

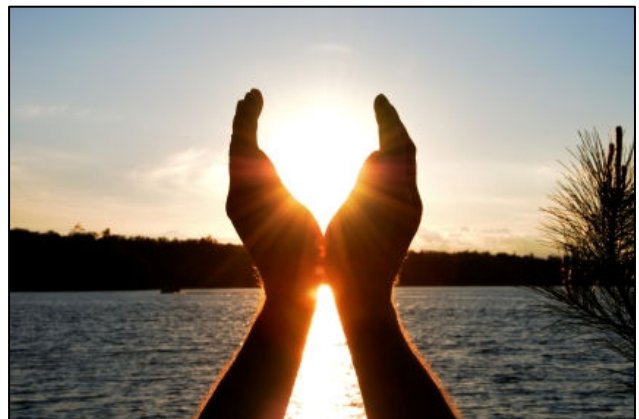
A couple of mates were out on a hunting trip and as darkness fell they packed up their gear and began the long journey home. They were halted when the lights on their truck failed. A quick examination uncovered a blown fuse and unfortunately they had no replacement. They realized that the length of the fuse was about the same as one of the bullets from their hunting rifle, so in a moment of stupid ingenuity they jammed the bullet into the fuse bracket. Sure enough the lights came on and they continued their journey home. Slowly the bullet heated up eventually super-heating which triggered the explosive case sending the bullet hurtling into the leg of the driver. (The driver survived!) A stunning example of the ability to be stupid.

1 Corinthians 1: 25 has something to say on this:

For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

So whatever we think might be smart and clever pales in comparison to God. I am not promoting some sort of spitting contest but expressing a deep and profound truth about who we are in relation to the creator.

1 Corinthians 1: 18 records that the *'message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'* This message of the cross is that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, and that this one action enables us to have the opportunity to be in full relationship with God and to access the power of God.



Accessing the power of God - is the profound truth contained within the 1 Corinthians 1: 25 reading above. But what exactly is this power?

Right now I am being deeply challenged by the idea of how committed I can be to God. As an idea I am sold on being 100% committed to God, but how is this

actually practiced? One way I consider this is to ask the question, 'what is getting between me and God?'

Like the rich young ruler recounted in Mark 10:21 who Jesus challenges, 'Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."' We need to ask, 'what is obstructing me really taking my relationship with God seriously?' Is it possessions? Is it an addiction or some other recurring sin?

What is stopping you being fully committed to God?



We have amazing power and wisdom at our disposal through God. If we have sin we seek forgiveness, if we are struggling, uncertain of how to act we have at our disposal the Holy Spirit. I believe we need to spend more time in prayer, in reading the Bible, so that we rely on God's strength not our own.

I encourage you to claim that power, that wisdom as you seek to deepen your relationship with God.



About the Author: Rev Mark Brown is Chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society in New Zealand. In January 2007 he planted an Anglican Church in the virtual world of Second Life which now offers several services a week and has grown to nearly 500 members. His personal blog is <http://brownblog.info/> He can be contacted on: mbrownsky@hotmail.com