

Power, Holiness, and Yeshua

By Moshe Schwab

Power¹ and holiness are associated with those who do what is right and act like God's children. Also, power and holiness are associated with the Messiah Yeshua. Part of the argument that Yeshua is indeed the holy Messiah is associated with Yeshua's powerful works which the people saw (in some instances it says Yeshua healed everyone in town – people wouldn't forget this). Also, Yeshua's holiness is associated with His resurrection. Kefa sees King David's prophecy as confirmation that Yeshua is both God and Messiah.

It says in Yochanan, "We know that God doesn't listen to sinners; but if anyone fears God and does his will, God does listen to him." John 9:31 CJB. God's power is linked to His holy people who live right.

When Israel didn't listen to God it says, "You returned and cried before ADONAI, but ADONAI neither listened to what you said nor paid you any attention." Deuteronomy 1:45 CJB. We need to listen to God and do what is right so God will hear us.

In Psalms it says that even wrong thoughts can keep God from hearing us, "Had I cherished evil thoughts, Adonai would not have listened." Psalm 66:18"

Power is associated with the prayer of a person that does what is right:

"Is someone among you ill? He should call for the elders of the congregation. They will pray for him and rub olive oil on him in the name of the Lord. The prayer offered with trust will heal the one who is ill—the Lord will restore his health; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, openly acknowledge your sins to one another, and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:14-16 CJB.

Kefa (Peter) says Yeshua did "powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through him in your presence," and He was raised from the dead. Some points from Acts 2:22-39:

- *Yeshua was from Nazareth; a place known for where the descendants of David had moved for safety.
- *Yeshua did powerful works, so we should understand that God listened to Yeshua and Yeshua is holy.
- *Yeshua's death and resurrection was part of God's plan.
- *Yeshua could not remain in the grave because He is God's holy one as prophesied by David. – again, the power of the resurrection should be associated with holiness.
- *David prophesied that Yeshua would be raised from the dead and would be from the Davidic line.
- *Kefa and many others witnessed Yeshua's resurrection.
- *Yeshua is with the Father God now and has given the Holy Spirit.
- *David said the Lord God said to David's Lord (adon) meaning that Yeshua is David's Lord. How is it then that Yeshua is David's Lord – Kefa's basic point?
- *Kefa says that Yeshua is both Lord and Messiah.² He is David's Lord and therefore both God and Messiah based on his discourse. He could not mean anything else.
- *The people Kefa was addressing were to accept the Messiah and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- *The promise of the Holy Spirit is for, "You and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." That includes us.

¹ God's power is not to be confused with evil powers backed by the power of the devil. Those powers lead people away from the true God and His Messiah. God is over all and He can protect us from evil powers through Yeshua.

² We have to understand that the writers of the New Testament portion would have been careful with the word "lord," knowing that it can mean God. In the Hebrew Matthew, we see the word for God (yud-heh-vav-heh) being used where the Greek word "Lord" is used. This means that the use of the word Lord is not honorific as some say, but means God.

Acts 2:22-39

22“Men of Isra’el! Listen to this! Yeshua from Natzeret was a man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through him in your presence. You yourselves know this. 23This man was arrested in accordance with God’s predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and, through the agency of persons not bound by the Torah, you nailed him up on a stake and killed him! 24“But God has raised him up and freed him from the suffering of death; it was impossible that death could keep its hold on him. 25For David says this about him: ‘I saw Adonai always before me, for he is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. 26For this reason, my heart was glad; and my tongue rejoiced; and now my body too will live on in the certain hope 27that you will not abandon me to Sh’ol or let your Holy One see decay. 28You have made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy by your presence.’ 29“Brothers, I know I can say to you frankly that the patriarch David died and was buried — his tomb is with us to this day. 30Therefore, since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that one of his descendants would sit on his throne, 31he was speaking in advance about the resurrection of the Messiah, that it was he who was not abandoned in Sh’ol and whose flesh did not see decay. 32God raised up this Yeshua! And we are all witnesses of it! 33“Moreover, he has been exalted to the right hand of God; has received from the Father what he promised, namely, the Ruach HaKodesh; and has poured out this gift, which you are both seeing and hearing. 34For David did not ascend into heaven. But he says, 35‘Adonai said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’ 36Therefore, let the whole house of Isra’el know beyond doubt that God has made him both Lord and Messiah — this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!” 37Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” 38Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

On a final note, we should not miss that the power of God through the Holy Spirit is passed on to those who believe in the Messiah. Yeshua Himself being powerful and holy passes on power to those who believe in Him. He said to His talmidim (disciples) just before He ascended to heaven, “But you will receive power when the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) comes upon you.” Acts 1:8 CJB. Yeshua continues to do works all over the world through His believers for mankind. “Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12 CJB.