

St Francis Today

4. THE POWER OF LOVE

“Behold a new equation I give unto you”

PEACE = The Power of Love
The love of Power

This could be a summary of the message
from Christ and St Francis

From time immemorial, the concept of power has always fascinated mankind.
as to who holds it, wields it and wants it,
occupies the minds of many people.

Nothing so destroys the peace of a community more
than the power struggles within a community
Ordinary people are suspicious of power
-so why is it such a prevalent factor in our lives?

If it is to be used for the benefit of society
for the achievement of happiness
and fulfillment then it is good.

Power is both an end and a means.
It means power from the people to the people.
Power however, can be beneficial or dangerous.
Like electricity, which can give light, but which
can also burn or kill - so it has to be handled carefully.

To the powerless who look at the privileges that positions of power offer,
power seems most attractive.
But those privileges are for the most part an illusion,
and its attractions only temporary.
In order to correct the abuses of power, we first
need to understand its paradoxes and contradictions.
that obstruct real development by people
who are motivated by a personal sense of power.

THE PEACE-MAKERS WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

The Peace-Maker can be assured of support
in their works as set out in Ephesians 6: 10-18

“Build up your strength in union with the lord and by means of his mighty power. Put on all the armour that god gives you, so that you will be able stand up against the devil's evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings, but wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers of this dark age.

So put on God's armour now ! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground.

So stand ready,

- *with truth as a belt tight round your waist,*
- *with righteousness as your breastplate, and*
- *as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace.*

- *At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the evil one..*

- *Accept salvation as a helmet, and The Word of God as the sword that the Spirit gives you.*

- *Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help.*

- *Pray on every occasion as the Spirit leads.*

- *For this reason keep alert and never give up, and Pray always for all God's people.*

“As for you my brothers, you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom be an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead let Love make you serve on another. For the whole law is summed up in one commandment

‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ But if you act like wild animals, hurting and harming each other, then watch out, or you will completely destroy one another.” [Galatians 5:13]