



May 21, 2023

### Pastor Note:

Although we didn't even know the word, we were the Kindergarten mafia, especially out in the play yard where fewer eyes were watching us. Playing on premium real estate and with the best toys in the sandbox didn't happen without our little group giving it the nod, which in turn depended on whether you had anything trade-worthy in your lunchbox or pockets. If you wanted access to the corner around the corner, the blindspot, the tribute went up. The unwritten fine print of any transaction clearly specified that whatever privilege acquired could be revoked for any reason at any time, and often was.

Power, we learn about it early in life, how to yield it and how to yield to it, how to abuse it and be hurt by it. Even before we learned how to walk, we discovered the power of being funny, the giggle, and the smile, as well as the power of the fake cry, whine, sulk, fit, punch, and occasional bite. Add a sibling and you just got enrolled in the graduate school of power and manipulation. But maybe that's just my crazy experience!

Mankind's, our experience with power is a broken one, a story of abuse, lies, manipulation, injustice, fear, violence, evil, and death. Our sinfulness, our depravity, has affected the way we think about, use, and experience power as deeply as anything, scarring all of human history up to the festering wounds of the present.

The trick is not to be on the bottom rung of the power scale, that's definitely not where you want to be, and yet where most of us reside. If you dare to climb up, don't be surprised by fierce competition from all sides, and be aware that the rungs get narrower the higher you climb. Since you already graduated from the University of Power at age six, why am I telling you things you already know? Because Almighty God invited us into a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit, including a new and different relationship, understanding, and use of power. As Christians, we are not called to perpetuate the power lessons from Kindergarten and be indistinguishable from the world around us.

The most powerful person who ever lived is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who not only created our entire universe but defeated sin,

death, and the devil. Speaking of Christ, Isaiah the prophet declared, **"He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not put out a smoldering wick; He will faithfully bring justice"** Isaiah 42:3 (HCSB). What a different use of power!

Just before His ascension, Christ commanded His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit, telling them, **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"** Acts 1:8 (HCSB). According to Jesus, Christians individually and Christians collectively, the church, are called to live out of a completely different source of power. When six weeks later the Holy Spirit descended on this waiting group of nobodies, He didn't come with loaded Brinks Trucks, didn't hand them appointments to positions of power throughout the Roman empire. Instead, He did what no earthly power has even considered, He filled all the men and women with Himself, the very presence and power of God. He bridged the greatest power differential of all time. He vested all of Himself and His power in the most ordinary and powerless people.

I haven't forgotten the power lessons I learned at home, Kindergarten, work, community involvement, and denominational engagements. Far too often I still catch myself relying on and yielding power devoid of the heart of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in me. If I want to get it right, for Christ to be glorified and shine through me, practicing the power lessons of Galatians 5:13-25 is a good starting point:

- Christ did not set me free from sin to use my freedom and power for selfish ends.
- I am always both under some power and yielding power.
- I must continually surrender to and submit myself to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- My behavior, attitudes, speech, and involvements are clear indicators of what power is in charge.
- If I want to use power properly, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are indispensable. Their presence in my thinking, attitude, and behavior is in direct relationship to my submission to the Holy Spirit and His power.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

Sermon Notes:

## PRAYER REQUEST

Health: Karen Souza, Shirley Wolfenbarger, Mabel Mayes, JoEllen, Rickie Jeffers, Willis Parrish, John King, Lee (Carolyn Jeffers father inlaw), Russ Young, that we do actually SHARE.

## SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Phillip, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray, Farney, John Boykin, Peter, Mariah Ellis, Jimmy, Shyrlee Stagner, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Mike Sharland, Noah Martin, Rebekah Wilhelmy, John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Dylan Werner, Brian Sula, Michael Thomasson, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen, Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski, Christopher Sula

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or an e-mail to: **BATTprayer@yahoo.com**

Prayers:

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# May Announcements

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.**
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Communion Sunday - May 28th  
**Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service**

Fellowship Time Snacks  
were provided

By - "*Merle's Class*"

**Thank you**

*Next week Hans' class is up!!*

- Don't forget to **check out the sermon on our**
- **website: [ldpbaptistchurch.com](http://ldpbaptistchurch.com)**
- **for you and your whole family.**  
Maybe even a neighbor ; )

A Bit of  
Humor  
Corner



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"You know, churches are like parking places:  
all the good ones are taken, and the  
only ones left are handicapped."

**Giving**

*May 14, 2023*

**Offering:**  
\$3,690.60

**Youth Camp:**  
\$75.00

**Food:**  
\$10.00

**Missions:**  
\$78.79

**Women's Bible Study:**  
\$27.19

**Attendance:**  
96

**Weekly Events**

**Sunday School/Small Groups:**

9:00 AM

**Sunday Morning Worship Service:**

10:30 AM

**Sunday Evening Worship Service:**

6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

**1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday**

**Food Ministry:**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Wednesday:**

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM  
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM  
Grief Share - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

**Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church**

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**S H A R E**



*1 Timothy 6:18*



**May 22nd - May 28th**

DAY 1 - 1 Cor. 3  
(Proverbs 22)

DAY 2 - 1 Cor. 4  
(Proverbs 23)

DAY 3 - 1 Cor. 5  
(Proverbs 24)

DAY 4 - 1 Cor. 6  
(Proverbs 25)

DAY 5 - 1 Cor. 7  
(Proverbs 26)

DAY 6 - (Proverbs 27)

DAY 7 - (Proverbs 28)

**Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.**