

NEW POWER

"THE POWER OF RESURRECTION"

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth, Jan/Feb 1958)

"And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds." (Numbers 17:1-13)

God has made resurrection power available for every believer! This is a very wonderful thought, but how many of us understand the full meaning of such a great statement. I suppose we all know that the stories in the Bible are recorded in order to help us to understand deep eternal truths. From the earliest days God has been trying to show His people the truth about this same wonderful power. That is one reason why God did not give a child to Abraham, and Sarah, when they were young, but waited till they had become very old and passed the age of childbearing before He gave them a son for not only Sarah was barren but she has also become very old before the Lord gave her conception. Thus the birth of Isaac was a symbol of the power of resurrection, for God had to put a new life in the bodies of Abraham and Sarah in order to give them a child.

In Numbers 17:1-13, we have another illustration of this. There God is trying to show how that His servants are chosen by Him, and are able to serve Him only by the power He gives them. In numbers 16 we read that 250 princes rebelled against God's chosen vessels. They began to say that Moses and Aaron were not only people who had been given power or authority by God. Just as Moses and Aaron claimed to be servants of God, so they also claimed to be God's servants. They were leading men and princes among tribes, and surely what Moses and Aaron could do, they also could do. They had no understanding whatsoever of the authority God had given to Moses and Aaron. These men were not trained by men, or of human appointment, but they were men who had been chosen and trained by God. They were servants of God specially anointed and prepared for His service. That is why God was able to work through them so mightily. But those princes were utterly blind to the meaning of the anointing and power of God. They were going only by human qualifications and it is in same way that many Christians have only a human conception of the power of God. The real test of the power of God is the evidence of God actually

working in us and through us. If we believe in this power we must believe also that even where lives have been barren and unfruitful so far, that life, at the touch of God, can be like the rod that budded and blossomed and brought forth almonds. God wants each child of His to be such a rod. First, indeed, only a dry rod, but having been chosen by the Lord for a purpose, a rod that began to yield buds, blossoms, and almonds, in other words, the branch of an almond tree. In Jer. 1:11-12, we have what the almond tree stand for. God had called and chosen Jeremiah before his birth, to pronounce many judgments against the stiff-necked children of Israel, to prophesy about their coming captivity, and also how the Lord Jesus Christ would come as a branch. The people found his prophecies very hard to understand and believe, and later on he was even cast into the dungeon for prophesying. Those who heard his prophesy did not believe, but whatsoever God foretold through Jeremiah had to be fulfilled and that is why God said to him: "O! Jeremiah what seest thou?" and he answered: "I see a rod of almond tree!" Then God Himself gave His servant the meaning of the almond rod. "I will hasten my word to perform it". In other words it means that whosoever receives God's word by faith, even though he may find it hard to understand the meaning of the word or message, will find one day that word will bring forth fruit. God says he will do it, and God's words are eternal. No power on earth can change the Word of God. Matt. 24:35 Mark 13:21, Luke 21:33, Matt 5:18. "Heaven and earth may pass away". Whatsoever God has said must come to pass, must be fulfilled. How many there are even among God's children who find it hard to understand and comprehend the meaning of words by which God as spoken, even as many fail to understand the simple meaning of atonement, new-birth, redemption and salvation, but if we believe God's Word and receive it by faith, one day the same word will be literally fulfilled. Today you are like a dry stick or a dry rod, but when you come into God's hand (i.e. God's sanctuary), when you are brought to the place where God reveals to His people His word, then you will see how the power of God works deeply, fully, abundantly, and freely, and wherever you go people will see the same dry rod yielding, budding, blossoming, and bringing forth almonds. If God had so desired the very same rod could have yielded only almonds, but first it budded, then it blossomed and finally brought forth fruit. That is the common course of nature, and in the same manner the Lord will make His word bring forth fruit in your life, the fruit of your faith and obedience and through your faith the very same rod will go on yielding almonds in many villages, towns, and cities. When you go to prayer this evening say: "O! God, Oh! God, make me such a

rod, which can yield much fruit. Even though my life has been barren, and dry, and unfruitful or even though it may have brought some fruit it is not good fruit; but now Lord, from today onwards I believe Thy word can make my life fruitful for Thee”.

Those 250 princes rebelled against the chosen servants of God, because God was speaking and working through them. Because of this, those 250 princes became very jealous. Jealousy is a very terrible thing, and brings weakness and loss in many lives. Jealousy brings hatred, anger of all kinds, suspicion, murder and strife, and separation between friends and relations. We have seen how young children become jealous when they see their mothers show love to some other child. You may also have seen jealousy between husband and wife, for jealousy brings constant strifes and quarrels between husbands and wives. Even the bald-headed, grey-haired husbands are jealous of their wives, that is why we find in many homes constant strife and quarreling. The same way often happens between two friends. When a third friend comes in, there is jealousy. Many preachers have lost their ministry and power through jealousy, and many of God’s servants have lost much privilege because of jealousy. Because of jealousy some may lie, or make false and hurtful statements. If you want to be used of God, if you want your life to be like the rod blossoming and fruitful, be prepared to meet jealousy. We give you this warning from God’s word. If you have received God’s word, no doubt you find a heavenly joy in God’s work, and God’s power will work through you in your homes, streets, neighbourhood, and country. The people will see that God is using you for the saving of souls, and for helping others and they will begin to say: “Titus is not the only man that God can use or who is being used of God. We are as good as Titus, in fact we are better than him. We know more of the Bible than he does, yet look at the man. He says he knows God, and that he is God’s servant. We can do much more than he can”. Then they will begin to say things about you, and to spread stories. Even your brothers and sisters will begin to say things against you. If God has begun to work through you then surely ungodly and worldly men will begin to work against you. In Num: 17, we see that only Aaron and Moses were on the one side and the 250 princes were on the other, representative of all the tribes of Israel. Two hundred and fifty fighting against two people. “Who is Moses? Who is Aaron?” they asked. “They are making false claims. We are also men of God and servants of God”. Moses and Aaron were both men who were humble and weak before God, and rather than take revenge of any man, they fell upon their knees before God. That is the right way to

fight jealousy. We should never try to fight against such people by worldly weapons. If you are one whom God has chosen, then through jealousy your enemies are going to say many things against you. They will find fault with you, and it will not matter how careful you may be about your life, they will do their utmost to provoke and annoy you. But you must follow Moses' example, and not argue or fight with them, nor be afraid nor worry. Like Moses you must pray and call upon God, for God knows how to defend you and vindicate you. Num. 16:17, 20, 22, 30, 31. The Lord will surely judge all those men and their households who try to bring false witnesses against God's servants. Let them say what they like against you. They may spread many stories, but God has His own time and way to defend His own people. But you must not yield the temptation to speak ill against those who try to harm you, nor must you be troubled or worried when they spread stories against you, because they are saying all these things only through jealousy. There is a contrast between yourself and them. They can see the light of God shining upon your face. They know that some change has taken place in your life and they also know the power of God is working in and through you, but because of jealousy they are saying all these things. Their words cannot do any harm. In due time our Lord will judge them, so there is absolutely no reason to be afraid of them. Even though for the time being you may lose your job, or suffer loss, do not be disturbed. God Himself will surely defend His people. Num.17:3 and 6. God commanded Moses to bring the rod of Levi, and they wrote the names of the 12 tribes on the rods of the heads of tribes, and the name of Aaron on the rod of Levi. Then all the rods were placed in the Holy place and the rod bearing the name of Aaron budded, blossomed and brought forth fruit, but the other rods remained as they were. That is how God proved His servants. We too, may be called by any name, and have any amount of Bible knowledge; we may be baptized anywhere by anybody, but all these things are not going to prove that we have been chosen by God. If we want to face our enemies in the world it does not matter how strong or how many they are, we cannot fight against them, with our own knowledge, argument or other strength. Because many can defeat us by their arguments and cleverness. They can twist and twist God's words in many ways. That is not the way that we are going to prove who we are. But if we become like the rod yielding blossoms, buds, and almonds, then we shall put a stop to all murmurings, hatred, jealousy, rebellions and such like. We know beforehand that there is going to be much murmurings against us because of the new birth or the obedience in baptism, because of the desire to follow the Bible, and the determination to refuse to

follow the world; because of the refusal to put on gold ornaments, jewels or other things or to take part heathen customs. Surely, there will be murmurings against us, but we must not fight against them by arguments. We must learn to pray, by faith and everyday, "Oh! Lord, make me like Aaron's rod. Lord, I want to blossom and yield fruit. Oh, God, fulfill Thy promise in my life, verify and fulfill Thy word and give me faith for my healing, for my strength, for my wisdom" (Some sentence seems to be missing, so just filled). Claim the promises you receive from God's Word, and you will find that God will give you many promises which are hard to believe, but still you must claim their fulfillment.