



To dream the impossible dream  
 To fight the unbeatable foe  
 To bear with unbearable sorrow  
 To run where the brave dare not go  
 To right the unrightable wrong  
 To love pure and chaste from afar  
 To try when your arms are too weary  
 To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest  
 To follow that star  
 No matter how hopeless  
 No matter how far

To fight for the right  
 Without question or pause  
 To be willing to march into Hell  
 For a heavenly cause

And I know if I'll only be true  
 To this glorious quest  
 That my heart will lie peaceful and calm  
 When I'm laid to my rest

And the world will be better for this  
 That one man, scorned and covered with scars  
 Still strove with his last ounce of courage  
 To reach the unreachable star

.....This morning I think of the star that the wisemen followed. Their quest led them to Jesus Christ. MY quest in life has also led me to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the finest quest that anyone on earth can possibly have. Why? Because faith in Jesus Christ is the ONLY quest that leads to eternal life in the glory of heaven.

And those whose quest is Jesus are given POWER. Power to change their LIVES so that they become more and more LIKE Jesus, filled with love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

And those whose quest is Jesus also have the POWER to change this WORLD for the better. Most people, everyday Christians like you and me, have no conception of the POWER that is available to us. We are like that guy who tried cutting wood without starting up his chainsaw. Yet we, no matter how humble, when we become a Christian, are given the POWER to change the world for the better.

Paul, who wrote the text I read from Philipppians, was a short man. He was a tent-maker

by profession. He was bald. He was a poor public speaker by his own admission. He had terrible eyesight. Yet this is what he says:

<sup>24</sup>Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup>on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; <sup>27</sup>in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. <sup>28</sup>And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

## 2. Where did this Power come from?

Where did this weak man GET the POWER to live through all these traumas, the power to miraculously heal people, the power to preach and teach and start dozens of the very first churches?

...He told us in this morning's text: "I can do all things through him [through Jesus Christ] who strengthens me."

If you have faith in Jesus Christ, YOU have this Power.

In fact, if you are ordained, you have special access to God's power. In the Presbyterian Church, the ordination vows are exactly the same for Deacons, Elders and Pastors, except for the one vow addressed to each office. When a person is ordained to either of these three offices, ordained people come forward and lay hands upon them. Why do we do this?

Because of what happened to Paul. Let me read to you the actual account of what did happen from Acts 13:1-3:

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and [Paul] While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." After fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

We are here, 2,000 years later, because hands were laid upon those people, and God gave them the POWER to change the world for the better. If you are ordained, you too have the POWER to change the world for the better.

### 3. Who HAS this POWER today?

Who has this POWER today?

Many people in this church have this POWER from God.

Three years ago come this June we had an AMAZING bicentennial celebration. Since then we have held a couple tremendously powerful women's retreats. This June, we will be hosting presbytery and preparing a meal for around 100 people, so if you want to get in on some POWERFUL stuff, sign up to help with that.

We have a GREAT choir and WONDERFUL praise and Worship. Last Sunday while on vacation, Carol and I attended the Bethel Grove Church. I know the pastor, David Jones, and many people who attend there. They are the largest church in Tompkins County and they have a great praise and worship time. Afterward, I asked Carol, "What did you think?" She said, "I like our praise and worship better." Me too.

We are having our link rebuilt because three guys said, "I think I can do that."

After the service, you will have the opportunity to get information and to ask any questions about our church budget for this year. Why? Because dedicated people have spent hours and hours compiling that information and they spent the whole evening last Tuesday, and time ever since, getting it ready for us this morning.

We have an AMAZING youth group. Why? Because two people had the courage to start it a few years ago and a wonderful group of teens has the courage to become involved in all the projects they undertake.

And we have a wonderful new sound system. Why? Our old system was not functioning well and one person said, "I think I can fix this and make it better." The Finance Committee and the Session supported those efforts. People in the church supported the sound system with donations; money was used from the Sven and Alice Loman bequest; and someone made a handsome cabinet to house the system. All so that we can worship the Lord together as we are doing right now.

I want to say "Thank You" to all those involved in this process. And I want to say "Thank you" to God because, powerful as our new sound system is, it can't hold a candle to the power of our God who enabled this to happen.

Let us pray. ...Lord we thank you for providing this sound system. Thank you for those who made this possible. Thank you for those who run it when needed. We dedicate this system to you and pray, earnestly, that each time it IS used, it is used for your honor and glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Now we are going to use this system to show you a short video clip. From what I understand, the TV show “American Idol” was established in England where it is called “Britain’s Got Talent.” Paul Potts showed up for one of the auditions. Like Paul the Apostle, he was not very prepossessing, as you will see. Elsewhere he says that his voice is a God-given gift. As you will see, the judges are painfully skeptical...

[If you are reading this sermon, go to You Tube, type in paul potts and scroll down to the clip titled “Inspirational Video on Increasing Your Confidence.” Take the time to view it ...it’s worth it.]

#### Conclusion – ‘Dream the Impossible Dream’

The only thing I would add is this: instead of “believe in yourself,” I would say, “Believe in Jesus Christ.”

Dream your dream, impossible as it may seem. Have the courage to do something new in our church or to get involves in one of our missions or ministries.

Trust in Jesus Christ, who alone has the POWER to make your dreams come true today, tomorrow and forever and ever and ever.

Amen.

TAKE THE OFFERING

THEN SING HYMN NO. 8 – “Ponder anew what the Almighty can do!”