

Purified and Empowered

Jospeh, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”) sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the feet of the apostles.
- Acts 4:36 (NIV)

Main Point: God protect the purity and power of His church by empowering

_____.

Point #1: God desires _____, not appearances.

²² But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
- 1 Samuel 22-23 (NIV)

Don’t let deceit _____ your gifts; obedience is better than

_____.

Reflection Question: What areas of my faith might look good on the outside but lack authenticity before God?

Point #2: God’s _____ authenticates His _____.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land. ² You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city.”

- Joshua 8:1-2 (NIV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

Reflection Question: How have you seen God's power bring healing—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—in your own life or community?

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.* - James 4:7-8 (NIV)

Point #3: Obedience is greater than _____.

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

Reflection Question: When has fear tried to silence your obedience to God's calling?

Point #4: God's _____ can't be _____!

I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- Job 42:2 (NIV)

For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?
- Isaiah 14:27 (NIV)

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

Reflection Question: What does it mean for you to rejoice in suffering, trusting that God's purposes are still unfolding?