

# 2010 Autumn Series: Spiritual Power

*This is our work: to Connect people with God and  
His hope for our world.*

But what is it that disconnects us from God and His hope?

- A. Misconception of who He is and what He's like.
- B. Ignorance of His hope and His promises
- C. Distraction with other more immediate connections and promises
- D. Uncertainty about where God's at - especially when we're far off

These are the 4 reasons why we do what we do.

This is why the most important work in today's generation is to represent the Life\* of Jesus:

- a retelling of the story of God's love and faithfulness,
- a recasting of His promises for this Earth and His humanity,
- a reawakening of a greater call and a higher purpose,
- a revelation of His presentness and His power.

This year is about rebuilding a community that is able to represent these things.

We have 2 primary resources to draw from for this.

1. The first are the historic 10 commandments presented in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.
2. The second are the legendary founding stories of Genesis 1-12.

The 10 commandments have been used as fixed moral codes for legal righteousness. They have also been levied as tick-box requirements for relationship with God and, failing, this, a justification for hell fire.

However, they are neither.

Instead, these were given as the walls and gates to protect the freedom of a healthy community and a wholesome communion with God.

The first four are the outer gates that guard us from external powers. (cf. Gen 1-2)

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|--|--|-----|
| I. Bring down other gods, powers and agendas.    | (what agendas clutter your Creator's agenda in your life?)             | S P |
| II. Expose other idols, vain images and visions. | (what images superimpose on top of your Creator's image on your life?) | I C |
| III. Restore the meaning of the name of God.     | (what usages compromise the name of your Creator over you?)            | C I |
| IV. Create space to rest in His name.            | (what reasons force you to work outside your Creator's purposes?)      | K E |

The second four are the inner gates that guard us from our reactions to those external powers. Gen 3-11

- |                                    |           |             |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| V. Don't condemn one another.      | Diabolos  | Adam & Eve  |
| VI. Don't compare one another.     | Satan     | Cain & Abel |
| VII. Don't categorise one another. | Katagorea | Noah's Gen  |
| VIII. Don't commodify one another. | Evil one  | Babel       |

The last two are the high tower in which we take our stand when all else has failed. Gen 12

- |   |           |                  |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| IX. Don't be distracted from what you have been Promised. | Contented | Abraham in Ur    |
| X. Don't be ashamed of who you are Called to be           | Witnesses | Abraham in Egypt |

These laws are engagingly illustrated in case-by-case examples across the 7 legendary stories of Genesis 1-12. Much like case-law demonstrates precedent for other ruling, so these 7 stories set the precedent for the 10 commandments.

These founding stories of Genesis 1-12 span at least 2000 years of ancient history. They set the foundation for entire Biblical story as they present the reason why God finally intervened by calling Abraham. Abraham's call began another 2000 years of history that culminated in the resurrection of Jesus - God's ultimate response to the world that He called Abraham out from. If we fail to understand Genesis 1-12, we will miss the full impact of Jesus' salvation. And now, 2000 years later, if we fail to follow Jesus' revolutionary way, we will find ourselves swept along in the same disastrous spirals outlined in Genesis 1-12.

Clearly, these truths do not define our relationship with God. They do not determine our moral excellence. However, they give us firm guidance when engaging powers larger than ourselves. Their wisdom is to be applied in our Marriages. It is to be exerted in our Friendships, across Communities - wherever relationships are formed and diversity is celebrated.

And the same spirit of the law will be then free to take us beyond the law.

After all, walls and gates are only the beginnings of a city!



life 101  
foundations for living free

*Life is a wild, exciting, rich, never-to-be-repeated adventure  
We want you to live the engaging, meaningful, magical life you were created to live.  
the kind of life that is worth resurrecting.  
There are, however, forces that can entangle and entrap you.  
There is, also, power that can release and revive you.*

## Autumn 2010 Program: Understanding the Powers

Genesis 1-12 gives an incredibly contemporary, ancient perspective on the foundational 2000 years of Biblical history.

The next 2000 years following this, beginning with Abraham,

is the story of God preparing a people to bring salvation to the earth.

This is the story that culminates in Jesus' revolutionary life and death and resurrection.

But what was the problem that Jesus came to save us from?

What was the situation that prompted God to call Abraham to a different way?

If we fail to understand the crisis of this ancient civilisation, we will never appreciate the salvation that Jesus brought.

If we fail to identify the mistakes of the past, we will not even notice ourselves committing the same evils in the name of good!

Over the next Semester, we will examine the powers at work around us.

There are powers that build families, communities and cities.

There are other powers that undermine and destroy them.

These powers all work in us, through us, upon us, around us.

We have all experienced them and at times, resisted them, and at other times, used them for ourselves.

As we start a new decade, it is vital that we understand them

- so that we can cooperate with the Good and allow the Evil to be crushed under our feet.

### Sunday Lectures

10am - 12:15pm

Basement, Arrow on Swanston

7<sup>th</sup> March Command I & II: The Goodness of God

14<sup>th</sup> March Command III & IV: The Purpose of Creation

21<sup>st</sup> March Command V: The Evil of Satan

28<sup>th</sup> March Command VI: The Power of Sin

4<sup>th</sup> April Easter:

11<sup>th</sup> April Command VII: The Wickedness of the System

18<sup>th</sup> April Command VIII: The Lights of the City

25<sup>th</sup> April Command IX: The Way of Faith

2<sup>nd</sup> May Command X: The Stand of a Witness

9<sup>th</sup> May Jesus' Command: The People of the Promise

### Wednesday Discussions

7pm - 9.30pm

10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arrow on Swanston

3<sup>rd</sup> March Intro: The Biblical Story

10<sup>th</sup> March Gen 1: The Creation Poem

17<sup>th</sup> March Gen 2: The Creation Story

24<sup>th</sup> March Gen 3: The Story of Adam & Eve

31<sup>st</sup> March Gen 4: The Story of Cain & Abel

7<sup>th</sup> April Gen 1-4: The Players so far...

14<sup>th</sup> April Gen 6: The Story of Noah's Generation

21<sup>st</sup> April Gen 11: The Story of Babel

28<sup>th</sup> April Gen 12: The Story of Abram

5<sup>th</sup> May Gen 12: Abram in Exile

12<sup>th</sup> May Gen 15: Abram's in the Land

# 2010 Autumn Series: Spiritual Power

Genesis 1-12:  
The 10 Commandments of Community Life  
101: Foundations for Living Free

God is seeking people on earth

upon whom He can build healthy families,  
strong communities,  
cities of refuge

in the midst of a world that is utilitarian,  
consumeristic,  
individualistic  
and escapist.

It is through such people that God would transform the cities of the world -  
by planting them like wheat amongst weeds,  
like mustard seeds,  
like yeast in dough.

They are to be vessels within which He can pour out His spirit.  
They are to be beachheads of His Kingdom's advance.  
They are to be new creatures forming into a body He will inhabit  
They are to be signposts pointing towards the Next Age.

For this cause, we have been created by God,

bought by the blood of Jesus,  
empowered by His Holy Spirit and  
placed together in the city of Melbourne.

If we are to fulfil our purpose in our generation,  
our first agenda must not be about our own security, or our comfort.  
We are not seeking new ways to 'run' a traditional ministry,  
or to 'grow' a standard charismatic congregation.

We must first learn to be attentive to the Power of God at work within us.  
We must secondly understand the Powers that work against God's work within us.  
And then, we must thirdly, give our lives to working with God, against the enemy.

To help us in this foundational work we have three resources:

1. The foundational story of the first 2000 years of Bible History: Genesis 1-12. Before God begins His work with Israel, the Genesis writer sets the scene by describing the powers that they would have to contend with. We will work through these founding stories and will discover that they describe us in 2100 AD just as accurately as they described the world 6000 years ago.
2. The 10 commandments given to Moses. God gave Adam 1 command to warn him about the forces he would have to deal with in the garden. God gave Moses 10 commandments to warn him about the forces the people of Israel would face in the promised land. We will walk through each commandment one week at a time to prepare us to face the forces in the land that we have been called to.
3. The 101: Foundations for living free course material. Over the past 4 years, many of us have taught, discussed, wrestled with the truths of 101. We have sought to reexamine historical and biblical texts, and we have tried to find ways to describe these ancient truths in postmodern paradigms and nonreligious categories. We will present fresh perspectives on Sunday morning, hopefully to provoke fresh thought. And we would invite you to join us on Wednesday evening to study the Scriptures together in more depth for ourselves.

May our Creator build us up to be a people who can truly point the way to His Kingdom for our city.