

Godly Power

January 7, 2018

Power: “the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events.”

Two themes from Numbers 22-25:

1. God can do the impossible.
2. God blesses His people.

How does power bend us toward the things of the flesh, the world, and the devil?

1. Masquerade
2. Control
3. Abuse

How does the Holy Spirit bend us toward Godly power?

1. Interdependence

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . .”
— Ephesians 4:11-13

2. Suffering

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
— 1 Corinthians 1:18

3. Weakness

“What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God.”
—Bonhoeffer

Power: provided by God, approached through community, suffering, and weakness, enabling those who believe to pursue godliness and abundant life (see Philippians 3:10, 2nd Peter 1:3, 1 Cor. 15:56-57)

Discussion Questions:

- The Balak/Balaam story is quite bizarre, what stands out most to you in the story?
- In environments and relationships where you hold at least some power do you have a tendency toward masquerade, control, or abuse?
- Which of the three ways the Holy Spirit uses to bend us toward Godly power do you avoid the most?

Next Sunday, January 14 — “Real Community”

What “kind” of community will rock this world? Barry shares a vision of community that is sure to put a smile on the face of God.

Thank you for your generous giving in December, which not only made up for our deficit, but brought us to approximately \$9,000 above our expenses for the year. We have an Offering Slot in the Lobby for your tithes & offerings. Tithes & offerings help support the ministry of New Harvest. Our monthly needs are \$36,445.