

The Mind of Terry...

His Voice - Psalm 29

For as long as I can remember, I have sung and loved the old Hymn
“Power in the Blood.”

Even now as I type I can hear the chorus: “There is power, power, wonder
working power, in the blood of the Lamb!”

The song is true, there is indeed power in the blood of Jesus. There is
enough power to cleanse you and me from all our sins.

But the blood of Jesus is not the only source of divine power. There is
mighty power in the voice of God. In fact, Psalm 29 tells us that the
heavenly beings are to ascribe (acknowledge that he has) power and
strength. To prove this is true, David focuses on just one aspect of God -
HIS VOICE.

His voice is thunderous, powerful and full of splendor controlling the
world as we know it. Not only does God control the world by His voice,
Genesis tells us that God CREATED the world with just His voice.
Imagine seeing God speak, then from nothing there comes what He just
said. Amazing!

Perhaps more amazing than the power of His voice is the compassion of
His voice. This God who is all powerful and controls all things with just
His voice loves us enough that He would speak to us in a way that pierces
our heart. To Adam and Eve it was a conversation in the Garden (Genesis
3). To Moses it was first in the glory of His power through a burning
bush (Exodus 3) but then later as a friend speaks to another friend on a
mountain top (Exodus 33). In the midst of chaos God comforted Elijah
with a still small voice (1 Kings 19). To Joseph and Mary He spoke
through the cries of a baby when He came down to earth (The beginning
of the Gospels). And to you and me He is speaking through His Son
saying all our sin and shame is paid for (The end of the Gospels).

When we hear His voice and respond, we find our life is never the same.
It is changed for the better. Sin is gone. Shame is gone. By His power He
makes us holy and acceptable.

So as is quoted in the book of Hebrews, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...”

God is speaking. His voice is powerful. His voice is calling you to a new and better life. A life with purpose and hope. History confirms the power of His voice. Psalm 29 reminds us of the power of His voice. Our response is to ascribe the power and strength of His voice by listening and obeying.

After all, “There is power, power, in the voice of the Lamb!”

Thoughts from Darren...

The Greatest News

But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.” Luke 2:10-11 HCSB

We have the same good news to share. The same Savior. The same Messiah. The same Lord. The same great joy.

I can not explain why I have such a hard time proclaiming those truths. And I am not talking about having trouble telling the person I just met in the elevator or who I am standing next to in line at Starbucks. I am talking about struggling to find the confidence to share with people I love; friends and family. People who I know are struggling. People who I know have a skewed understanding of what following Christ looks like. People who are living a life that is going to end in eternal separation from God.

Of all things, a hip-hop song, by the artist Lecrae, has given me some perspective. His song, Boasting, is based on 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Verses

nine and ten read, “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me.”

What freedom. Instead of trying to look perfect so people will see how “fixed” Christ has made me, I can be honest about my anger, my inability to find joy in things, my insecurity as a husband and father. I can be real. Then I can point to the Good News, the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord that has covered all of those things with His blood, allowing me to be more than the culmination of all of my shortcomings. That is the greatest news.