

**December 14, 2014**  
**Great Responsibility**

One of my favorite superheroes is the friendly neighborhood web-head created by Stan Lee, Spider-Man. You may or may not know this, but in his story shortly after he got his powers his Uncle Ben, the man who had raised him, was shot by a criminal that Spider-Man had the chance to stop well before Uncle Ben was killed. The lesson that Ben taught his nephew was this: "With great power comes great responsibility."

All throughout the Old Testament, one of God's primary concerns was for his people to stand up for the needy and to help them. Those with much were to share with those who had nothing. Those who were strong were supposed to stick up for those that were weak.

That is precisely what God himself did for his people when he sent Jesus Christ. Because God cared so much for us weak sinners, he sent his Son to save us from sin, Satan and our own flesh. In Christ, we see the all-powerful sticking up for the completely hopeless. His gifts to you are grace and salvation, but he also gives strength to those that follow him. And so, not only does he deliver us from eternal damnation, but he also gives us the power to stick up for the people of this world who cannot defend themselves.

As Uncle Ben told Peter Parker/Spider-Man, with great power comes great responsibility. Our power is Christ, the ultimate

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power. So our responsibility as Christians is the ultimate responsibility. We have a duty to

the people of this world to defend them from the things that they don't even know they need defending from, like themselves and sin. It is our responsibility to show them the right way of doing things. But, more importantly it is our responsibility to share with them the abundance of the gifts that God has given to us.

As you go out about your lives this week I want you to remember what Uncle Ben told the fledgling Spider-Man, "With great power comes great responsibility." But more importantly, I want you to remember what Christ said from the cross, "It is finished." Our salvation and our life were accomplished in Christ. His power is our power, and his power is life. It is our responsibility to share that life with the poor and the needy. This includes the big business men that have no idea who Jesus is, as well as the homeless man that has no idea from where or when his next meal is going to come.

As followers of the almighty, we have a huge responsibility. So let us be responsible disciples this week and share Christ who is our power with those who are powerless in this world.

*Dear God, give us your power to share with the world, and by him change the hearts and minds of those we share Christ with. Amen.*

Pastor Cathy

