's mercy and you're learning to grow in your hidden man. Trust in his Word in every crisis — and walk in your spiritual authority.

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