

# Bible Way Church

OF ATLANTA ROAD

January 16, 2007

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## "Empowered By His Word"

St. Luke 5: 1 - 11

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- Last week we discussed how, as believers, we are empowered by the name of the Lord to do the extraordinary.
- This week we will continue our discussion by examining how we are empowered by **His** Word to do the extraordinary.
- The power of God's Word is emphasized throughout the Bible.
- The phrase "The Word of the Lord" is used 225 times in the Bible. From Exodus 9:20, when Moses declares that even the servants of Pharaoh fear the Word of the Lord...
- ...to 1Peter 1:25, in which Peter writes, "The Word of the Lord endureth forever."
- In Psalm 119:11, the Psalmist writes, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee".
- In our scriptural text, we have a wonderful story of how Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen were empowered by the Word of the Lord to do something extraordinary.
- Our text begins by telling us that the people surrounding Jesus were hungry for the Word of God.
- Verse 1 reads, "The multitude pressed about Him to hear the Word of God."
- Having completed His teaching, Jesus approached Simon Peter and his partners and asked them to venture out into deep water and let down their nets for a catch.
- What Jesus was asking of them was not a simple task, for they had already washed their nets, and put them away, and were in all likelihood, on their way back home to their families.

- Additionally, it was the wrong time of day to talk about catching fish.
- Peter and his partners were experienced fishermen; Jesus was a carpenter by trade.
- However, let us look at Peter's response to Jesus' request.
- In verse 5, Peter says to Jesus, "We are exhausted, for we have toiled (struggled) all night and have caught nothing."
- In others words, they had nothing to show for their hard work.
- It would have been very easy for Peter to say "look, we are not going back out there".
- So many times we base our future decisions on our past failures.
- However, consider how Peter concluded his response.
- He said, "Although we are weary and disappointed, nevertheless **at your word** I will let down the net."
- Peter did not feel like it; he did not think it would work but he trusted the Word of Jesus.
- Notice what happens next in verse 6. It reads, "And when they had done this...".
- When they obeyed His Word, they caught more fish than ever.
- They caught so many fish that their nets could not contain them.  
*(...Exceedingly abundantly above all that they could ask or think)*
- They were so blessed that according to verse 7, they were able to bless others.
- This was made possible because they were *empowered by His Word*.
- We too, can be empowered by God's Word to do the extraordinary.
- We must trust His Word above how we feel, or the circumstances around us.
- Get ready to be empowered!