

POWER

December 17, 2017

Introduction: As I look around there are many people in pain, going through financial unrest, experiencing daily struggles, and in the midst of their journey it is difficult for them to see the hand of God working in their lives. We all have doubts, we wonder, we question and above all we wish for that all-important sign. "God, it would be much easier if you just let me in on your plan. Show yourself and I will believe." How often have we expected and wanted a special favor from God? It would be great to be 'The Favored One.' Wouldn't it?

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:30-45

I. I release my eyes to see God at work.

*At that time **Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-40 NIV).***

*¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶ He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "**O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.**" **So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (2 Kings 6:15-17).***

Note: God's power is unmistakable.

*¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹² I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. ¹³ Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? ¹⁴ **You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples (Psalm 77:11-14).***

II. I realize how unsafe God is.

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" (Luke 1:41-42 NIV).***

Note: God's power is to be feared.

*And **his mercy is for those who fear him** from generation to generation (Luke 1:50).*

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling (Psalm 2:11).

III. I recognize my part in God's story.

*"But **why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy"***

(Luke 1:43-44 NIV).

Note: God's power is made perfect in weakness.

Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" (Ruth 2:10).

IV. I reaffirm my desire to join God.

"Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" (Luke 1:45 NIV).

Note: God's power is defined through obedience.

²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:27-28).

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Scripture Reading: Luke 1:30-45

I. I _____ my _____ to see God at work.
(*Luke 1:39-40*) (*2 Kings 6:15-17*)

Note: God's _____ is _____. (*Psalm 77:11-14*)

II. I _____ how _____ God is. (*Luke 1:41-42*)

Note: God's _____ is to be _____. (*Luke 1:50*) (*Psalm 2:11*)

III. I _____ my _____ in God's story. (*Luke 1:43-44*)

Note: God's _____ is made _____ in _____.
(*Ruth 2:10*)

IV. I _____ my _____ to join God. (*Luke 1:45*)

Note: God's _____ is defined through _____.
(*Luke 11:27-28*)