

## FRIDAY

### “POWER: TO BECOME SONS OF GOD”

#### SCRIPTURE:

John 1:6-18; Romans 8:14-28; Acts 4:12

Deep in their hearts, most people want to belong to God — they want to have a personal, important relationship with Him. Nothing can be more rewarding than a father-son relationship; yet we know that though God loves us, we are not automatically His sons any more than living in a house with another family makes us members of that family. There must be a definite act: either we are born into it or we are adopted into it. There is no other way.

Jesus is God’s *only begotten* Son, but He has given us the power to become sons if we fill one condition: we must believe Jesus *is* His Son.

Why? Because if we see this fact everything else falls into place, for to the Son of God nothing is impossible — not the Miracles, not the Resurrection, nor the Ascension, nor the realization that He still lives.

God knew that once we accepted Jesus as His divine Son, all the disbelief and doubt would vanish and we would be able to accept God’s offering of forgiveness, sonship and eternal life.

What greater power could there be in all the world than this power to become sons of God and heirs with our Christ?

*Prayer: Lord, help us to show others why You want us to accept Jesus as Thy divine Son. O God, grant us wisdom as we witness to this. AMEN*

## SATURDAY

### “POWER: TO BE STRONG IN WEAKNESS”

#### SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 3:1-4; 4:1-17; II Corinthians 12:9-10

Has the Lord ever asked you to do something that you were sure you were not fitted to do? Moses felt the same way when God chose him to be the man who was to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. He gave every reason he could think of not to go — “Who am *I*, that the people would follow . . . no one will believe that this is Your idea — I can’t speak in public

— please send someone else!”

And God keeps telling Moses, “I am the one who will do it . . . I will be your *power*.” Have you ever looked at someone who has done something extraordinary and thought, “How could he do that — he is so ordinary.” Christians *are* ordinary people; the only thing that makes them “extraordinary” is the fact that God happens to be using them, that *He* is working and that they are merely being His instruments.

Have you ever seen a glove lift an object with its own power? It cannot and as Christians we find that we can do little without the power of God in our lives. But with God, anything is possible — just as any glove, no matter how fragile or tough, can lift providing the hand inside is strong.

*Prayer: Dear God, through Moses You accomplished the almost impossible task of freeing two million people from one of the mightiest kings of the world. Teach me that there is nothing You cannot do through me, too, if I give myself to You. Dear Lord, be the hand in my life. AMEN*

## MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

### “POWER: TO DIRECT OUR LIVES”

#### SCRIPTURE:

I Kings 19:1-8; Matthew 11:28-30

Have you ever been so tired you wanted to just drop out of the game for a while? “Stop the world, I want to get off!” There are times when nothing seems to go right; we wish we could simply drop it on someone else’s shoulders.

God is offering us exactly that chance: “Give it to me; trust me.” Of course just as it’s difficult to hand over the wheel of our car to a driver whose ability we do not know, so it is even harder to hand over our lives to a God whom we have not taken the time to know. We think “He will drive me into a swamp; I’ll never get out — He’ll drive me to some desolate place; I’ll be alone . . . He will take me where I don’t want to go.”

And because we do not know the depth and compassion of His love for us or His knowledge of our special need we clutch our wills and continue to fret — bullying our way through life, banging fenders, getting lost, shaking our fists and exhausting not just ourselves but others, too.

*Prayer: O God, help us trust Thee with our lives. Thou hast made us and Thou hast the power to keep us. AMEN*

## TUESDAY

*“POWER: TO KEEP US IN THE MIDST OF”*

SCRIPTURE:

John 17:11-19; II Samuel 23:1-14

God has never promised to keep us from hardship or difficulty; He has promised to keep us in spite of it — in the midst of it. Even Christ, as He prayed for His disciples said, “I do not pray that thou should take them out of the world but that thou shall keep them from the evil one.”

The story of David’s life prior to his claiming the kingdom, is one of the most fabulous stories in history. Time and again, God spared David’s life in a most amazing way; he did not remove David’s problem (Saul’s anger) nor did He change the fact that for a long time David had to live as a guerrilla, hiding in the hills with a band of men — ostracized, hunted and with a ransom on his head. Yet in the midst of this terror and persecution, God continually provided for David and his followers. Why?

God had chosen David as the king to replace Saul — and nothing, no one could take David out of God’s hand. But there is another essential fact we must note: David never once took himself out of God’s hand, either. In all his fear and apprehension, David kept in constant touch with God. Time and again David would pray: “God, do you want me to do this? Shall I fight or shall I stay?” He never made a move without asking God’s guidance.

*Prayer: O God, give me a faith in Thee like David’s — a faith that trusts as a child, which does not question but simply follows, seeking Your will in all things. AMEN*

## WEDNESDAY

*“POWER TO SAVE: FROM WHAT?”*

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 1:13-23; I John 1:1-3; John 3:16

We are often embarrassed at the simplicity of the Christian faith. The intellectuals on Mars Hill ridiculed Paul, too: they thought he was a fool, that the Christ-way was absolutely ridiculous; whoever heard of a dead man making heaven possible for anyone who “believed in” him.

Yet Paul tried to tell them that this new Gospel had enormous power — literally the power of God to save.

But what is “salvation?” Why do we need to be saved — and from what?

We have all known the despondency of failure. If it is a small failure, we can manage to forget it. The larger failures leave ugliness and guilt and it is this guilt which separates us from God; like disobedient children, somehow we cannot face Him and so we turn away, bewildered, angry, afraid.

But God sent a “whipping boy” — His own Son — to take our punishment so that we might feel free once more to come back to Him. This was the “good news” Paul was trying to explain to the men on the hill that day. And when we once get the full impact and meaning of what God is offering to us, too, feel like shouting: it is relevant — it is needed — it is not ridiculous. And it is available.

*Prayer: Father, we ask that Thou wilt grant us the ability to reveal the simplicity and power of what Thou hast done for us. Make it so meaningful to us that others, too, may find it. AMEN*

## THURSDAY

*“POWER: TO ANSWER TODAY’S NEED”*

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1:24-31; John 15:1-16

“Who am I?” How often we hear that familiar question. As Christians, we should already know: the Bible answers it for us. Since we are made in the image of God, we are not merely a higher form of animal; we are spirits and souls with individual talents and desires and needs.

Amazingly, this fact answers the second most pressing question today — “What am I here for?” To glorify God. As creatures less like animal, and more like God, we are given the unique ability of expressing Him as animals and plants never could.

Is this too ambiguous to make sense? On the contrary; it is excitingly specific and very individualistic. It means that everything I am, everything I do, I do according to *my* God-given talent and ability. It has nothing to do with another’s ability or talent. It is what God fashioned me to do for Him. Which means if I am an actor, I am representing God to the world; if I am a housewife, I must be the kind of woman He would want me to be. Whatever the task — from school teacher to student, from the office to the street and around the world, I will be as near perfection as I can be for Him.

Could any motivation or purpose be greater?

*Prayer: Almighty God, how humble we feel when we realize that even before we ask these questions, Thou hast already provided the answers. AMEN*