

Our thesis is all of our problems ultimately are theological ones. To some degree, our problems always stem from either not knowing or seeing who God is or forgetting who he is at the moment.

Elisabeth Elliot has a wonderful, realistic, both comforting and at the same time convicting statement where she essentially says, “God is God, and since he is God, he is worthy of my worship and my service. I will find rest nowhere but in his will, and that will is necessarily infinitely, immeasurably, and unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he’s up to.”

To trust in the power of God over history for you is, on the one hand, to give up trying to figure things out, but then, on the other hand, to trust

“Here’s how you get the power of God in you, by gazing at his power, by meditating on his power, by reflecting on his power.” He doesn’t say that. What does he say brings the assurance of the power of God into your life? It’s by meditating and reflecting and looking on his *love*.

There is no greater power than a person who is powerful enough to give up power to love somebody else. I want you to know, sacrificial love can transform and triumph where naked force never can.

(Tim Keller)

- Matthew 17
 - Source of authoritative power—Listen to Him
 - Source of helping power—Talk to Him
 - Believe enough to pray—the problem is prayerlessness—or seeking repenting, listening prayer

- Ephesians 1 Power Expressed in 4 Ways (superior megaton dynamite) philosophy is not power—Jesus Kingdom present is power—called to by faith—learn to live in Kingdom now—praying not for our best-but for His Kingdom present)
 - Belief —is God’s Gift (trust not in faith but in God—do you see your faith as wholly attributed to his working in your life—if not will still be trying to live dependent on self)
 - Resurrection—death to life
 - Headship over the world—Rule of Christ (Lord what are you up to and what are you calling me to)
 - Headship over His body—our union with Him (We belong to Him, we are his hands and feet)
 - Jonathan Edwards—if you are a Christian your bad things will turn out good, good things will never be taken from you and the best is yet to come
- (Tim Keller)

Habakkuk 2:1-4

- How to handle evil times (good times are not necessarily normal)
 - Habakkuk, Jeremiah—It is going to get worse (read Job, Psalms, Habakkuk you can be prepared)
 - patiently (act of humility—James 4—if it is the Lord’s will and a willingness to let God grow you up—Romans 5:3)
 - perspectively (deliberate not just see problem—see larger perspective of what God is doing—get yourself out of the center (Romans 8-I reckon—present sufferings don’t compare)
 - obediently—(not leave post—wait—waiting is service)
 - God-centrally (not waiting on Lord’s answer, or reward or Lord’s things—or even his deliverance—you are waiting on Him—be faithful even when not getting anything out of it)
 - joyfully (righteous live by faith—be effected by what God has done for you in Jesus—keep long term perspective)

- Life Transforming Faith is
 - Rational—more but not less than—it takes thinking
 - Personal—it's an encounter with God/a call on your life that gets you to question everything else
 - Foundational—build your life on—(living as Jesus would live in your circumstance—includes taking up cross—trusting in Resurrection power—see all from Jesus perspective)
 - Grace filled—there is life giving security in

- Faith Means...
 - Casting oneself unreservedly on the mercy of God
 - Laying hold of the promises of God in Christ
 - Relying entirely on the finished work of Christ for salvation and on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God for daily strength
 - Complete reliance on God
 - Full obedience to God.
- Not the power of faith that matters but where it is located

- Holy Spirit Empowers
 - Witness to Jesus—forget selves and be absorbed/obsessed in Jesus—preoccupation with Glory of Jesus
 - Witness to Cross of Jesus—Vindication of Jesus, call to be weak, broken vulnerable—never witness from strength but weakness, power of God is seen in the weakness of Jesus
 - Witness of the Cross through the Weakness of the word—not manipulation or personalities or advertisement—
 - And I would add—empowers us to in weakness love
 - When weak/strong-rejoice in weakness—power demonstrated through weakness—then witness to Jesus

(John Stott)

Ephesians 3:14-21

- I ask the Father to grant you out of the riches of his glory
 - to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person—Strengthened with power
 - have Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—Christ dwells at the control center of your life
 - to have you rooted and grounded in love (love God, others, world)
 - to comprehend (take hold of) with all the saints what is the breadth, length, height and depth (of wisdom...of love)
 - to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge—to know personally, to experience
 - to be filled up to the fullness of God
- Paul is praying that we—broken, frightened, sinful, anxious, empty human beings—be filled up to the degree, to the level, to the extent that the filling can only be measured by “the sum total of God’s Attributes”—the fullness of God

At the center of the Universe there is:

- Intimacy
- Joy
- Servanthood
- Purity
- Power (sustaining, creating, resurrection power)
- Creativity (finds a way when there is no way)
- Peace
- We are called to share in and be a part of the fellowship of God—Father/Son/Holy Spirit

- breath
- wind
- fire
- oil
- dove
- rain
- tongues