

“THE LEADER’S POWER”

Text: II Corinthians 4:1-7

Subject: How Power Can Be Used To Build or Destroy the Work of God

Introduction

Fact: Power can create peace and build relationships; power can also be used to destroy relationships through domination, intimidation, manipulation and coercion.

Fact: Power can be used to promote ourselves without regard for others or, power can be used to promote others without regard for ourselves.

Fact: Power can be used to empower others to reach their fullest potential in God or power can be wielded for our own selfish ends.

Fact: Power can use the preaching gift to build up the saints or, power can use the preaching gift to build ourselves up in the eyes of the saints.

Fact: Power can use its position or title to “lord it over” those under our authority or, power can be used to “release” those under us to further the Kingdom of God.

In Other Words

Fact: Power can be used to bless or curse, and power abuse is an ugly transgression.

Tom L. Eisenman writes:

“The true mark of kingdom leadership is servant hood; not title, position or the coercive use of power. The kingdom leader following the examples of Christ has to be willing to last for the sake of all, actually the “slave” of all. (Pg 111 in “Temptations Men Face”)

Donald G. Bloesch writes in “The Struggle of Prayer”

“It is no easy matter to say in truth of heart, my God, the flesh still labors for supremacy.” (Pg. 134)

Dallas Willard writes in “The Spirit of the Disciplines”

“The human body was made to be the vehicle of human personality ruling the earth for God and through His power. Withdrawn from that function by loss of its connection with God, the body is caught in the inevitable state of corruption in which we find it now.” (Pg 42)

Willard further states

“We were made able to serve God in freedom, but we rebelled and in rebellion we used our independent power (in our body) against God.” (Pg 85)

Three Absolutes from Scripture about Power

I. The Meaning Of Power

Question: What is power?

Answer: Power is the ability to change situations, circumstances and influence people for good or evil.

- William Wilburforce was a Christian politician who used the power of His position to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire; it took him 40 years.

- Adolph Hitler was an evil politician who used the power of his position to murder.
- Power, like fire, can warm you or burn you.
- Power, like water, can wash you or drown you.
- Power, like electricity, can serve you or zap you.
- Power, like a gun, can enable a policeman to save a life in danger, or enable a criminal to take a life in anger.
- Power, like a vehicle, can help you travel or become a weapon when out of control.

Question: What is the source of our power?

Answer: The Greek word for **power** is DUNAMIS, a common New Testament word that is used for power and authority, which means...

...Our power is of God and has been given to the church to bring salvation and wholeness to people!

- “You will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for Me to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
- “As many as received Him, to them gave He **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” (John 1:12)
- “Remember, it is God that gives you the **power** to get wealth.” (Deuteronomy 8:18)
- “Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the **power** and the glory and the victory and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine, for thou art exalted as head above all.” (I Chronicles 29:11)
- “God has spoken once, twice have I heard this; that **power** belongs to God.” (Psalm 62:11)
- “But truly I am full of **power** by the Spirit of the Lord.” (Micah 3:8)
- “But when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, which had given such **power** unto men.” (Matthew 9:8)
- “And the angel said to Mary, the **power** of the Highest shall overshadow thee.” (Luke 1:35)
- “Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with **power** from on high.” (Luke 24:49)
- “My preaching was in demonstration of the Spirit and of **power**” (I Corinthians 2:4)
- “I will come to you and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the **power**.” (I Corinthians 4:19)
- “Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious **power**.” (Colossians 1:11)
- “For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of **power** and of love and of a sound mind.” (II Timothy 1:7)

A Clear Illustration

The light bulb is dead when disconnected from the electrical current, even though it still exists. But when connected to the current, it radiates and affects its surroundings with a power and substance that is **in it** but not **of it**.

Beloved...

- Your power comes from **God** and not of **yourself**.
- His power is **in you** but not **of you**.

Francois Fenelon wrote in 1685

“Remember that true firmness is gentle, humble and calm. A sharp tongue, a proud heart and an iron hand have no place in God’s work. Wisdom “sweetly orders all things.” Trust His way and you will grow in humility and simplicity. The Lord will show you that you have no power in and of yourself.” (Pgs 18, 63 in “The Seeking Heart”)

II. The Manipulation (Or Misuse) of Power

Fact: It’s no secret that power can create or destroy.

Richard J. Foster writes

“If money hits us in the pocketbook and sex hits us in the bedroom, power hits us in our relationships. Power profoundly impacts our interpersonal relationships, our social relationships and our relationship with God. Nothing touches us more profoundly for good or for ill than power. The power that destroys demands ascendancy; it demands total control. It destroys relationships, it destroys trust, it destroys dialogue, and it destroys integrity. Religious power can destroy in a way that no other power can.” (Pg, 175 in, “The Challenge of the Disciplined Life.”)

What The Misuse Of Power Looks Like

#1. Lucifer (Isaiah 14:11-15)

“Thy pomp is brought down, how art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning, for thou hast said in thine heart, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” (v. 11-13)

- Lucifer had power in heaven, but his power destroyed because of pride.
- Because of the mixture of pride and power, Lucifer became satan.
- Pride made Lucifer lust for supremacy:
 - He wanted to be more and have more.
 - He wasn’t content to be a creature, but wanted to be God.
 - He wanted more power, but for the wrong reason.
 - He couldn’t handle being under someone else’s authority.

Fact: Lucifer possessed **arrogant** power!

#2. Saul (I Samuel 18:1-9)

“The women said, Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very angry and eyed David from that day forward.” (Vs. 7-9)

- Saul was destroyed because of his lust for power.
- Saul (the king) was supposed to wield power, but position, title and power cannot command affection (for the people loved David).
- Saul resented David because of this. And, resentment is allowing someone you despise to live rent free in the house of your mind.
- Since Saul was powerless to control the hearts of the people, he turned in rage against David.
- Saul would rather murder than allow power to slip through his fingers.

- Saul's misuse of his power destroyed the relationship between he and David (as well as his relationship with his own son Jonathan).
- Saul couldn't handle not getting all the credit for the victories won.

Fact: Saul possessed jealous power!

George Barna quotes Tom Phillips

"When people are more concerned about their positions than the mission, degenerative forces are at work." (Pg. 236 in, "Leaders On Leadership")

- This explains Saul to me, as his own image took precedence over the fact that the enemies had been slain. (Jealousy over David fell King Saul)

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life, but jealousy rots it away." (Prov. 14:30, Living Bible)

#3. The Disciples

"And there was strife and disputing among them (the disciples) over which one of them would have the highest rank in the coming kingdom." (Luke 22:24)

Question: Why was there bickering (and a loss of harmony) among the disciples?

Answer: Suspicion of each other's motives was born on this day because each one wanted power and authority to be top-dog.

Michael Malinos wrote in 1675

"Enjoyment and inner peace are the fruits of the Divine Spirit. No man lays hold of these two elements unless he finds them in the depths of his spirit, and unless he resigns all things that come into his life as being from the hand of God."

"Keep silent and let your conversation be something that is internal. Deny and put to death your self-nature by not judging ill of anyone at any time. Your suspicion of your neighbor troubles the purity of your heart; suspicion and criticism disquiet the heart; they bring the believer out of the realm of the spirit and take away his rest." (Pg 75 in "The Spiritual Guide")

- No one wanted to be the least.
- No one wanted to be the servant of all.
- No one wanted to wash feet with a towel and basin.

Remember: If I'm not content with what I have, I'll not be content with what I want.

Also: If Calvary is not enough to motivate me where I am, nothing else will ever be enough to motivate me where I may go.

- The disciples couldn't handle someone else having more power and authority than they had.

Fact: The disciples possessed selfish power!

#4. Absalom (II Samuel 15:1-2)

“And Absalom said, oh that I were made judge in the land... so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel and the conspiracy was strong for the people increased continually with Absalom.” (Vs. 4, 6, and 12)

Question: Why did Absalom split the church?

Answer: Because Absalom wanted the power of another. (David, his father)

- Absalom, like Lucifer, convinced a group to rebel against authority (because of lusting for more power).
- Absalom, through stealth, slander and seduction, sowed seeds of discontentment.
- Absalom, like Lucifer, lured and convinced a following to oppose rightly ordained power and authority.
- Absalom’s plan was simple; find fault with the leader and arrogantly project the image that, if he were in charge, all would be well.
- Hell became a reality as a consequence of division in heaven.
- And, every time satan divides another church, he strikes again against the heart of God.

Francis Frangipane’s words warn me in his book, “Its Time To End Church Splits”.

“When we are causing strife, we are moving away from our destiny, not toward it. The ambitious soul fails to trust God for the timing and opening of appropriate doors; it spawns impatience and striving to fulfill one’s destiny. Ambition tries to create doors where none exist. Our task is to remain faithful to the place He has us in and to maintain integrity in support of others.” (Pg. 27)

“Ambition creates strife, in part, because it is rooted in fear. This fear brings striving and jealousy into the Christian’s soul, especially as others occupy positions we deem necessary for our fulfillment. (pg. 27)

“Selfish ambition walks upon two legs; envy and pride. Whenever we covet the position God has assigned to another, we are attracting the Lord’s anger to ourselves.” (Pg. 33)

“A Jezebel spirit desires to neutralize authority and take control over other people in the church. The Jezebel spirit seeks to divide, diminish and then displace the spiritual authority God had given church leaders.” (Pg. 37)

I Love These Words

“To be free from the influences of the Korah spirit, we must be content to wholeheartedly serve God where He has currently placed us. A time may come when a new order or new assignment comes to us from the Holy Spirit, but until then the Lord will not require us to challenge the authority of those over us nor divide the church so we can fulfill our religious ambitions.” (Pg. 34)

Fact: Lucifer, Korah, Jezebel and Absalom just couldn’t be patient and submissive where God put them, they wanted more power to control and command.

Watch Out

“When you begin promoting yourself, your authority comes from yourself, not from God. If you undermine the authority of the person God has placed in leadership, you are operating in the spirit of Lucifer.” (Rick Godwin, Pg 43 in “Exposing Witchcraft In The Church”)

Fact: Absalom possessed **divisive** power!

#5. Simon Magnus (Acts 8:9-25)

“Then laid they their hands on them (Samaritans) and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostle’s hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money saying; give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said unto him, thy money perish with thee...for thy heart is not right with God...repent thee...therefore of this thy wickedness.” (Vs. 17-22)

Fact: Simon was a magician in Samaria who had considerable power. (Acts 8:10)

Fact: Simon sees Peter and John lay hands on people and receive the Holy Spirit.

Fact: Simon then asks (and offers money) to have this same power to “perform” (in his own thinking).

Fact: Peter rebukes Simon for thinking he can merchandise the power of God (and Simon repents of his evil).

Question: What was the sin of Simon Magnus?

Answer: His sin was wanting to use the power of God for his own ends. (Manipulation)

- Simon was defiled in his motives and deceived in his heart.
- Simon was destructive in his desire for power to use for himself.
- Simon just couldn’t handle the truth – that God’s power exists, not to do our will (what we want) but to do God’s will (what He wants).

Remember: Merchandizing is when I empty other people to enrich myself; ministry is when I empty myself to enrich other people!

Fact: Simon Magnus possessed **manipulative** power!

#6. Samson (Judges 14-16)

“With the jawbone of an ass have I slain a thousand men.” (Judges 15:16)

Fact: Samson reveals how power is okay, until it is combined with pride.

Fact: Power (with humility) gets the job done, but power with arrogance takes all the glory and credit for itself.

- Samson possessed immense power, power given him by God.
- But one day, Samson became deceived, and boasted before his enemies:

“I have slain a thousand men.” (V. 16) **In other words,**

- He named his ministry after himself.
- He thought his power was his own.
- He believed the press releases about himself.
- He became self assured and convinced of his own importance.

Question: What happens when pride deceives a leader?

Answer: Samson’s failure teaches us all that:

Whenever I boast about what I have done (when in reality it was God's power through me) I have failed and forgotten that all power belongs to God – it may be in me but it isn't of me!

Samson forgot God's Word

“Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not.” (Jeremiah 45:5)

Fact: Samson possessed **boastful** power!

“Do you want to be great? Pick up a broom and sweep the floor.” (Mother Teresa)

#7 Diotrephes (III John 9-11)

“I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.” (v. 9)

Fact: Diotrephes loved to be first, be served and impress people.

Fact: Diotrephes loved to exercise power (or have his commands obeyed).

Fact: Diotrephes loved to be in control over everyone.

Fact: Diotrephes resented serving in the church.

Fact: Diotrephes was un-teachable; “He does not accept what we say.” (v. 9)

Fact: Diotrephes was unruly with his slanderous tongue: “unjustly accusing us with wicked words.” (v. 10)

Fact: Diotrephes was destructive in the church:

1. He became a law unto himself.
2. He was convinced that anyone who disagreed with him was wrong.
3. He tried to cram his vision down everybody else's throat.
4. He was corrupted by power because he was accountable to no one (and un-teachable by anyone else).

- Diotrephes just couldn't handle being corrected by someone who had more power (authority) than himself.

“Great leaders have teachable spirits. Great leaders know how to submit to authority. See, a lot of people have leadership inclinations. But they don't want to submit to anybody. They want to do it their way.” (Steve Farrar, Pg. 119 in “Finishing Strong”)

Fact: Two kinds of people always fail – those who listen to **everybody** and those who listen to **nobody**!

Diotrephes was a controller

- Nothing destroys morale more than the controller
- Leaders who major in control are easily detected.

Signs Of A Controller:

1. They think they have all the answers.
2. They are unable to let go of “their” baby.
3. They delegate responsibility without giving the authority to act.
4. They reverse decisions others were asked to make.
5. They keep colleagues in the dark about important decisions.
6. They refuse to give others room to contribute to the vision.

7. They will not trust others with a piece of the action (because of personal insecurities).
8. They resent it when others on the team are praised and applauded.
9. They minimize the “super teams” but magnify the “super stars”.
10. They find it difficult to be flexible, teachable, accountable, vulnerable, and transparent before others.

- **“Blessed are the controllers, for they shall inhibit the work of the kingdom.”**

Fact: Diotrephes possessed **controlling** power!

III. The Ministry Of Power

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be **of God**, and not of us.” (II Corinthians 4:7)

(Paul talks about the minister (and ministry) in II Corinthians 4:7)

- In verse 1, we do not faint because we experience God’s mercy.
- In verse 2, we chose to walk honestly before God and men.
- In verse 3, we must not mishandle the Word of God.
- In verse 4, we are aware of satan’s deceiving power.
- In verse 5, we know what it means to be a servant.
- In verse 6, we experience the glorious presence of God in our lives. (And in verse 7)

#1. We have the presence of God (the treasure) to sustain us in every season of ministry.

#2. We acknowledge that it is God’s power (never our own) that is working in us and through us to minister to people, and

#3. We never forget that our bodies are like earthly vessels made of pottery or glass. They are weak (we all have limitations) and perishable (we’re all getting older). Yet God has placed His power in us!

“The Excellency Of The Power” (v. 7) Means:

- The presence (power) of God in our bodies is His power.
- The presence (power) of God transforms and renews us.
- The presence (power) of God gives life, unction and enables us to serve with joy in ministry.

The Question Is:

- How do we cooperate with God so that His power can flow through us (unhindered) to minister to people?
- What is it (on our part) that enables God to use us over the long haul?
- How can we effectively minister His power to those who are under (and over) us in authority?
- How can we be healthy leaders who promote the common good (and not our own agenda)?

Characteristics of Genuine Power that Proceeds from God

#1 Love

“Love seeketh not her own.” (I Corinthians 13:5)

- This first mark of spiritual power, love demands that power be used for the good of others.
- Jesus proved this wherever He went, using His power to heal the sick, maimed, dumb, leper and others.
- This power of love motivates to lift, serve, encourage and build healthy people.
- This love cannot compare, compete, push, shove, demand, exploit or trample another. It flows from a heart in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

Remember:

- A biblical servant (DOULOS and DIAKONOS) is: one who advances others at the expense of themselves, cares less who gets the credit, counts it a joy to bear the cross and doesn't need to be "thanked" for their service.

"Those who take up the mantle of leadership do so for the sake of others, not for their own sake. Their concern is to meet the needs of people, not to advance their own reputations."
(Richard Foster, Pg 235 in "The Challenge of the Disciplined Life")

#2. Humility

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life." (Proverbs 22:4)

- Humility is knowing who we are "in Christ".
- It recognizes (and is fully aware) that we have nothing more than received a free gift from God:

"A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven." (John 3:27)

- Humility keeps us on our knees in prayer, dependent upon the Vine for everything.
- Humility allows the power of God in us to stay teachable and void of arrogance.

Fact: Apollos was a powerful preacher, but he was also willing to learn from others. (Acts 18:24-26)

Fact: Peter made some serious mistakes, but when confronted with his errors, he had the humility to change. (Acts 10:1-35; Galatians 2:11-21)

- Humility knows that the power is not ours, though we are given the freedom to use it.
- Humility refuses to sensationalize the ministry. It refused to dazzle people by jumping off the pinnacle of the temple. (Matthew 4:5)
- Humility knows that the greatest liberty is having nothing to prove!

"You will never know the center of God by an exalted view of yourself. The barrier is simply too great." (Jeanne Guyon in "Spiritual Torrents", pg 23)

William Law wrote these words in his classic "You Shall Receive Power" 250 years ago.

"Self is the root, the tree, and the branches of all the evil of our fallen state. We are without God because we are in the life of self. Self-love, self-glorifying and self-seeking are the very essence and life of pride; and the devil, the first father of pride, is never absent from them or without power in them. To die to these things of the self is to make the devil depart from us. But, as soon as we allow our own abilities to have a share in our good works, the satanic

spirit of pride unites with us and we begin again to maintain self-love, self-glory and self-seeking in our hearts.

All vices of fallen angels and men originate with pride of self. In other words, all our vices get their power from the atheism and idolatry of self, for self is indeed both an atheist and an idolater. It is an atheist because it has rejected God, and it is an idolater because of its own idol. On the other hand, all the virtues of the heavenly life are the virtues of humility. There is not joy or glory or praise in heaven that does not come out of humility. It is humility alone that can traverse the otherwise un-passable gulf between heaven and hell. Humility is the one thing that has led every angel to heaven, while pride is the fire that has led all the devils to hell.

So then, what is the great struggle for eternal life, or in what does it lie? It all lies in the strife between pride and humility. Pride and humility are the two master powers, the two kingdoms that strive for the eternal possession of man. All other things, no matter what they may be, are like slaves under them.”

Fact: Authority (power) without humility is like a heavy axe without an edge, fitter to bruise than to polish.

#3. Meekness:

“The meek will He guide in judgment, and the meek will he teach His way.” (Psalm 25:9)

- “Meekness” (PRAEIS) means to be gentle and not easily provoked.
- Meekness is the surrendering of all my rights to God.
- Meekness is the power of God (the treasure of His presence) in my life that allows me to...
 - Endure injury without complaint
 - Take the lowest seat at the banquet hall
 - Rejoice in the success of others
 - Embrace the cross without anger and complaint
 - Be a healthy leader and enjoy the ministry with divine peace:

“The meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” (Ps. 37:11)

So Much So That Jesus Says

“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Question: What does it mean to “inherit the earth”?

Answer: The word “inherit” means: to possess and enjoy a spiritual inheritance while you live on earth.

Fact: Many spiritual leaders live on the earth, but not all inherit the earth (or enjoy their life and ministry on earth).

Question: Why can only the “meek” leader enjoy the power of God in the ministry on earth?

Answer: Because only the “meek” leader can...

- Be spiritually healthy and live offense free
- Forgive every injury and live anger free

- Live void of self-preoccupation and self-promotion
- Stay sweet and patient under attack and affliction
- Truly inherit the earth (or enjoy life) while the proud and stubborn must live with bitterness and a “you owe me” attitude.

In Other Words

- Meekness allows us to “be grateful” to God for His grace, His calling, His cross and each other at all times.
- Meekness will allow no one to carry a bad attitude because meekness allows every cross to deepen our life message. (Pain becomes a steppingstone instead of a tombstone).

#4. Submission:

“Submit yourselves one to another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)

“Submit yourselves to those who help and labor among you.” (I Corinthians 16:16)

“Submit to those in authority, for they watch out for your soul...lest you suffer. (Hebrews 13:17)

“Be subject one to another, for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

(I Peter 5:5)

- We submit to the Father’s sovereign will (whose way is perfect).
- We submit to the Lordship of Jesus (and surrender every area of life).
- We submit to the Holy Spirit (and embrace his comfort and conviction equally the same).
- We submit to the Word of God (and allow it to change us into the image of Christ).
- We submit to one another (because in submission we experience God’s power).
- Submission recognizes that we are impoverished indeed if our world is narrowed down to ourselves.
- Submission is power because it places us in a position in which we can receive from others.
- Submission gives us access to resources outside of us.

In Other Words

- When we submit to others we have access to their wisdom, their counsel, their rebuke, their friendship and their encouragement.

It’s No Secret That...

1. Paul was in subjection to the church council at Jerusalem. (Acts 15)
2. Peter and Barnabas came under submission to Paul’s correction when they failed to extend the right hand of fellowship to the Gentiles. (Galatians 2:11-21)
3. Apollos submitted to Aquila and Pricilla when it was clear that they knew more than he in the things of Christ. (Acts 18:24-26)
4. Jesus submitted Himself to His Commander in Chief (the Father) at all times. (John 17:1-36)

“One of the benefits of working with others is that they may see things we cannot because we are too close to a situation.” (George Barna, Pg 53 in “Leaders on Leadership”)

“How will we ever harvest those profound ideas if we do not listen long, listen hard and listen often?” (Hans Finzel, Pg 261 in “Leaders on Leadership”)

#5. Forgiveness:

“Joseph wept aloud...and kissed all this brothers and wept upon them.” (Genesis 45:1-15)

Fact: Joseph was sold, betrayed, falsely accused and put on hold for 13 years.

Fact: Yet, when the opportunity came, Joseph used his power as a leader; not to retaliate but to reconcile.

- Forgiveness is power to unite with others. Why?
- Because forgiveness is the cancellation of a debt as if it never existed.
- Unforgiveness is the poison we drink while we wait for the other person to die.
- Healthy leaders are those who build with the bricks that others have thrown at them.

Fact: Joseph's forgiveness allowed God to increase his ministry (and save the nation in famine).

Fact: Stephen's forgiveness caused Jesus to "stand up" in heaven, Acts 7:56 (showing me that forgiveness on earth arrests God's attention in heaven).

Fact: David's forgiveness protected David from revenge (when he had opportunity to kill Saul).

Fact: Jesus' forgiveness from the cross pleased the Father, and allowed Him to save us from eternal damnation.

Fact: Your forgiveness of others releases God's power to heal your wounds (and be spared from ministering out of an injured spirit carrying excess baggage).

Fact: Yes, forgiveness is power, power from God; flowing through the heart that refuses to blame what someone else has done to justify carrying a wounded spirit.

Conclusion

(Brethren, let's pray for a release of God's power)

1. Power that unites us as one in love.
2. Power that deflects all glory to God
3. Power that respects each individual gifting.
4. Power that submits to delegated authority
5. Power that has no personal agenda
6. Power that forgives so that health can prevail
7. Power that releases instead of controls
8. Power that serves to advance others (never ourselves)
9. Power that trusts and crucifies all suspicion
10. Power that humbles us and brings us to our knees in prayer for each other.

"The locusts have no king, yet all of them go out in ranks." (Proverbs 30:27)

Fact: Locusts are among the smallest of God's creatures

Fact: One locust alone cannot get much done

Fact: But, when locusts team up and work together, they become a mighty force that farmers cannot stop.

(Beloved)

We will have all of eternity to boast about the victories won, but we have only a few short hours in which to win them – let's win them **together!!!**

Amen!
Bill Kirk