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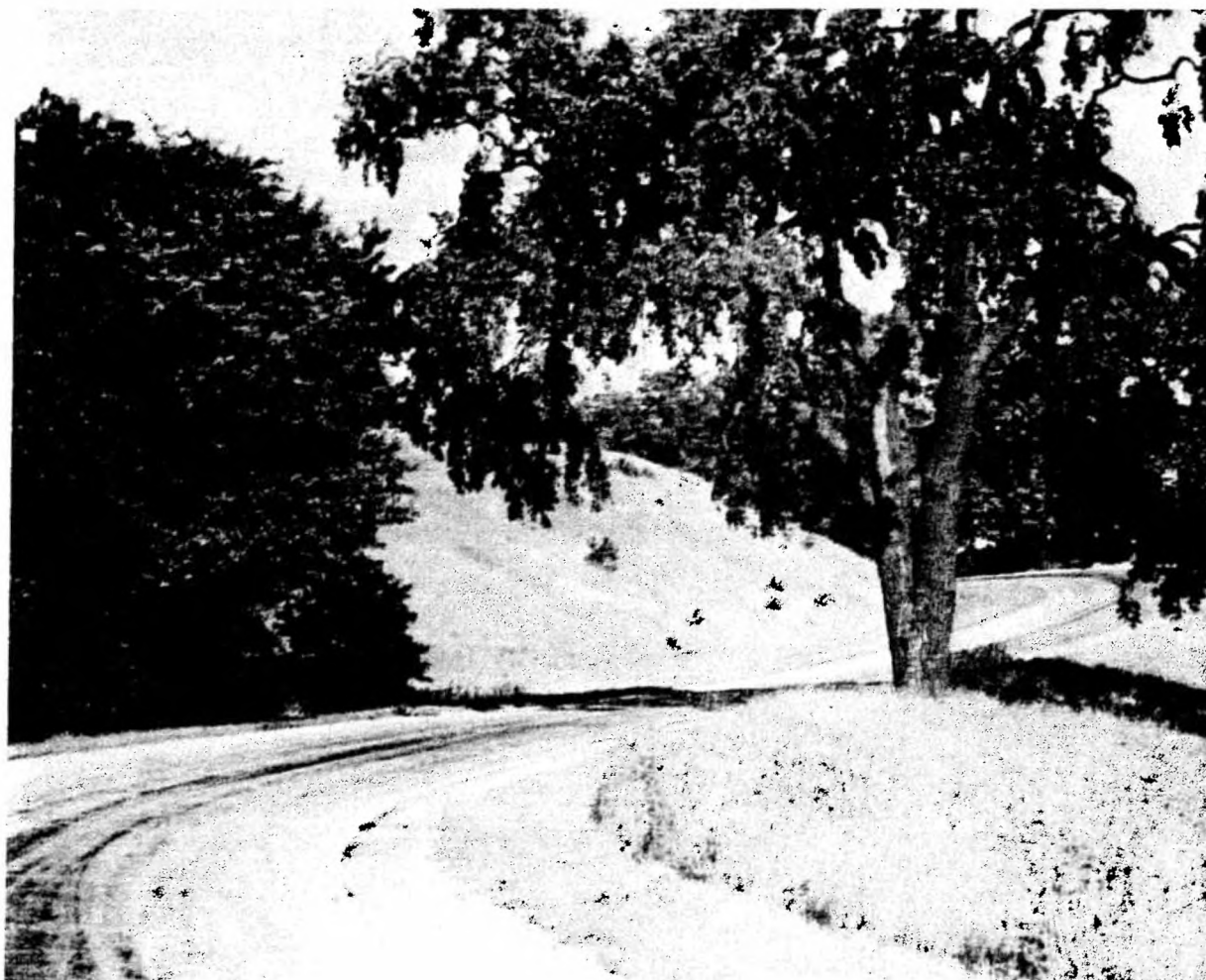
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The Road to Attainment Series

LESSON FOUR

THE ROAD TO POWER

Mayan Revelation Number 296

A STUDY OF POWER

WAYS TO PERSONAL POWER

SCIENTIFIC POWER

CONCLUSION

AFFIRMATION

BELOVED PERFECTOR:

All of us are pilgrims on the Road to Power. We want the quality in our personality which will make us individuals who possess inner strength. We are uncomfortable when we are victimized by countless fears, when we are conscious of weaknesses in our bodies, and when we are beset by doubts concerning the final triumph of the right. We eagerly strive for power to control and undergird our personal lives.

In this Lesson we will examine the factors that make for a power-filled life. We will look for the road that anyone can follow, but which so often is neglected.

You need to begin this Lesson by asking the question: Do I really want to be a person of power, or am I satisfied to accept my weaknesses as inevitable? If you are not eager for greater strength than you now possess, it is futile to begin the journey for the road may then seem too steep, too difficult to attempt. But, if you have a hopeful and confident longing for more power, by which you may live triumphantly, then the road ahead will become a challenge to your best.

PRAYER

O Eternal God, Thou art the Source of all power. Give us wisdom this day to live by the power Thou hast made available to us. Forgive our striving for power by which we may exert influence over others, yet neglect the strength by which we may become what Thou wouldst have us to be. In our weakness, make us strong. May Thy Power fill our lives until we live without fear, and walk without anxiety. It is by Thy Grace that we are made strong. In Jesus' name. Amen.



A STUDY OF POWER

THE word "power" has many meanings and associations as it is used in this generation. It is important that we should examine the nature of power as it is twisted and misused before we can rightly assess the kind of power we are able to appropriate for our daily adventure of living.

Men have often striven to find satisfaction in life by acquiring power. List the dictators through the centuries and you find a group of miserable men - men whose minds are a seething caldron of bitterness, hate, and revenge. Such men have sometimes gained power, but they rarely know happiness.

Those who have power in financial circles often have an uneasiness because of the dread that financial upheavals will mean the loss of their fortunes. And political despots have a gloomy anticipation that the people whom they count on for

support will throw off the yoke of oppression. They are conscious that the day may be at hand when they will have to pay the penalty for the perversion of power. The possession of absolute power makes it inevitable that the power will be perverted.

The modern disciple of power can say with the Roman tyrant Tiberius, "I hold a wolf by the ears." This misuse of power not only fails to produce happiness for the one who possesses it, but it results in unhappiness for many others. We must recognize, however, that there is a type of power that is one of the ingredients of happiness. The power Jesus possessed brought joy to other lives. The power that is available to us is no less significant as a key to our happiness.

Power is one of the gifts of the Divine Creator to human beings. Man either develops or degrades this divine gift. When he possesses this power he brings either joy or hardship to his fellowmen. Apart from what God does for him man could not achieve a character capable of happiness; and the perversion of this freedom makes him a source of misery to others.

The temptations Jesus faced on the mountain were concerned with the misuse of power. The choices He made clearly point the way by which power becomes a blessing to ourselves and to others.

Despite temporary successes the usurpers of power, for power's own sake, inevitably go down to defeat. Napoleon died a miserable death in enforced exile. Mussolini aspired to be another Caesar. In his last moments he vainly cried, "No, no," as he was executed by a firing squad of his own countrymen. Hitler's ambition was to dominate the world. In all probability he was a suicide, his body burned and buried in the ruins of Berlin.

A state founded on violence and terror and falsehood is doomed. History is strewn with the wrecks of nations that violated the principles of justice. The misuse of power has brought disaster and defeat innumerable times in human history. The same principle operates in individual lives.

Turn away from the impulse to climb to places of influence at the expense of those about you, for the disaster of misused power can engulf us as surely as it has the nations of the world.



SCIENTIFIC POWER

SCIENTIFIC progress has resulted in a phenomenal increase in the amount of power that is available to mankind. The utilization of steam and water power has lifted the burdens from the shoulders of men and women, and has contributed to daily comfort in a thousand ways. The achievements of science have freed men from drudgery by the creation of labor-saving machinery.

Science has immensely increased the availability of power. Yet, too often, our scientific discoveries have outrun moral control. It was appropriate that a group of educators recently discussed the question of whether the discovery of

gunpowder has contributed to man's progress. Similar discussions might be undertaken concerning a number of the products of man's skill in unearthing scientific power. Power rightly used ministers to human comfort and security, but misdirected it can result in misery and pain. Power in itself holds no key to happiness.

The population of the world is about two billion. This number is increasing at the rate of fifteen million each year. The application of practical science might enable the earth to support eight billion people, but the power to produce is futile unless men's minds are brought under spiritual and moral control.

The power of applied science can either deepen the misery or heighten the happiness of vast numbers of people. It has on the credit side shorter hours of labor, more leisure, and a larger opportunity for self-improvement. On the other hand, it contributes both to unemployment and to the slums which are a blight on cities throughout the world. The verdict of Stuart Chase is that, on the whole, scientific power has been a benefactor to mankind, but that it may become a Frankenstein if we do not learn a better way to manage the complex society it has created for us.

We conclude, then, that practical science may be either a boon or a bane. It is only as this power is put under the control of spiritual laws that it can result in human welfare and happiness. The way to inner peace and satisfaction is not found in financial superiority, nor in the results of scientific research. It requires the control of men whose purposes are to do the will of Almighty God.

The latest and most frightening discovery of science is atomic power. We are told that a particle of atomic matter is thirty million times more powerful than a similar amount of TNT. Such power has a tremendous potential for good. Never fail to consider that it is the will of God that this force should fulfill a constructive function.

It is conceivable that even greater scientific power will be discovered by pioneering men, but only a rebirth of moral and spiritual concern will prevent the perversion of these forces. If spiritual progress lags behind scientific progress we have no assurance of the long continuance of the civilized world. The choice belongs to mankind to bring into play a spiritual force that will be more influential than the marvelous power of science. This spiritual force is the power of love that has the potential to bind us together as individuals and as nations under the laws of God.



WAYS TO PERSONAL POWER

AS you have considered thus far the nature of power you have learned that power has numerous meanings and associations in our use of the term. The quality of power is different in its application to the problems of daily living, but its essence is the same. The God-given force in the atom or in the flowing stream is the same as that which is offered for life each day.

Remember that all power - whether in the realm of science or in the mind of man - has its source in the endless love of the One Who is our Creator, Almighty God.

Let us consider the road we must travel if this endless and eternal source of power is to be tapped to aid us in living triumphantly. The way is not difficult to find, for it has been clearly indicated in the teachings of Jesus. It is an essential part of the Mayan Way of Life. The question you must face is whether you really want this power with sufficient eagerness to follow the pathway.

First, banish the dark shadow of fear. All of us are victimized by the fears that tend to blot out assurances of health and happiness. A college president recently sent out a questionnaire to the student body inquiring what subjects they wished to have discussed by the preachers in the college church. Sixty-two percent requested sermons that would help them to overcome fear. The late G. K. Chesterton, the British essayist, wrote: "If I had but one sermon to preach, it would be on fear."

Unhappiness and tension are less dangerous to the personality than the actual physical illness that has its source in fear. A physical injury results from the derangement of the digestive process and the creation of poison in the bloodstream. The effect on the mind is to produce nervousness, and often complete nervous breakdowns. It is estimated that 85% of all mental illness comes directly from one's fears. The spiritual damage occurs because fear results in falsehood and in a tendency to avoid obligation. It blocks the way to spiritual progress. In a parable of Jesus the man who received the greatest condemnation said, "I was afraid ... and hid my talent."

Fear cannot exist in the same mind with Faith, for fear is a foe of Faith. Dr. Crile said: "When a man fears, he does not fear with the mind alone, but every cell and tissue of the body fears." Fear is the primary cause of the larger portion of our mental and spiritual disorders. Fear produces hatred, and we fear those whom we hate, and hate those whom we fear. Fear itself is often the source of that which we fear - "The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me."

As you travel the road to power, recognize the influence of your physical condition on fear. Take vigilant care of your health. Do not be overly concerned by signs of weakness, but follow those habits that give promise of physical health. Fears dwindle when we reduce pressures on a physical body which is less than its best.

To select cheerful companionship is a fortification against fear. Associate with people who have courage and optimism. Courage is contagious. A soul who is courageous will pour iron into your blood. This does not mean that you should hold yourself aloof from the fearful and the depressed, but it does mean that you should be prepared to impart strength to others and not to receive weakness from others.

Talk over your fears with an understanding friend who can enter wisely and sympathetically into your state of mind. The main character in John Rathbone Oliver's book on "Fear" says, after he had opened his heart to a friend: "It was as if he had pulled out a plug, and all the stuff that had settled in the bottom

of my heart flowed out." To share your fear with the right person is to lessen its power over you.

We are not on the road toward a remedy until we fairly face the factors that bother us. We are not to try the way of escape from fears and seek to hide from them. We are to make our vague forebodings as definite as possible and courageously confront them. Flight from fear affords no relief; you cannot dodge the issue.

The cure for some forms of fear is found in removing the cause. Medical science has reduced fear by greatly reducing the death rate from tuberculosis and by the large reduction of the death rate from childbirth. Still, only faith in God can relieve many of the dreads of life. The Psalmist says,

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me,
and delivered me from all my fears."

A vital faith is your best protection against fear. Meditate upon great words from Scripture. Make them your daily companion. "Fear not Abram; I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." It is the constant exhortation of Jesus, "Fear not therefore; ye are of more value than the sparrows." From Genesis to Revelation runs the refrain "Fear not." This assurance will bring power in your moments of anxiety.

We are assisted in gaining power over fear when we consider Jesus of Nazareth. Beyond his admonition "Fear not" was his own fearless life. Jesus never exhibited either fear or hate. He had no overwhelming concern whether faced by the raging storms at sea or by the fierce rage of his enemies.

You can possess, at the core of your personality, the eternal riches of Jesus Christ. The incidents and accidents of time are powerless to take these treasures from you. Claim this endless gift for your life each day. It is a gift of a loving God; it has been demonstrated unforgettably in the life of the Master.

If you are eager for power sufficient for all your needs, then deal with your fears. Take a confident step on the Road to Power by the practices that banish fear!

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Second, the Road to Power demands that you use such gifts as you possess. You are not only to make use of your talents; you are to adjust yourself to the situation that confronts you. Even though endowed with five talents you may be called upon to adapt yourself to a subordinate position. The dominance of ambition and pride may prevent this adaptation so that available power is sacrificed.

Daniel Webster was an intellectual giant of his day with his heart set on being President. When Harrison was nominated, Webster was sought for Vice-president. He was too proud to take second place. It went to John Tyler. A month after inauguration, Harrison died, and Tyler became president. Again Webster refused to be running mate for Zachary Taylor, who died about one year after his inauguration and left Millard Fillmore to succeed to the Presidency. Thus, for the second time, the unbending ambition of Webster deprived him of the goal of his

deepest aspirations.

A spirit of discontent leads us to want to be what we are not, and to want to go where it is not possible to go. This lack of acceptance robs us of the power we might have possessed.

Russell H. Conwell often related the true story of a Persian, Ali Hofed, who owned a large farm and was contented until visited by a Buddhist priest who told him of the value of diamonds. The old man could not sleep and sold his farm and went out to find a diamond mine. At last, discouraged, he threw himself into the waves between the Pillars of Hercules. The man who bought the farm led his camel down to the brook. He saw a flash of light and discovered the world's richest diamond mine - the Golconda.

We tend to become dissatisfied with our circumstances.
Don't lose the fortune that is within your reach in a vain search for some far-off treasure. In the loss of the possibilities of achievement, we lose also the power to live victoriously.

USE YOUR GIFTS WITH EAGERNESS AND EXPECTATION. YOU WILL THEN BE ON THE ROAD TO PERSONAL POWER.

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Third, accept the world order, imperfect as it may be. You can change your own attitude, but you cannot change the universal laws. The story is told that when it was reported that Matthew Arnold arrived in Heaven, the reply was, "Too bad. He won't like God." Discontent with our lot in life sometimes takes the form of protest against the natural order of the world. Such an attitude has disastrous effects upon our expectations and upon our inner life.

Different forms of hardship and suffering result from three factors:

The workings of Natural Law
The Free Will of Man
Our dependence upon the social situation
in which we live.

Some of the factors can be changed, but we are helpless before many of the situations with which we are confronted. We lose power when we struggle vainly. Conversely, we gain energy for every task when we learn to cooperate with universal law.

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Fourth, capitalize on your handicap, for it may be a wide open doorway to power. The history of mankind has given us a long roll of brave souls who exhibited extraordinary power as they utilized their handicaps to find greater happiness and success.

In the Middle West the name of Evelyn Harrala has been well known for many years. She was born with neither hands nor feet. For ten years she tottered about

her father's Minnesota farm on stumps of legs. She became an honor student at Hamline University. She is a musician in demand for numerous concerts and her personal power has been a contagious example to thousands of people who face no handicaps, yet do not possess the inner fortitude that she constantly exhibits.

No illustration may suffice to demonstrate the possibilities inherent within you. The one essential to be desired is the purpose to persist. If you have a handicap, you are to find in your own way some work that will prove helpful and also that will relieve you of the tedium of life. You can turn your obstacles into real stepping stones. We are on the Road to Power not only when we accept ourselves as we are, but when we accept the happenings of life as they are.

Great souls in hours of suffering have not complained, but have seemed to dip deeper into sources of power at a time when the defeat seemed the most insurmountable. Victor Hugo, banished from France by Napoleon, found power in exile to write his greatest masterpiece, "Les Miserables."

Jonathan Edwards was a pastor in Northampton, Massachusetts for twenty-three years. As a result of a controversy in the church he was dismissed by vote of the congregation. The outlook was gloomy for his wife and ten children. He went to a smaller church in Stockbridge. Out of the disappointment he found power to write one of the notable volumes of religious history on "The Freedom of the Will". Recognized as a leading thinker, he was invited to the presidency of Princeton College.

Heroic spirits have refused to surrender to defeat or despair. They have accepted the Divine Promise that "I will give power to the faint." It is our willingness to bravely accept the limitations imposed by our handicaps which becomes an avenue to power. We prove, in experience, the assurance of the Apostle Paul when he said: "My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Never fail to take into consideration the source of power. Paul could say: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Faith in a loving Heavenly Father will provide you with the power you need each day that you live. Accept your limitations, then leave with God that which seems beyond your reach.



CONCLUSION

THE Road to Power may seem both endless and difficult. Remember that there is a power in the universe. The evidences of that power are clearly indicated on every hand. It is your privilege to claim an adequate portion to meet your needs. Take a step of the road that leads to victory. You may feel timid and uncertain as you begin, but the road is clearly marked.

YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF POWER SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE
YOU TO LIVE TRIUMPHANTLY. GOD IS WILLING AT THIS MOMENT
TO OFFER THE TREASURE TO ALL WHO WILL RECEIVE IT!



AFFIRMATION

I know there is power in the universe - a gift of God.
I will walk the pathway by which I may claim power
sufficient for every need:

- * By banishing the dark specter of fear
- * By using wisely the gifts entrusted to me
- * By accepting my limitations
- * By wisely using my handicaps as stepping stones.

Blessings,

Your Instructor.