

## Message Of The Week

# Power, Love And Sound Mind . . . Not Fear

By MAJOR BILL LUM  
The Salvation Army

In his second letter to Timothy, probably his last message, not only to Timothy, but to Christendom, Paul boldly declares, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:6,7)

"Fear" in this usage means cowardice, timidity, inability to face reality and settle issues. This fear is destructive, debasing, devilish, self-centered and derives from three sources. (1) weakness, weariness, inability and frustration. (2) indifference, unconcern, aloofness, vindictiveness and resentfulness. (3) a darken mind filled with suspicion, prejudice, doubt, being unreceptive, warped and narrow.

\* \* \*

Jesus declared to His frightened disciples, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." These men needed power to comprehend His plan, provision and plenty for them. They needed power for the severe testing of the new life before them. They needed power to do the peculiar and remarkable work committed to them—that of witnessing to Him and to His saving grace. Such power is not limited, but available to all that wait upon the Lord. God's power calls for responsibility.

Abraham Lincoln said: "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him Power." This spiritual power is inseparably associated with the infilling of the Spirit. The "Love" is of God in that it is volitional, devotional, selfless, result of esteem, full of compassion toward

one another, even to our enemies. Love is manifested in "Caring," as exemplified in the life of Jesus as He cared for the lepers, the little children, the outcast tax gatherers, the woman in her sinfulness, the thief upon the cross.

The mind of the spirit is a calm, well balanced, sensible, prudent, disciplined mind, not a radical, disorganized, fanatical mind. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace." (1 Corinthians 14:13) This mind is not necessarily brilliant, nor highly educated, calculating, scheming, not selfish, but humble, modest and meek. The sound mind is in contrast to the reprobate mind, the fleshy, carnal, sensual mind which "cannot please God." The sound mind is "Spiritually minded," sensitive to the spirit, bringing the spiritual fruit of "life and peace."

The balance of the spirit filled man is provided in the presence of power love and a sound mind. Power alone could be autocratic, cruel, dictatorial and oppressive. Warmth and control is needed and are provided by the spirit of love and a sound mind. Love alone is weak, inept, sentimental, soft, impractical and theoretical. Love requires the balance of strength and direction. These are provided in the spirit of power and a sound mind.

Mind alone leads to self-centeredness, distant, impersonal, lacking self involvement. Mind requires the balance of devotion and ability. These are provided by the spirit of love and power.

The gift of the Holy Spirit of power and of love, and of a sound mind equals wholeness,—wholesomeness—holiness. It provides a directed, normal, wholesome, balanced, impassioned and dynamic Christian experience.