

Two observations as we resume the discourse in the blessed subject this afternoon. It is obvious to all who are divinely taught and blessed with eternal life, that no power could be added to Christ as to His Deity His divine Person, and nothing could be removed from His Deity. He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich. Nothing could be taken from His Deity and nothing added to it, so the word means specifically, all power was given to Him, invested in Him in His exaltation in His sacred humanity, the Man Christ Jesus. It is a wonderful word: it is a word that is indispensable to the whole election of grace. Let us name before you the sacred meaning of the word power, though every one of you taught of God is well aware of the term. You know the power of the Spirit the power of God, the effect of divine power. You know also the withholding or the absence of the experience of divine power. What is the divine attribute power that belongs to God? It is that divine instrument by which He effects all His holy, sovereign will, and also by which He defends His Church and every one of His beloved people from all the powers of darkness, wrath, malice, enmity of Satan and men. By this blessed instrument He accomplishes all His decrees, His holy pleasure, divine will and holy purposes of grace and providential favours. It is His supreme, invincible, blessed, sacred power, an instrument divine.

Before I go further I call on you as His witnesses. Are you aware of His divine power in grace? Some will say, "Yes, I will give my testimony. I have felt the effect of His divine power to day." The divine power of His grace, love, mercy has a profound effect on immortal souls, for the Lord Jesus has power to give eternal life to as many as His Father gave Him. Divine power softens the heart, makes willing in the day of His power. Power quickens souls to life: power sustains, upholds, strengthens His people. An effusion of divine power and you become a miracle to yourself. You are His witnesses.

Let us dilate on this according to His Kingship and exaltation. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." First, in Heaven. How may it be expounded, in Heaven? It is based on His glorious victory and the accomplishing of His priestly work of atonement. What is 'all power in heaven'? First is our blessed Advocate and Intercessor, all power in heaven. It is wonderful that Christ ever liveth to make intercession for us. You have many times appreciated and valued and coveted the prayers of the people of God for you. You may have asked the Lord to cause His dear saints to pray for you. I suppose this is well known to God's eternal praise. Your spiritual mind will be turned to the Lord Jesus. He is not praying now. "I pray for them," He said when here. Did you wonder as we read this morning, if the Lord prayed for you? His prayer here is a pattern of His divine intercession in Heaven for His people. How is He our Intercessor and Advocate with the Father? By His presence with the Father for us, and as He presents the infinite, glorious merit of His Person and His priestly work of atonement. Thus He is your Intercessor and Advocate as a Demandant. An advocate or intercessor pleads the cause of others.

"But with authority He asks,
Enthroned in Glory now."

This touches all our spiritual needs, desolations, trials, weights, concerns, anxieties, exercises, all that relates to us, and according to the will of God He has all power in Heaven to intercede for us with the Father as a Demandant.

I will name the effect of it. The intercession of the Lord Jesus had included such cases as the spendthrift son, and the infamous woman who washed His feet with her tears, and so on. The lad was glad to get away from home and enjoy the world, its gaiety and pleasures, yet he was a chosen vessel. And the persecutor, Saul of Tarsus, the Lord was interceding for him. All power, and my friends, this is a word you need, prevailing power, immortal, omnipotent. All power in Heaven. This is where the great transactions were accomplished. You may be in providential difficulties and your case trying. He has all power. He intercedes for souls that there may be set before them an open door that no man can shut. All power. There may be a thousand men after a position, or no position at all. A whole vast International company creates a position for a man to fill. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Go and tell

Jesus: He will intercede for you because He has all power. You do not go to man. Cease from man, my friends, "whose breath is in his nostrils." Human nature is fickle, sometimes false. Don't go to man: tell Jesus. Flesh is sometimes hot, sometimes cold; sometimes sweetness itself, sometimes sour. And concerning your health, operations, concerns, and for your dear children in sickness, tell Jesus: all power is His in Heaven and in earth. And when your children are wayward, tell Jesus: all power is His in Heaven. He intercedes with His Father as a Demandant. "Father, I will that they also," based on His victory and His priestly work accomplished. Tell Jesus, He will intercede for you. You want to get away from flesh and blood. It is certain that God takes away props; usually all props until you have only got Christ. So tell Jesus. I remember an incident years ago that staggered me. I came back from the West Country with it on my spirit and so disturbed in my mind. God dropped a word in my heart. "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" He showed me I must cease from self. Whatever your case He has all power in Heaven as Intercessor and ~~Demandant~~ Advocate. Advocate has particular reference to the Lord's people when they sin. After they are converted and know Christ and His love and precious blood and are guilty of sin, He is Advocate with the Father. It is a wonderful thing that a poor child of God should sin and there is an Advocate going to the Father. "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Think of that and you are broken-hearted at His feet, forgiven, cleansed, pardoned, restored in soul, and

"The mercy that heals us again,
Is mercy transportingly sweet."

Remember He is King, and this relates to the ministry of angels. The Lord knows how to despatch angels for the well-being and safety of His people, as in the case of Jacob returning and the angels of God met him. He has all power in Heaven. He sends His angels and there is a wall of fire round about His people. You will bless God because you would never have received eternal life apart from all power. You would never come ^{through} life honourably and safely.

"And in earth." He has power over the whole universe, the structure of it, the vast world population, all creatures; over all the works and powers of darkness and hell itself. He has power over the elements, over

demons and the number of wicked angels in the earth's atmosphere and in the seas: in the earth especially these days. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." You will need One who has all power to defend you from devils; also to defend you from the evils of your wicked heart and the corruption of flesh and the pride of your mind. He has all power to save. He is mighty to save. O the wonder of it! "Almighty Love, arrest that man!" He has power to support you, sustain you, uphold you, protect you. He has power to make you willing in the day of His power. He has power to uphold and maintain His ministers. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." O my friends, this is a blessed word, all power. It has here particular reference to entering the ministry. "Go ye therefore. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore. Go." The same in measure relates to following the dear Lord. "All power is given unto me. Go ye therefore." He has all power to bring you safely, honourably, triumphantly through and land you in Glory. It is a word of instruction and comfort. It may strengthen your faith to believe that the Lord will do for you what seems impossible. You have looked on a thing and said, "There is nothing....Go again seven times." Why? "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Don't give up hope. "Cast not away therefore your confidence." He has power to deliver. "He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee." The beloved friends listening with soft hearts will know how they need the Lord to exercise power for them in their cases. He gives you power to pray, and He exercises power to give answers to your prayers. So let us exalt His Name together. "All power." One thing a child of God becomes aware of is his or her total insufficiency. "Without me ye can do nothing." Beloved sisters, widows, those who have lost a dear mother and father, those who are solitary, and so on, you will feel so unequal to your path and lot, as if you cannot carry the load and do not how to bear your responsibility. It is as though the Lord says with tenderness and compassion, "Remember, My child, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." You will never want any good thing. He is your Husband, Father, Friend. So let us praise Him for His message to us. All power to take you through perils and dangers, through the river and land you safely on the Happy Shore.

Blessed be God.