

Power From On High

“Top Trumps”, a classic (if slightly annoying) game of one-up-manship of who’s got the most, the highest, the fastest of whatever you want to compete with. “Super Cars” is perhaps the quintessential version and amongst the statistics of top speed and cylinders is power, always measured in horses (a consistent source of amusement). However much you liked the Mini Cooper or felt some sense of pride in an MG, whenever your opponent turned over something from Italy or a humungous muscle car from the States, all was lost.

Strength might be one of the first thoughts you’d have concerning power, or maybe it is more likely to be politics? The power to control or influence? This is very often portrayed as negative as it’s so often tied up with corruption and personal gain.

To many, Jesus often seemed powerless. Some of the reasons often talked about for Judas’ betrayal is that he thought Jesus wasn’t strong enough to lead the people in the revolution that Judas thought was needed. The trial and cross look like defeat as Jesus suffered without resistance.

Then He reappeared! Confused with a ghost or just not recognised at all, Jesus moved amongst His friends and gave them an instruction: “Wait for the gift of My Father”. Everyone loves a gift! How exciting! What was it? Power. How would that be measured on a “Top Trump” card? I don’t think horses would have covered that one - perhaps services or meetings? Can you imagine? A splendid picture of Rev Andy Hall with the power rating at 7,953 meetings? They’re necessary, and they certainly need energising, but this gift of the Father was for so much more!

How about power rated in visions? Prophecies? Dreams? Wonders? Healings? People fed, clothed, gifts given? We’re about to launch into one of the most dramatic and exciting books of the Bible: Acts. It’s often called the Acts of the Apostles, but to me it’s the Acts of God’s Spirit and it’s here that we begin to discover what Jesus meant when He said He’d re clothe His followers in His power. So sit tight and wait for the explosion - it might even happen in a meeting!

Have a powerful Pentecost!

Andy Hall