



# Seek God for the City

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*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea... There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.*

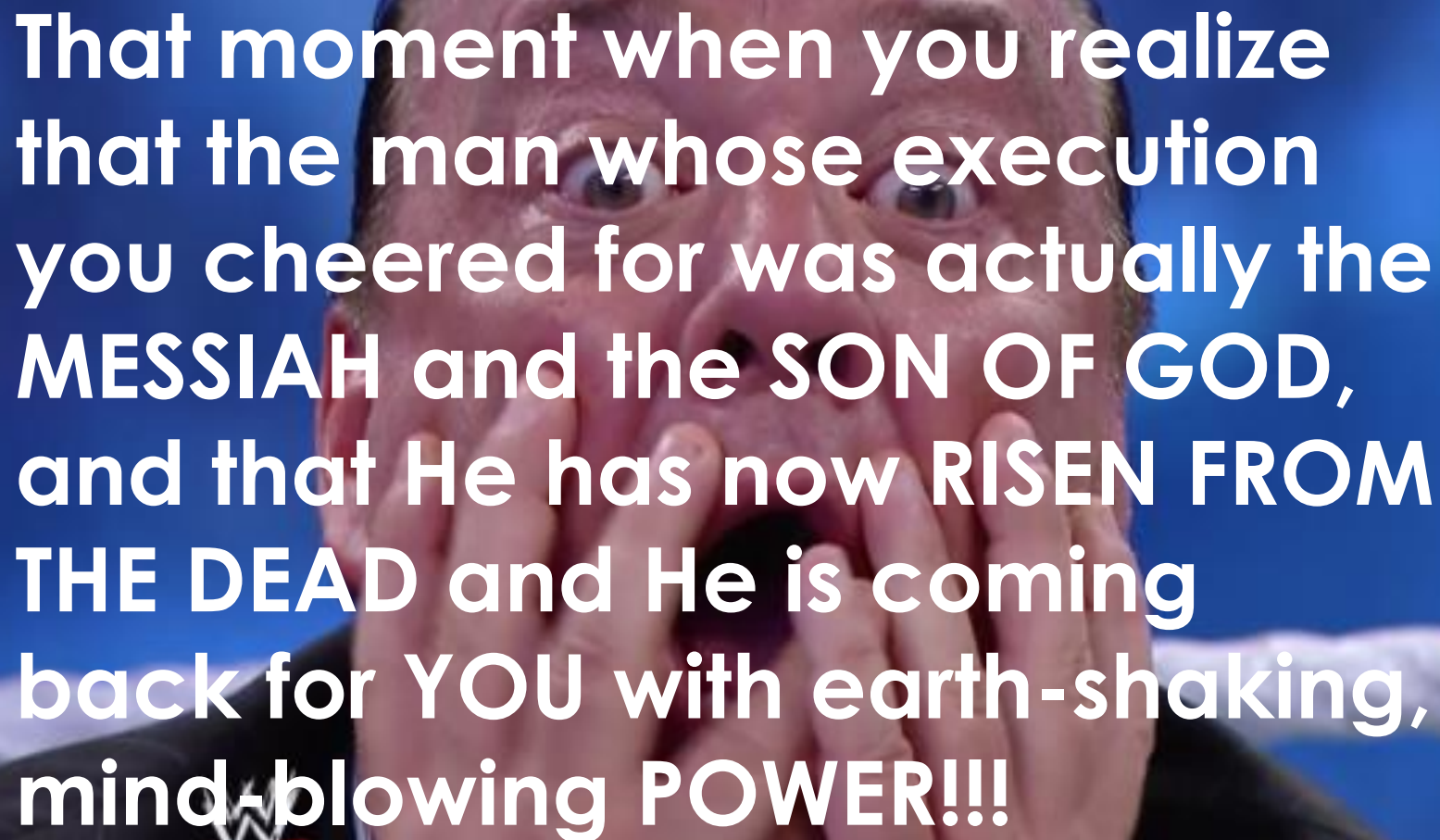
– Psalm 46:1-2, 4-5

We remember when terror used to be a rare and random thing, a mountain-shaking experience. But now, a relentless assault of violence rattles the structures of government and commerce, along with standards of goodness and virtue. We fear that all that is solid and sure might soon dissolve into chaos. Show Yourself mighty in our midst! Divert a stream of life from Your throne. Become for us an unshakeable place of safety. Give us sanctuary in the certainty of Your presence. Cause many in our city to see the soon-coming dawn of Your kingdom and to know the gladness of taking refuge in the Most High.



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# **Power for the Powerless**



That moment when you realize that the man whose execution you cheered for was actually the **MESSIAH** and the **SON OF GOD**, and that He has now **RISEN FROM THE DEAD** and He is coming back for **YOU** with earth-shaking, mind-blowing **POWER!!!**



# Let the Miracles Begin!

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- <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”
- <sup>38</sup> Peter *said* to them, “**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**; and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.”



# The Original Gospel Message

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- Not do better/try harder, or go out and make the world a better place and be a better person
- **Repent** – stop believing what you used to believe and believe the Gospel instead
- **Be Baptized** as a confirmation of repentance
- **Receive the Holy Spirit**



# The First Sermon ...

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- Was about surrendering to the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit – WHY
- Because Christianity is about Relationship, not religion
- It is about our weakness being swallowed up in His Power
- It is about miraculous, mind-blowing, life changing Power and Presence of God invading the world, changing lives and changing the world as a result



# Ephesians 5:18- 20

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- <sup>18</sup> And do not get **drunk with wine**, [!]for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**,
- Constantly filled and refilled, like drinking from a firehose!!!
- Getting people saved and filled with the Holy Spirit was the goal of NT preaching
- The Holy Spirit gives hope to the hopeless and Power to the Powerless



## Previously In the Book of Acts

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- **8 but you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;**
- **and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**





# Two KEY Words

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- Power – Dunamis
  - **power for any thing, even performing miracles**
- Witness – Martyr
  - Legal term – **called to tell the truth about what you have seen or heard**
- The Holy Spirit will give you the ability to tell what you have experienced - with *miraculous* results!!!!
- But you must be willing to tell your Story!!



# The End of the Beginning

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- <sup>39</sup> For the **promise** is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”
- <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this **perverse (*skolios*)** generation!”
- <sup>41</sup> So then, those who had **received his word** were baptized; and that day there were added about **three thousand souls.**







# Our Mission, Our Message – You are

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY