

The Power of Christ

by James Smith

Jesus has all power and is able to subdue all things unto himself, and we can access this power through prayer and apply it in our lives to overcome any obstacle.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:4, Zechariah 4:6, Romans 8:37, 2 Corinthians 10:4, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 3:20, Hebrews 4:16, James 5:16, 1 John 4:4

Topics: "Divine Power", "Christian Living"

Description

James Smith preaches on the all-subduing power of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the need for divine power in all aspects of life. He encourages believers to trust in Jesus' ability to subdue all things, whether in the world, families, Sunday schools, ministries, or personal hearts. Smith reminds listeners that Jesus can transform human nature, sanctify families, empower teachers, and bring unity and holiness to churches. He urges everyone to fervently pray and rely on Jesus' omnipotent strength to overcome challenges and achieve God's purposes.

Transcript

"The Lord Jesus Christ, who is able even to subdue all things unto himself" Philippians 3:20-21

There is nothing that we need so much as power. The Lord has been teaching us this for a considerable time. We have plenty of means--but without power, they will not accomplish the end at which we aim. We have a tolerable stock of knowledge; but knowledge, without Divine energy, is ineffectual. No sinners are converted, no saints are sanctified, no churches are raised, no foes are conquered--simply by bible knowledge. There is power in the Church--or nothing would be done; there is not much power in the Church--or more would be done. God is working--but we want to see greater things. We look around us often on the masses, and feel discouraged; but when we turn to God's Word, we see there is no need for this. Jesus, our Jesus, has all power both in heaven, and in earth. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Let us carry this thought with us into the world. Look at its ignorance--how dense, how wide-spread, how dangerous. Look at its infidelity--how daring, how boastful, how mischievous. Look at its religious formality--how freezing, how stupefying, how destructive. Look at its enmity to God and goodness--how deep-rooted, how active, how powerful. Look at the world's position--in the arms of the wicked one. Is not such a view calculated to paralyze our efforts, and fill us with despondency? Yes, if we look at it from man's stand-point. But look at it from the Christian's stand-point. Go to work in it as God bids you; and if

tempted to doubt, if dispirited by the vastness of the work, or cast down by the apparent lack of success, remember that your Lord and Master "is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Aided by him--a worm shall thresh the mountains and beat them small. Accompanied by him--the feeblest laborer may face the greatest difficulty, and demand, "Who are you, O great mountain?" And with confidence exclaim, "Before Zerubbabel, you shall become a plain." Yes, yes, "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth."

Look then, Christian, look upon this poor, ignorant, infidel, formal, and wicked world; then take up the telescope of prophecy and look forward, and what a glorious change you see. The wilderness and solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. God has said it; there can be no doubt about it; for Jesus "is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Let us carry this thought into the family. Believer, your house may not be with God, as you desire. There may be much sin, much disorder, and many things to pain your mind. Look at your wayward son--at your trifling daughter; how obstinately they persevere in a course that wounds your heart, and shows their preference of evil, after all you have said and done. Your heart sinks at times. You are fearful of the worst. You think, if they should die unconverted; if they should perish in their sin--what if I should have to witness against them at the bar of God, and testify to their deliberate and often repeated rejection of Christ and the Gospel. Such thoughts and suppositions distress you; yet you have used all the means you could, and now you are tempted to give up. Give up! Never! Go on ploughing in hope, and sowing in hope. You have sown your seed in the morning, go on and sow it in the evening, for you know not which shall prosper, this or that, or whether both shall be alike good. Never doubt, droop, or yield to despondency; but remember, however careless, trifling, or wicked your relatives may be, Jesus "is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Sunday School teacher, carry this thought with you into the class room. Your children, after all the prayers you have offered, after all the means you have used, after all the hopes you have encouraged, your children are unconverted still. Some of them are indifferent; some are dull and stupid; some are hard and unimpressive. After all you have done, you see no fruit, and are ready to cry out, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain!" You are almost ready to throw up your commission, and desert your post, for you conclude that it is really of no use. Of no use! Did not your Savior say to you, "Go and teach!" Did you not go because he bade you? Do you not teach for him? Is it not his work? Is it not for his glory? Give up? No, no, never do that; but rather seize this strong staff, and say, I lean on this; "he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Servant of God! Minister of Jesus Christ! Pastor of the Church! Here is a source of comfort and encouragement for you. Look at the Church of God. What do you see? Among some, jealousies, envyings, and evil speakings. Among others, pride, worldliness, and much sensuality, Among others, selfishness, disunion, and inactivity. In all, something calculated to grieve your spirit, draw sighs from your breast, and earnest prayers from your soul. Such a lack of cooperation; such intense worldliness; such self-seeking. These things depress and discourage you. In addition to which there are so few conversions, so little decision for God, or separating from the world, among the members of your congregation. You have prayed, labored, and lived in hope; but hope deferred has made your heart sick, and you are yielding to gloom. Yield not, my brother; yield not! Grasp this thought firmly, and carry it with you into every part of your work, "He is able to subdue even all things unto himself."

When we look into our hearts, let us carry this assurance with us there. For what we discover there at times, shocks us and fills us with alarm! What coldness! What hardness! What carnality! What proneness to wander from all that is good, and to take part in all that is wicked! What desperate depravity! What seeds of corruption! What unutterable evils we discover there. Often have we been made to cry out, Can ever God dwell here? Can anyone with such a heart be the object of the Savior's love, or be at all the subject of the work of the Holy Spirit?

Nothing appears to be so desperately bad, so fearfully wicked, as the human heart. What then are we to do? Doubt? No! Question our interest in Christ? No! Sit down in gloom and sadness? No! Rather, when we see the worst of ourselves--let us hold the promise with a firmer grasp; let us look to Jesus, with more intense desire; and let us take encouragement from this glorious fact, "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself!" Yes, he can cleanse your heart--and make it pure. He can purge your spirit--and make it holy. He can purify your affections--and fix them all on God. He can sanctify you wholly, body, soul, and spirit--and present you faultless before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy.

If human nature is to be transformed; if we who bear the image of the earthy, are to bear the image of the heavenly--then Divine agency must be employed. Jesus, and Jesus only, can raise the dead, give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, strength to the weak, holiness to the depraved, and salvation to the lost! The power, necessary to subdue the stubborn will, to transform this miserable world, to regulate the disordered school, to sanctify the unholy family, to adorn and beautify the Church, and to purify and elevate the heart--is possessed by Jesus! "He is able even to subdue all things to himself."

Jesus is accessible and yields to prayer. We know where to find him. We know how to approach him. We know what to say to him. We know what will prevail with him. His disciples at Emmaus constrained him, and he went and supped with them. So may we, by fervent, frequent, importunate prayer. He will yield to the hearty, earnest, persevering prayers of his people. Let us therefore aim and strive to bring the all-subduing power of Jesus with us wherever we go. So that, if we go into the world, seeking the conversion and salvation of its poor deluded votaries, we may succeed. For what is sin--before the power of the Savior? What is the resistance of the creature--before the omnipotence of the Creator? What is Satan with all his artifice and devices--before the name and energy of the Son of God? If the Lord is with us--we shall be strong and drive him out.

If we have Christ's warrant for what we do; if we aim at God's glory in what we do; if we proceed by the rule of God's Word in doing; then, never, never, let us succumb, or yield to fear; for greater is he who is with us, than all that can be against us. "Greater is he who is in us--than he who is in the world." O wicked world! you have slain God's servants, you have rejected Christ's Gospel, you have boasted of your prowess, you have gloried in your shame, you have thought yourself to be invulnerable; but there is one who will conquer you, either by his grace, or majesty; for "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Let us set our hearts upon bringing the all-subduing power of Jesus to bear upon our families; then will our sons be as plants grown up in their youth, and our daughters will be like the polished corners of the temple.

Mother, despair not of your daughter; she may be haughty, she may treat your efforts to subdue her proud spirit with contempt; she may wring your heart, and force tears from your eyes; but the power of Jesus will subdue even her! Pray, pray! Plead, plead! Give the Lord no rest until she bows to his scepter, and sues

for pardon.

Father, do not give up your son--but try to bring him to Jesus; and if you cannot--then try and bring Jesus to him. He may choose bad companions. He may indulge in wicked practices. He may scorn all your counsel, and reject all your reproofs. He may be sunk low, very low. But Jesus can subdue him! Jesus can bring him up out of the most horrible pit, and extricate him from the miry clay! He can make the proud rebel--into a humble, obedient, subject; and the child that had almost broke your heart--your chief comfort and joy.

Teachers, set your hearts upon bringing the all subduing power of Jesus down upon your schools. Never give up a child--unless you can find a match for omnipotence. Never yield your point--until you gain it; and let that point be the conversion of every child in your class! You may be weak. Your talents may be small. Your advantages may have been but few. Your scholars may be worse than ordinary, the very riff-raff of society, the scum of the lowest parts of the town. Never mind! Pray, pray; plead, plead, plead; until the Lord shall bare his arm! "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Ministers of Christ, let us set our hearts more than ever upon bringing the all-subduing power of Jesus into our churches and congregations. There is no evil that it cannot rectify. There is no mountain which it cannot level. There is no foe which it cannot subdue. There is no work which it cannot achieve. Do we need more love, more unity, more self-denial, more active efforts, --in a word, more holiness, and more usefulness? Well, we do; then let us remember, however rough the materials, however difficult the task, however ungenial the soil, "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Or, do we look into our congregations and desire the conversion of the unconverted, the decision of the enquiring, and the entire consecration of all who know the Lord? Or, do we look upon empty seats and long to see them filled; or upon neglectors and despisers of the means of grace around us, and long to see them brought under the Word? If so, let us pray, pray; plead, plead; until the Lord opens the windows of heaven and pours us out the blessing.

Let us set our hearts upon the work more than ever. Let us consecrate ourselves to our one object more than ever. Let us cry mightily unto God, while we employ all legitimate means; remembering that "He is able even to subdue all things unto himself." And this mighty one is our master. This mighty one loves us. This mighty one is deeply interested in us and our work. This mighty one will get glory by granting us our desires.

Let us, finally, set our hearts upon bringing the all-subduing power of Jesus to bear on ourselves. This will subdue our corruptions, correct our tempers, control our lusts, strengthen our graces, brighten our evidences, beautify our lives, and fill us with the fruits of righteousness to the praise and glory of God. Heart-evils can only be subdued by divine power. Satan can only be conquered in the strength of Jesus. Only by the Spirit of Christ--can we mortify the deeds of the body, crucify the old man with his deeds, cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. Let us then, pray, pray! Plead, plead; until we are endued with power from on high, and stand forth as living speaking illustrations of the fact, that Jesus "is able even to subdue all things unto himself!"

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