

# *Response Bible Institute*

## *Course 14 - Power Principles*



## ***Response Bible Institute***

The Institute offers a comprehensive bible diploma that is completed in one year. Instruction is free and course materials can be downloaded online for no charge. A cost is incurred if hard copies of the course materials are requested.

The 19 courses you will cover to complete your diploma are:

1. Introduction to Christian Response
2. Strategies for spiritual harvest
3. Foundations of Faith
4. Kingdom Living
5. Spiritual Strategies: A manual for Spiritual Warfare
6. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
7. Knowing God's Voice
8. Creative Bible Study Methods
9. Basic Bible Survey - Old Testament
10. Basic Bible Study - New Testament
11. Developing a Biblical Worldview
12. Teaching Tactics
13. Methodologies of Multiplication
14. Power Principles
15. Biblical Management Principles
16. Principles of Environmental Analysis
17. Management by Objectives
18. Mobilization Methodologies
19. Leaven like Evangelism

As you progress through the courses there will be opportunities for you to connect with others and make an impact for the Lord in our world.

To obtain the Christian Response Institute Diploma you need to:

- \* Complete the written exercises at the end of each chapter.
- \* Pass an examination at the end of each course
- \* Complete practical activities at an appropriate level for your stage of Spiritual growth and situation.

Christian Response Team  
admin@christianresponse.org.au

# ***Power Principles***

The basic theme of the training is to teach what Jesus taught, that which took men who were fishermen, tax collectors, etc., and changed them into reproductive Christians who reached their world with the Gospel in a demonstration of power.

This manual is a single course in one of several modules of curriculum which moves believers from visualizing through deputizing, multiplying, organizing, and mobilizing to achieve the goal of evangelizing.

## **HARVESTIME INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**

This course is part of the **Harvestime International Institute**, a program designed to equip believers for effective spiritual harvest.

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# HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

## MANUAL FORMAT

Each lesson consists of:

**Objectives:** These are the goals you should achieve by studying the chapter. Read them before starting the lesson.

**Key Verse:** This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

**Chapter Content:** Study each section. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual.

**Self-Test:** Take this test after you finish studying the chapter. Try to answer the questions without using your Bible or this manual. When you have concluded the Self-Test, check your answers in the answer section provided at the end of the book.

**For Further Study:** This section will help you continue your study of the Word of God, improve your study skills, and apply what you have learned to your life and ministry.

**Final Examination:** If you are enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination along with this course. Upon conclusion of this course, you should complete this examination and return it for grading as instructed.

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a New International Version of the Bible.

# SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

## FIRST MEETING

**Opening:** Open with prayer and introductions. Get acquainted and register the students.

**Establish Group Procedures:** Determine who will lead the meetings, the time, place, and dates for the sessions.

**Praise And Worship:** Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your training session.

**Distribute Manuals To Students:** Introduce the manual title, format, and course objectives provided in the first few pages of the manual.

**Make The First Assignment:** Students will read the chapters assigned and take the Self-Tests prior to the next meeting. The number of chapters you cover per meeting will depend on chapter length, content, and the abilities of your group.

## SECOND AND FOLLOWING MEETINGS

**Opening:** Pray. Welcome and register any new students and give them a manual. Take attendance. Have a time of praise and worship.

**Review:** Present a brief summary of what you studied at the last meeting.

**Lesson:** Discuss each section of the chapter using the **HEADINGS IN CAPITAL BOLD FACED LETTERS** as a teaching outline. Ask students for questions or comments on what they have studied. Apply the lesson to the lives and ministries of your students.

**Self-Test:** Review the Self-Tests students have completed. (Note: If you do not want the students to have access to the answers to the Self-Tests, you may remove the answer pages from the back of each manual.)

**Working It Out:** You may do this section on a group or individual basis.

**Final Examination:** If your group is enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination with this course. Reproduce a copy for each student and administer the exam upon conclusion of this course.

**MODULE: Multiplying**  
**COURSE: Power Principles**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus told the religious leaders of New Testament times. . .

**You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.  
(Matthew 22:29)**

The truth of the Gospel is two-fold. First, it is the Word of God as revealed in the Holy Bible. To know the Scriptures you must study, understand, and apply them.

But the truth of the Gospel is more than the Scriptures. It is also the power of God. To know the power of God you must understand and apply power principles. The power of God must become a reality in your life through experience.

The early church was born in a demonstration of the power of God, not through great public speakers or theological debate. Paul wrote:

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but  
with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,**

**So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.  
(I Corinthians 2:4-5)**

Paul recognized that. . .

**. . . the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (I Corinthians 4:20)**

Jesus left believers with a great mission of reaching the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom. This task will not be accomplished by words alone. As in the early church, there also must be a demonstration of the power of God.

Many people know the Word of God but have not experienced the power of God. They do not really understand the power of the Gospel. Many ministers today are well educated. They preach with enticing words of man's wisdom, but there is no demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power.

In some churches the miraculous has been replaced with human reasoning that demands a logical explanation for everything that happens. Power has been replaced by theological debate over whether the miraculous is for today or was only for the early church. When reason and debate take the place of the miraculous, the life flow of God is replaced by man-made religion. People have had their fill of religion and its accompanying ritual. They want to experience reality. They need to witness the visible manifestation of God's power.

If your faith is to stand in the power of God instead of the wisdom of man, you must experience the same flow of power as did the early church. Believers in the early church. . .

**. . . went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)**

We have talked of working *for* God. We plan our ministry and ask God to bless it. But the Biblical method of effective ministry is the Lord working with us, confirming His Word with miraculous signs.

The world is not interested in what you have done for God. The world is attracted to Jesus when they see visible results of the power of the Gospel which has changed your life. The world is attracted by the demonstration of spiritual power as the Lord works with you to confirm His Word with miraculous signs.

Power principles taught in this course will enable you to experience the spiritual power taught in the Bible. This course answers the heart cry of those who have hungered for reality instead of religion. It will move you from being a spectator to a demonstrator of the power of God.



# COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Identify the source of true spiritual power.
- Recognize the counterfeit power of the enemy.
- Summarize the powers delegated by God to Jesus Christ.
- Receive the authority delegated by Jesus to believers.
- Identify Biblical purposes for spiritual power.
- Explain and apply the following power principles:
  - Power of the Gospel
  - Power of the Holy Spirit
  - Power of love
  - Anointing of power
  - Power, faith, works
  - The name of Jesus
  - Power of prayer
  - Power of the Word
  - Being in authority while under authority
  - Power of His resurrection
  - Fellowship of His suffering
- Explain how to have the power of God in your life and ministry.
- Identify reasons for power failures.
- Face the opposition and overcome Satan when he challenges your spiritual authority.

# CHAPTER ONE

## LIFE AFTER RELIGION

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verses from memory.
- ☐ Explain the difference between religion and the true demonstration of God's power.
- ☐ Identify worldly power structures.
- ☐ Give a Biblical reference which explains the difference between worldly and Biblical power.
- ☐ Define Biblical power.
- ☐ Define Biblical authority.
- ☐ Identify the supernatural forces which are the sources of spiritual power.
- ☐ Identify the two parts of every Biblical promise.
- ☐ List steps for possessing the promises of God.

### KEY VERSES:

**You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

**I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.  
(Psalms 63:1-2)**

### INTRODUCTION

Just as there is a deceiving sleep and warmth which comes upon a man who is dying from cold by freezing to death, so it is in the spirit world. There is a stupor and an unconcerned attitude when people are dying spiritually.

Religion is the attempt of man to know God. It is ritual and regulations, works and words without power. Religion brings spiritual death.

The power of God is the visible demonstration of His desire to reveal Himself to man. Spiritual power is God's Kingdom in action. It brings spiritual life.

Many have experienced religion. They have joined various cults and denominations. These

organizations have lulled them into an unconcerned spiritual attitude. They have not experienced the power of the Gospel which can change their lives. They are defeated and discouraged, sick and wounded. They are dying spiritually. Their heart cry is as that of the Psalmist David who wrote. . .

**You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

**I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.  
(Psalms 63:1-2)**

These people need to experience life after religion.

### **TYPES OF POWER**

There are many types of power in the world today:

**Political power** is held by those in control of organizations, tribes, villages, cities, states, provinces and entire nations.

**Intellectual power** results in new inventions, literary and musical creations, and the establishing of educational institutions.

**Physical power** is possessed by strong men, many of whom become professional athletes.

**Financial power** is held by the bankers and businessmen who head corporations and great financial empires.

**Military power** held by great armies is used to defend and gain new territories.

**The power of energy** serves men in many ways ranging from a simple fire for warmth to electricity serving an entire city.

**Religious power** results in great denominations and religious cultures.

All of these are great powers at work in our world today. But the call from Jesus is not to worldly power. It is to spiritual power. It is a power that asks not "How can I be master?," but rather "How can I serve?"

### **THE DIFFERENCE IN STRUCTURE**

Jesus explained the difference between the power structure of the world and that of the Kingdom of God. He said:

**. . . You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.**

**Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,**

**And whoever wants to be first must be your slave—**

**Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:25-28)**

The call from Jesus is to relinquish worldly power for spiritual power which is given for the purpose of serving a suffering, lost, and dying world.

## **SPIRITUAL POWER**

When we speak of power in this course we are not talking about man-made religious denominations or religious organizations. We are not speaking of authority delegated through a vote by the majority. It is not authority given by a title or office. It is not power based on education or ability.

When we speak of power in this course, we are referring to the Biblical concept of spiritual power. The Biblical meaning of the word "power" is spiritual might, ability, force, and strength. It is a supernatural dominion which results in mighty works and miracles.

A similar word, "authority," is also used in this course. As in the Bible, it is closely related to and has similar meaning to the word "power." Authority refers to legal and rightful power to act on behalf of another. Taking authority is the action of demonstrating power. It is possessing the right to exercise delegated power within defined boundaries.

## **FORCES OF SPIRITUAL POWER**

There are several supernatural forces operative in spiritual power. The Biblical source of spiritual power is the true and living God who is revealed in the Holy Bible. God is a triune person composed of God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the source of power:

**Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)**

God has delegated power to His Son, Jesus Christ:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)**

Jesus has delegated spiritual power to believers through the Holy Spirit:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

There is another force of spiritual power, but it is a negative force. It is the source of evil spiritual power and responsible for witchcraft, voodoo, and all other evil practices. That force is Satan. Satan is a spiritual power, but his power is evil, not good:

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)**

You will learn more about this "challenging counterfeit" of God's power in Chapter Three of this course.

## **THE DEMONSTRATION OF POWER**

When Jesus began His public ministry, it was a ministry of miracles. His ministry did not succeed because of its great organization. He started with twelve disciples and ended with eleven. It did not succeed because of popularity. In the end, everyone turned against Him including His own followers. His ministry touched the multitudes because of the demonstration of power:

**They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. (Luke 4:32)**

**All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out! (Luke 4:36)**

**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

The early church was birthed in a demonstration of power. It was said of them:

**... These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here  
(Acts 17:6)**

The early church affected entire cities and nations, but they did not do it by just preaching alone. People listened and lives were changed because they witnessed the demonstration of God's power:

**... the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.**

**For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.**

**So there was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:6-8)**

When Peter came to Lydda, he found a man named Aeneas who had been bedfast for eight years.

**“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up.**

**All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.  
(Acts 9:34-35)**

In Joppa, Peter raised a woman named Dorcas from the dead. When this miracle took place. . .

**... became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.  
(Acts 9:42)**

Each miraculous demonstration of God's power focused attention on the Lord Jesus Christ. Each power encounter resulted in multiplication of the church.

Political influence is not what we need to reach the world with the Gospel. The early church did not have enough influence to keep Peter out of prison, but they had enough power to pray him out.

More preaching is not what will reach the world. The early church prayed for days, preached a few minutes, and 3,000 souls were saved (Acts 1-2). Today we pray ten minutes, preach a ten day revival, and see only thirty saved.

More money for ministry does not assure reaching the world with the Gospel message. While it is true that finances are important to the work of the ministry, they are not the most necessary essential.

When Peter and John passed by the temple gate at Jerusalem, a lame beggar asked for a few coins. Peter and John did not even have this small amount of funds, but they gave what they had:

**Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”**

**Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.**

**He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (Acts 3:6-8)**

What they had was power and authority in the name of Jesus. They had no advertising budget to reach the city of Jerusalem. They had no printed tracts or Bibles, no television networks. But they had power. Through the demonstration of God's power, the entire city was affected by the Gospel message (Acts 3-4).

The early Church realized that the Gospel of the Kingdom was not only of word but of power:

**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (I Corinthians 4:20)**

### **THE POWER OF CHOICE**

When God created the world, He made many different kinds of creatures. He made animals, fish, insects, and birds (Genesis 1). But God's greatest creation was man who was created in His own image. Man is unique among all creatures because he has a body, soul, and spirit. He was created to worship and fellowship with the true and living God (Genesis 2-3).

Man, by creation, is the companion of a miracle-working Father, the true and living God. Man, endowed with the breath of God and made in His image, has a capacity for power unlike any other created being. The miracle-working realm should be man's natural realm.

Man has the most powerful, intelligent mind of all of God's creatures. Man has the power of choice. Man can choose to do good or evil. He can choose to obey God or Satan. The first temptation of man by Satan in the Garden of Eden focused on this power of choice (Genesis 3). Because of a wrong choice to sin, a basic sin nature has been passed from Adam and Eve to all mankind.

## **THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL POWER**

If man is to experience true spiritual power, he must choose to serve God. Since all are sinners, all are in need of forgiveness:

**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)**

Forgiveness comes through repenting and believing on Jesus Christ:

**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:8-9)**

Repentance from sin is the basis for spiritual power. You cannot experience the power of God if you remain in the spiritual death of sin.

When the disciples were preaching in one city, a man named Simon witnessed the power of God in action. He offered money to Peter and said:

**. . . Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:19)**

Peter answered:

**. . . “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!**

**You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.**

**Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.**

**For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin. (Acts 8:20-23)**

Repentance is the basis of all true spiritual power. You will never experience God's power unless you have first experienced repentance. Salvation from sin is the greatest demonstration of the power of God.

God does not pour His power through sinful vessels. He does not work through people who try



to improve their lives through self effort (Matthew 9:16-17). God demonstrates His power through holy vessels who have repented and are serving Him.

## **POSSESSING THE PROMISES**

Believers have been promised spiritual power, but there are two parts to every promise of God:

**The promise:** The content, the actual words and meaning of the promise.

**The possession of that promise:** You cannot use that which you do not possess. You must claim the promises of God in order for them to become reality in your life.

How do you claim the promises of God? Here are the steps:

### **1. YOU MUST CHOOSE TO DO SO:**

You have the power to accept the promise of God, reject it, or ignore it. Many people have rejected the promise of spiritual power. They believe it was only for the early Church. Others have ignored it. They read the promises in the Bible, but do not act upon them. These people do not have the demonstration of God's power in their lives because they have exercised their own power of choice and failed to claim the promise.

Whenever there is a promise in God's Word that is not fulfilled in your life it does not mean it is not true or not for you. Do not interpret the Bible on the basis of your own experience. Just because you have not experienced a promise of God does not mean it is not a true and valid promise. The promise of power is a gift from God, but you must choose to accept that gift.

### **2. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES:**

To possess any Biblical promise, you must understand the principles upon which it is based. Promises of God are always based on certain principles which always involve a response from man.

For example, many promises of God are based on the "if/then" principle. God says "If you will do this certain thing, then you will receive the promise." (See Deuteronomy 28 for an example of this principle).

To experience the promise of spiritual power, you must understand the Biblical principles of power. In the natural world, it is similar to reading the instructions that come with a product to learn how to operate it properly or like using a recipe to learn how to prepare a certain food.

### **3. YOU MUST APPLY THE PRINCIPLES:**

Someone can give you a lovely gift in the natural world. You can choose to accept it. It comes with instructions. You can read the instructions and understand them thoroughly. But unless you use the instructions to operate the gift, the product is still useless to you.

Mere understanding of the Biblical power principles taught in this course is not enough. You must apply these principles to your own life and ministry.

### **BEYOND BLESSING TO POWER**

Many believers do not experience power because they never get beyond the point of spiritual blessing. The Holy Spirit begins to move upon them and they feel great joy. They may express it in singing, shouting, dancing, or crying. They are blessed by God and respond emotionally.

There is nothing wrong with this. The Bible is filled with such spiritual experiences. But God wants to move His people beyond the point of blessing into the realm of spiritual power, beyond emotion to demonstration.

There is a story in the Old Testament which illustrates this truth. It also illustrates the link between a promise and the possessing of that promise. The nation of Israel traveled for many months from Egypt through the desert to the land God promised them. When they reached the edge of this promised land, Moses sent in spies to check out the land. Ten of the spies brought back a negative report. They said there were giants in the land and there was no way Israel could go in to possess the land. Only two spies urged the people to enter the land and possess it as God had promised.

Israel chose to listen to the negative report. Because of this, although it was only an eleven day journey from where they were camped to the Promised Land, it took Israel forty years to make the journey (Deuteronomy 1:2).

God brought Israel to the point of blessing. They were at the edge of the Promised Land. God's power was available to conquer the enemy. But Israel refused to move forward in God's power. There was nothing wrong with the promise. The problem was Israel's refusal to possess it.

You must not stop when you get to a point of blessing in your life. You must break through into the spiritual realm of power. If you do not do so, you will continue to wander in a spiritual wilderness of dry, powerless existence.

You must move beyond the point of blessing into the realm of power. You must become a demonstrator instead of a spectator; a doer instead of only a hearer. When you do so, you will experience the true flow of God's power. You will experience a life force and anointing within you which you have never before known. You will experience life after religion.

## ORDINARY PEOPLE

You may think you cannot experience this power because you lack education. Perhaps you do not hold ministerial credentials with any denomination. You may live in a village far away from a Christian college and you are unable to obtain a Bible school education. None of these things need stand in the way of your receiving spiritual power. The Word of God is filled with examples of ordinary men and women who were used of God in mighty ways:

**Abraham.** . . . lied about Sarah being his wife because of fear, yet he was used of God to found the great nation of Israel.

**Moses.** . . . was not a good speaker and killed an Egyptian in anger, yet God used him to lead an entire nation of over two million people to the promised land.

**Peter.** . . . sank while walking on water, always said the wrong thing at the wrong time, and in the end denied he knew Jesus. . . yet this ordinary fisherman stood and gave a powerful witness on the day of Pentecost which resulted in the salvation of 3,000 souls.

**Gideon.** . . . a young man hiding in fear to thresh the harvest grain was called to deliver an entire nation from oppressive captors.

**King David.** . . . committed adultery, took another man's wife and had the man murdered, yet he was the greatest King of Israel and called a man after God's own heart.

**Peter and John.** . . . both were poor fishermen and had no money or education, but the healing power of God flowed through them to stir entire cities.

**The Apostle Paul.** . . . it was said of him that his letters were powerful, but his bodily presence weak and his speech poor (II Corinthians 10:10).

**Jacob.** . . . was a deceiver, liar, and schemer. But when God touched him, he became a "prince with power with God and man."

If men such as these can be entrusted with spiritual power with God and men, you can also, despite your human failures! God calls ordinary men and women and makes them extraordinary.

He does not see you as you see yourself. He does not see you as others see you. God sees you as you can become when you are endued with spiritual power. God uses ordinary people, what the Bible calls "earthen vessels" so that...≡ **this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us** ≡ (II Corinthians 4:7).

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

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2. What is the difference between religion and the demonstration of God's power?

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3. Name some worldly power structures listed in this lesson.

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4. What reference explains the difference between worldly and Biblical power structures?

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5. Give the Biblical definitions for power and authority.

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6. Identify the supernatural forces which are the source of spiritual power.

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7. What are the two parts of every Biblical promise?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

8. List three steps given in this lesson, for possessing the promises of God.

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9. The basis of spiritual power is\_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. The first Biblical record of a man being endued with spiritual power is Jacob. It was said of him that he had power with God and men. Study the record of this experience in Genesis 32 and Hosea 12:3-4. Write a summary of what you learn in these passages:

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2. Jesus rejected worldly power. See Luke 4:1-13, John 6:15, and John 7:2-6. Write a summary of what you learn in these passages:

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# CHAPTER TWO

## THE SOURCE OF POWER

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify the source of power.
- ☐ List eight ways God reveals His power on earth.
- ☐ Give a Scriptural reference which explains why God reveals His power on earth.

### KEY VERSE:

**One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: “Power belongs to you, God. (Psalms 62:11)**

### INTRODUCTION

To properly understand power principles we must start at the very beginning. We must discover the source of power. The source of something is its beginning or place of origin. This chapter presents the true and living God revealed in the Holy Bible as the source of all power. David wrote:

**One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: “Power belongs to you, God. (Psalms 62:11)**

When God repeats something it is because it is very important.

### THE SOURCE OF POWER

Before anything else existed, there was God. Genesis 1-2 records the beginning of the world and all living beings. God made the earth by His power:

**But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. (Jeremiah 10:12)**

**With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. (Jeremiah 27:5)**

**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)**

Since God created all things, there is nothing beyond the scope of His power:

**Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32:17)**

God is the source of power behind all things in their present state:

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. (Revelation 4:11)**

**For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:36)**

**The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. . . (Hebrews 1:3)**

God has the times and seasons in His power:

**He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. (Acts 1:7)**

The earth and all it contains belong to the Lord:

**The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; (Psalms 24:1)**

In Genesis 14:22, God is called the possessor of Heaven and earth. To possess something is to have power over it.

There are many kingdoms and governments in this world. But God's Kingdom is sovereign. This means He rules over all:

**The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. (Psalms 103:19)**

**Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.**

**Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. (I Chronicles 29:11-12)**

Since God created man, only He has power over the spirit of man:

**As no one has power over the wind to contain it, so no one has power over the time of their death... Ecclesiastes 8:8)**

God has power to preserve those appointed to die:

**May the groans of the prisoners come before you; with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die. (Psalms 79:11)**

God is the one who gives power to the faint:

**He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. (Isaiah 40:29)**

**... the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. (Psalms 68:35)**

God's power is not affected by the power or lack of power of man:

**... LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty... (II Chronicles 14:11)**

God has the power to deliver. The Bible is filled with records of how God supernaturally delivered people in times of need. Two good examples are found in the book of Daniel. Read how God delivered His servants from the furnace of fire in Daniel 3 and from the lions in Daniel 6.

His power is unlimited:

**The LORD is slow to anger but great in power...(Nahum 1:3)**

His power is excellent:



**The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice. . .  
(Job 37:23)**

God's power is everlasting. Paul wrote that God...

**. . . is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has  
seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. (I Timothy 6:16)**

In the final book of the Bible we read of a future event in Heaven when . . .

**. . . the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. . .  
(Revelation 15:8)**

**saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power  
and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"  
(Revelation 7:12)**

**After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:  
"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,  
(Revelation 19:1)**

Repeatedly, from beginning to end, the Bible stresses that God is the source of power.

### **HOW GOD REVEALS HIS POWER**

The Bible is a record of how God reveals His power in the earth. Here are the various ways God reveals His power:

#### **NATURE:**

God has revealed Himself in nature. The plants and animals, valleys and mountains, waters and deserts, and even the skies above are all visible signs of His creative power:

**Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.  
(Psalms 150:1)**

**Who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,**

**Who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,. . .  
(Psalms 65:6-7)**

God is in the wind, sea, and mountains:

**He let loose the east wind from the heavens and by his power made the south wind blow.  
(Psalms 78:26)**

**. . . His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.**

**He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. . .**

**The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence. . . (Nahum 1:3-5)**

He controls all the elements of nature:

**When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. (Jeremiah 10:13)**

Job chapters 38-40 provide a detailed record of how God is revealed in the world of nature. God has revealed His power so clearly in nature that men have no excuse for not believing in Him:

**For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)**

### **HIS WRITTEN WORD:**

From beginning to end, God's written Word reveals His power. It opens with His power to create. It closes with His power to destroy, judge, and recreate. Between Genesis and Revelation, God's Word records His power constantly at work in the world and in the lives of men and women.

Not only do the stories recorded in God's Word reflect His power, but the words in which they are told are powerful:

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)**

## **JUDGMENT:**

Acts of judgment by God reveal His power. His power was first demonstrated in judgment when He judged Adam and Eve after their sin (Genesis 3).

It was revealed at a greater level when God destroyed the entire world with a flood in the days of Noah (Genesis 6-9).

The Bible is a continual record of the power of God revealed through judgment of sin. He sent judgment upon His people when they sinned. He also sent judgment upon evil nations. You can read about this in the book of Judges and the books written by the prophets.

Each time God sent judgment, He clearly indicated its purpose was that people would come to know His power (for an example, see Exodus 7:17).

## **REDEMPTION:**

Throughout history, God revealed His power in miraculous acts of redemption.

Although God judged Adam and Eve, He provided a way of salvation for them (Genesis 3:15). Although He destroyed the wicked earth with a flood, He provided an ark of safety (Genesis 6-9).

God redeemed Israel from bondage in Egypt through His power:

**Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, (Deuteronomy 4:37)**

God raised up judges, kings, and prophets whom He used to redeem His people out of the hand of the enemy. Nehemiah said of Israel:

**They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. (Nehemiah 1:10)**

Each time God redeemed His people, He had a purpose. That purpose was to reveal His power:

**Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known. (Psalms 106:8)**

## **JESUS CHRIST:**

God's greatest plan of redemption was revealed in Jesus Christ through whom all men could be redeemed from sin once and for all.

God's power was revealed through the prophecies about the birth of Jesus and in His miraculous birth. It was evident in the life, teaching, and ministry of the Lord as well as in His death and resurrection.

The greatest revelation of God's power was in Jesus Christ:

**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.  
(Revelation 12:10)**

In Chapter Four of this course you will study in detail how the power of God was revealed in Jesus Christ.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

Jesus promised His followers:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
(Acts 1:8)**

Acts 2 is the record of the coming of the Holy Ghost, sent from God as Jesus had promised. Through the Holy Ghost God continues to reveal His power. You will learn how as you study the power of the Holy Spirit later in this course.

### **SUPERNATURAL SIGNS:**

You have already learned that God revealed His power through judgment and redemption of His people. But God also reveals His power in other supernatural ways. "Supernatural" means beyond the power of the natural world. It is something that cannot be done by the power of man.

God's power has been revealed through miraculous healings, deliverance from demonic powers, the dead being restored to life--even through fire falling from Heaven. The entire Bible is a record of supernatural signs of God revealing His power. God's power is still revealed through such signs today.

### **BELIEVERS:**

Jesus said such powerful signs would be done by God through believers:

**And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;**

**They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.  
(Mark 16:17-18)**

From the beginning of His written Word, God worked on this earth through men and women. Man has a capacity for power unlike any other created being. God's judgment came through evil men and women. Redemption came through godly judges, prophets, kings, and finally through Jesus Christ.

When Jesus came to earth to manifest God's power He was born of a woman in human form. The greatest redemption of all times, redemption from sin, came through one made in the form of man.

After Jesus returned to Heaven, God continued to demonstrate His power on earth through men and women. The book of Acts is the record of the power of God at work through believers.

**Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.  
(Mark 16:20)**

God's power was demonstrated through the power of the Gospel that changes lives of men and women. It was demonstrated in miracles of healing and deliverance. His power was shown in spite of suffering and persecution.

Whenever God raises up a man or ministry it is for the purpose of showing His power. God said to Moses:

**But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.  
(Exodus 9:16)**

God continues to reveal His power today through believers who are part of the true Church. He demonstrates His power through special leaders He sets in the Church and through spiritual gifts given to believers. You will study more about this in Chapter Five on "Delegated Authority."

## **WHY GOD REVEALS HIS POWER**

Why does God reveal His power on earth? Why does He show miraculous signs to mankind? There are many purposes for God's power at work in the world. You will study these in Chapter Six on "The Purposes Of Power."

But the many purposes of God's power can be summed up in one major purpose. This purpose, from the beginning of time, was to redeem sinful mankind through Jesus Christ. The purpose of the revelation of His power is to draw all men to Himself through Jesus:

**He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,**

**To be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:9-10)**

**According to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:11)**

### **OTHER LEVELS OF AUTHORITY**

God is the source of all power. He is the supreme and highest authority in the universe.

God has established other levels of authority in the world. He gave authority to His Son, Jesus Christ. He gives believers authority through the Holy Spirit. God has established levels of authority in society, government, business, the home, and the church. These levels of authority are all important. To properly understand principles of spiritual power, you must recognize the structure of authority established by God. You will study each of these later in this course.

But first, attention must be focused on an important truth which is revealed in the Bible. Although God is the source of power, His authority does not go unchallenged. The levels of authority He has established in the world also do not go unchallenged. There are evil forces challenging God's authority. They are not a threat to His authority in any way, but they constantly wage warfare against it nevertheless. If you incorporate Biblical "Power Principles" into your life then you will be challenged by these same forces. The following chapter, "The Challenging Counterfeit," deals with this subject.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What is the "source" of something?

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3. Who is the source of all power?

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4. List eight ways God reveals His power on earth.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Is this statement True or False? "God is the only power in the universe. There are no other levels of power." The statement is \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Give a Scripture reference which explains God's main purpose in revealing His power on earth.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. David was the greatest King to ever rule the nation of Israel. He recognized God as the source of all power. Summarize what you learn from these Scriptures:

II Samuel 22:33; Psalms 59:11,16; 62:11; 63:2; 65:6; 68:35; 78:26; 79:11; 90:11;  
106:8; 110:3; 111:6; 145:11; 150:1

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2. David expressed a personal desire related to God's power. What was the desire he expressed in Psalms 71:18?

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3. As you study the Bible, keep a record of how God reveals His power through:

Nature  
Judgment  
Redemption  
His Written Word

Jesus Christ  
The Holy Spirit  
Supernatural Signs  
Believers



# CHAPTER THREE

## THE CHALLENGING COUNTERFEIT

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verses from memory.
- ☐ Identify Satan as the challenging counterfeit of the true power of God.
- ☐ Explain what is meant by "spiritual wickedness in high places."
- ☐ Summarize how Satan imitates God's power through spiritual wickedness in high places.

### KEY VERSES:

**And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.**

**It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.  
(II Corinthians 11:14-15)**

### INTRODUCTION

In the last chapter you learned that God is the source of power and of the ways He reveals His power on earth. But God's great power does not go unchallenged. There is a power struggle going on in the world today. It is not a war of flesh and blood. It is the struggle of a very challenging counterfeit rebelling against God.

### THE CHALLENGING COUNTERFEIT

Satan constantly is challenging God's power in the universe. He is the challenging counterfeit because he actually poses no threat to God. Satan was originally created by God as a beautiful angel named Lucifer. Read about his original state and position in Ezekiel 28:12-17. But Satan rebelled against the power and authority of God. He wanted to be as God Himself. You can read the story of his rebellion in Ezekiel 28:17 and Isaiah 14:12-15. God could have struck Satan down and killed him for such rebellion. But if He had brought down the first enemy in this way, there would have been the possibility of another rebellion and the history of Heaven would have been clouded with similar disasters.

Instead, God cast Satan out of Heaven and allowed his claims to power to have complete trial on earth. God also cast out other angels who participated in Satan's rebellions. They are now evil angels known as "demons" or "devils" at work in the world today.

Shortly after God created the first man and woman, the battle began on earth. You can read of the first challenge in Genesis chapter 3. The fall of Adam and Eve into sin was rooted in rebellion against the authority and power of God. Adam and Eve sought knowledge equal to that of God. With such knowledge would come power.

From this time on, Satan has challenged the authority of God on earth. Through sin, Satan seeks to draw men and women to allegiance to himself instead of God. The Harvestime Institute course, "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*," deals with the subject of Satan in detail. If you are taking the Institute courses in their suggested order, you have already studied this course. If not, we suggest you obtain it to assist in understanding this enemy and specific spiritual strategies to overcome his power.

One of the chief methods of Satan in challenging God's power is to counterfeit it. A counterfeit is an imitation of something and is designed to deceive. For example, counterfeit money is made to look like real money. Criminals pass it off to others as real money to deceive them.

Satan counterfeits the power of God. He imitates God's power to deceive people. He uses his angels (demons) to help him accomplish this goal. Satan and his demons sometimes appear as good instead of evil. We are warned:

**And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.**

**It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.  
(II Corinthians 11:14-15)**

In the final days of time on earth, this imitation of God's power by Satan will increase. Through signs and wonders, he will deceive many:

**The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works.  
He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that  
serve the lie,**

**And all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.  
They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**

**For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will  
believe the lie. (II Thessalonians 2:9-11)**

This Scripture reveals how Satan works. He counterfeits the power of God with "all power and signs and lying wonders." The only way you can detect his deception is by the truth of the Word of God.

## **PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS**

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)**

Man is caught in this conflict of Satan rebelling against the power of God. We are engaged in a power struggle with the invisible powers of Satan. But the power of God is greater than "thrones, dominions, principalities and powers" (Colossians 1:16) and greater than all "principalities and powers in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). But you need to be alert to the deceptive power of Satan which counterfeits the power of God. You must be aware of . . .

## **SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES**

When Paul speaks of "spiritual wickedness in high places," he is referring to wicked spirits who have infiltrated the religious systems of the world. Satan has organized his evil forces to imitate the organization of the true Church of God. In some cases he actually has congregations known as "The Church of Satan" or "Spiritualists." He has set up a form of worship in the spiritual "high places" of organized religion.

Satan has also established his system right in the true Church through evil people who have "crept in unawares" (Jude 4). Satan has right in the Church who demonstrate power, but it is not God's power. The structure Satan has established in the high places of religion is based on imitation and deception.

## **SATAN HAS HIS OWN TRINITY:**

God is a trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The trinity of Satan includes Satan himself, the beast, and a false prophet.

## **SATAN HAS HIS OWN CHURCH:**

God established the true Church which is known as the "Body of Christ" of which Jesus is the head:

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.  
(I Corinthians 12:27)**

Satan has his own church which is called "a synagogue of Satan":

**. . . I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not,  
but are a synagogue of Satan. (Revelation 2:9)**

The name "synagogue of Satan" is not always openly used, but his synagogue is established any place the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not preached.

### **SATAN HAS A DOCTRINE:**

God has a doctrine which is revealed in His holy Word, the Bible:

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching...  
(II Timothy 3:16)**

The doctrine of Satan is called the "doctrine of devils":

**The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (I Timothy 4:1)**

The doctrine of devils is any teaching presented as truth which does not agree with the written Word of God.

### **SATAN HAS A SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE:**

In Romans 12:1, we are told to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. This means we are to surrender in total allegiance to God. Satan demands sacrifices also:

**No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. (I Corinthians 10:20)**

Satan demands total allegiance of body, soul, and spirit. There are actually services of sacrifice conducted where men and women dedicate themselves to the service of Satan. The blood sacrifice of humans and animals is also practiced.

### **SATAN HAS HIS OWN COMMUNION:**

The sharing of the communion bread and wine was started by Jesus as a way of remembering His sacrifice for the sins of all mankind on the cross (I Corinthians 11:23-34). Satan counterfeits this with his own communion service:

**You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.  
(I Corinthians 10:21)**

## **SATAN HAS MINISTERS:**

God calls some believers to serve as pastors and minister to His Church by proclaiming the Gospel (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has ministers:

**And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.**

**It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.  
(II Corinthians 11:14-15)**

Satan's ministers proclaim his Agospel≡ which is contrary to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ:

**Which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

**But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! (Galatians 1:7-8)**

Just because a message is delivered with a powerful style of presentation does not mean it is a message of the true Gospel.

## **SATAN HAS A THRONE:**

God has a throne in Heaven. Satan also has a throne, although we are not told its exact location:

**The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2)**

## **SATAN HAS WORSHIPERS:**

There are many who worship the true God. Satan also has worshipers:

**... and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast?  
(Revelation 13:4)**

Some worshipers of Satan pretend to be followers of Jesus:

**The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom.  
The weeds are the people of the evil one,**

**And the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. (Matthew 13:38-39)**

Satan mixes the bad "seed" in with the good "seed" (true believers).

#### **SATAN HAS PROPHETS:**

God has set prophets in the church, men who are especially anointed to bring a direct message from Him to the church (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has false prophets:

**And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.  
(Matthew 24:11)**

#### **SATAN HAS TEACHERS:**

God has anointed some people as teachers to explain His Word to others (I Corinthians 12:28). But all teachers are not from God. Satan has false teachers who spread his evil doctrine:

**But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.**

**Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.**

**In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. . .  
(II Peter 2:1-3)**

Satan's teachers bring in "damnable heresies," teachings which are false and cause division. They speak lies and are experts at mixing truth and error in a way that makes error acceptable.

#### **SATAN HAS APOSTLES:**

An apostle is a person who spreads the Gospel and establishes churches (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has apostles doing his work throughout the world. They deceive people by imitating the true apostles:

**For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. (II Corinthians 11:13)**

Satan's apostles become leaders of false cults and infiltrate churches and even become leaders in the churches.

## **SATAN RAISES UP FALSE CHRISTS:**

Satan has even imitated the Lord Jesus Christ by raising up false Christs. Jesus warned:

**. . . Watch out that no one deceives you.**

**For many will come in my name, claiming, „I am the Messiah,” and will deceive many. (Matthew 24:4-5)**

These false Christs may use the name of Jesus. They may do many signs and wonders. But they are imitators of the power of God.

## **SATAN HAS A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM:**

The Bible is a record of how God spoke to man in times past. God continues to speak to men today. Satan also speaks to man. His first words to humans resulted in their fall into sin (Genesis chapter 3).

Believers pray to God regarding their needs. God responds to the prayer of the righteous (James 5:16). Satan's followers pray to him and communicate with evil spirits. Sometimes Satan responds with supernatural events such as voices, the moving of objects, noises, etc. Satan does have real power and can demonstrate this power visually in our world.

God has communicated to man through His written Word, the Bible. Satan's message is also being communicated through the written word by evil magazines, books, motion pictures, and music. Communication from God through His written and spoken Word provides guidance for man in the affairs of life.

Satan has a system of false guidance accomplished through methods such as the following:

**Astrology and horoscope:** Which use stars to predict events and give guidance.

**Readings of tea leaves, pictures, bumps on the head, palm of the hand and crystal balls:**

The formation of the tea leaves, lines in the human hand, crystal balls, and pictures are claimed to give guidance.

**Witchcraft:** Using spells, potions, charms, rituals, séances, divinations, methods of chance, visions, drawings, and similar unscriptural methods to receive guidance.

## **SATAN HAS SUPERNATURAL POWER:**

Jesus promised supernatural power to his followers after they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Satan also gives supernatural power and authority (Revelation 13:2). His

demons create supernatural strength and energy. Satan gives both power and authority (Revelation 13:2), as did Jesus. Satan can perform many supernatural signs and miracles:

**They are demonic spirits that perform signs...(Revelation 16:14)**

Jesus said:

**Many will say to me on that day, „Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?“**

**Then I will tell them plainly, „I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!“  
(Matthew 7:22-23)**

Note that Jesus said "I never knew you.≡ These people with their impressive demonstrations of power were never of God. They were deceiving counterfeits.

### **THE GREATER POWER**

Satan is truly a challenging imitator. He has a powerful organization. His followers can do powerful acts. Jesus warned of his power:

**But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.  
(Luke 12:5)**

But God has greater power. Jesus said:

**... because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.  
(I John 4:4)**

You will learn in the next chapter how Jesus came with great power and authority to destroy the evil works of Satan. You will learn in later chapters how Jesus delegated power over all the power of the enemy to believers.

### **FACING THE CHALLENGING COUNTERFEIT**

Here are some Biblical guidelines for facing the power of the challenging counterfeit:

#### **RECOGNIZE SATAN IS AN IMITATOR:**

The first step in overcoming the power of Satan is to recognize that Satan imitates God's power.



## **USE DISCERNMENT:**

There is a special gift of the Holy Spirit called discerning of spirits. It is an unusual ability given by God to immediately discern another person's spirit and know if they are good or evil. If you have this spiritual gift, use it to determine whether people's spirits are of God or Satan.

If you do not have this gift, God has provided other methods of detection. II Peter 2 and the book of Jude list the characteristics of people with seducing spirits to help you identify them. No matter how spiritual or powerful a person may appear, evaluate him on the basis of God's Word.

## **EVALUATE THE SUPERNATURAL BY THE FRUIT:**

Because Satan imitates the power of God through supernatural manifestations of miracles, signs, and wonders, God has provided a way to evaluate ministries. Jesus compared men to fruit trees:

**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.**

**Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. (Matthew 7:18, 20)**

Satan can imitate spiritual gifts and God's power, but he has no imitation for a holy life exhibiting the fruit of the Holy Spirit which includes . . .

**. . . love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. . . (Galatians 5:22-23)**

Evaluate ministries by spiritual fruit instead of supernatural manifestations of power.

## **STUDY THE WORD OF GOD:**

In order to recognize false doctrines of Satan's teachers, apostles, prophets, and ministers, you must know what is taught in the Word of God. Paul told Timothy:

**Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.  
(II Timothy 2:15)**

Even though Paul was a great spiritual leader in the early church, the believers at the city of Berea checked everything he said by God's written Word:

**Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)**

To avoid being deceived by Satan's power, examine everything that is taught in light of God's Word. Evaluate the lives of those who are teaching powerful doctrines or performing signs and wonders.

Do not accept any teaching, doctrine, revelation, or miracle that is not in harmony with God's Word. The power of Satan often attracts believers through so-called "special revelation of new truth." People claim special dreams, appearances by angels, visions, voices, or other supernatural events. But Paul warned:

**... Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! (Galatians 1:7-8)**

Do not accept any so-called prophecy that is not in right relation to the faith (Romans 12:6) and which does not come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:22). Do not accept any revelation that leads you away from God and the truth of His Word (Deuteronomy 13:1-5):

**Whoever strays from the path of prudence comes to rest in the company of the dead. (Proverbs 21:16)**

#### **AVOID EVERY SATANIC INFLUENCE:**

God warned Israel to avoid every type of Satanic influence:

**... Destroy all their carved images and their cast idols, and demolish all their high places. (Numbers 33:52)**

Read the additional instructions God gave in Deuteronomy 18:9-14. Israel was to have no contact with the work of Satan in any form. Destroy anything you own that has to do with witchcraft or the work of the devil. This includes idols, lucky charms, potions, amulets, crystal balls, games, divining devices, and other similar items. Destroy any evil literature and music that does not glorify God. This is what people did in the New Testament when they became believers:

**A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (Acts 19:19)**

Do not spend time in places where there is evil influence. The Bible records that God manifested Himself in special places such as the Old Testament temple and the upper room of a house on the Day of Pentecost. It is equally true that Satanic power can be manifested in special places dedicated to evil. This includes places where evil pictures are shown, drinking and riotous

behavior is occurring, séances are being held, worship of Satan is occurring--anywhere sinful practices are going on. Avoid such environments, because Satan's power is especially strong there. You cannot pray, "Lead me not into temptation," and then put yourself in such a place:

**. . . and I do not want you to be participants with demons.  
(I Corinthians 10:20)**

Do not associate with false leaders, teachers, prophets, ministers or apostles: **Reject every kind of evil.  
(I Thessalonians 5:22)**

### **RECOGNIZE GOD'S POWER IS GREATER THAN SATAN:**

God's organization, the true church, is more powerful than that of Satan:

**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body. . .  
(Ephesians 1:22-23)**

**His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.  
(Ephesians 3:10)**

Jesus is the head of the Church. Believers are the body. If all things (including Satan and his religious structure) are under the feet of Jesus, then they are also under our feet because we are the body. "Under the feet" means they are under the power and authority which God has delegated to us. Jesus said we have power over "all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19). This includes spiritual wickedness in high places. Satan and his hosts challenge God's power, but they certainly are not a threat to Him or His people. The Church is actually to demonstrate God's power to these evil principalities and powers!

### **LEARN BIBLICAL POWER PRINCIPLES:**

You will study Biblical principles in this course. If you understand the principles of God's power, you will not be deceived by the counterfeit works of Satan.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

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2. What is meant by "spiritual wickedness in high places"?

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3. Summarize all you remember about the counterfeiting of God's power by Satan through spiritual wickedness in high places.

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4. List eight Biblical strategies given in this chapter for overcoming the power of the challenging imitator.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Study II Peter chapter 2 and the book of Jude. These chapters will help you detect Satan's imitators in the church.
2. Obtain the Harvestime International Institute course "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*." It will help you learn more about the challenging counterfeit and provide specific strategies for overcoming his power.
3. As an imitator of the power of God, Satan seeks to deceive in the world today. To "deceive" is to mislead or cause someone to believe something that is not true.

- Satan deceives not only individuals but nations: Revelation 20:8-10
- Satan works with "all deceivableness of unrighteousness": II Thessalonians 2:10
  - We are warned that deception will increase: II Timothy 3:13
- Because deception will increase, we are instructed to be aware of the events indicating Christ's return: Matthew 24; Mark 13; II Thessalonians 2:3
- We are warned about those used by Satan to deceive: II Corinthians 11:13; Titus 1:10; II Peter 2:13; II John 7
- Man's heart is deceptive: Jeremiah 17:9
- Every unsaved man is deceived: II Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 3:13
- Do not accept deceptive "fair speeches" which do not agree with God's Word: Romans 16:18; II Corinthians 4:2

### **You are deceived if . . .**

- You listen to vain philosophies: Colossians 2:8
- You trust in riches and permit the lusts of the flesh: Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19; Ephesians 4:22
- You are a hearer and not a doer of the Word of God: James 1:22
- You say you have no sin: I John 1:8
- You listen to evil men: II Timothy 3:13
- You think you are important when actually you are nothing: Galatians 6:3
- You think you will not reap what you sow: Galatians 6:7
- You think the unrighteous will inherit the Kingdom of God: I Corinthians 6:9
- You think you are wise because you have the wisdom of this world: I Corinthians 3:18
- You think you are spiritual but an unconquered tongue reveals your true condition: James 1:26
- You do not believe Jesus Christ came in the flesh: II John 7
- You think contact with sin will have no effect on you: I Corinthians 15:33

# CHAPTER FOUR

## "NEVER A MAN SPOKE AS HE"

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify the source of Jesus' power.
- ☐ Summarize what the Bible teaches regarding the power and authority of Jesus.

### KEY VERSE:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)**

### INTRODUCTION

God is a triune personality made up of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The source of power is God the Father. God delegated power to His Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit later endued believers with power delegated by the Son.

In this chapter you will learn of the power and authority of Jesus. It was so great that the religious leaders of His time commented, "Never a man spoke as He" (John 7:46).

### BORN IN POWER

Jesus was born in the power of the Holy Ghost:

**The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)**

Jesus was the visible manifestation of God's power:

**But to those whom God has called. . . Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (I Corinthians 1:24)**

## **BAPTIZED IN POWER**

John recognized the power of Jesus. He said:

**... After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.**

**I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”  
(Mark 1:7-8)**

When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove:

**I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel. (John 1:31)**

God had told John . . .

**... The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. (John 1:33)**

This was confirmed when the Holy Ghost rested on Jesus in the form of the dove. Jesus was not only filled with Holy Ghost power, He was to baptize with power.

## **A PROVEN POWER**

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan:

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. (Luke 4:1)**

You can read of this experience in Luke 4:1-13.

Power is proven by testing. Each temptation by Satan challenged the power and authority of Jesus. Jesus successfully overcame each one and. . .

**... returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. (Luke 4:14)**

## **HIS SOURCE OF POWER**

God the Father was the source of Jesus' power and authority. Jesus said:

**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19)**

Jesus did not exercise power independently of God the Father. Continually, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus credited God as the source of His power:

**But Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. (John 10:32)**

### **UNLIMITED POWER**

There were no limits to Christ's power. He was given all power in Heaven and earth:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)**

Jesus has power. . .

**Far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**

**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church. ( Ephesians 1:21-22)**

Jesus is the head of all other powers:

**And in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:10)**

Jesus had unlimited power. He was given:

### **POWER TO TEACH WITH AUTHORITY:**

The scribes based their authority on the Old Testament scriptures. Jesus based His authority on God Himself:

**The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. (Mark 1:22)**



**They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.  
(Luke 4:32)**

#### **POWER OVER SIN:**

Jesus had power to forgive sin:

**But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.  
(Matthew 9:6)**

#### **POWER OVER SICKNESS:**

**When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him,  
and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.  
(Matthew 8:16)**

#### **POWER OVER NATURE:**

**He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the  
wind died down and it was completely calm. (Mark 4:39)**

#### **POWER OVER ALL FLESH:**

**For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal  
life to all those you have given him. (John 17:2)**

#### **POWER OVER HIS ENEMIES:**

**“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power  
either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power  
over me if it were not given to you from above. . . (John 19:10-11)**

#### **POWER OVER DEATH:**

Jesus said:

**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though  
they die; (John 11:25)**

Through His own death and resurrection, Jesus. . .

**. . . having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)**

#### **POWER OVER HIS OWN LIFE:**

Jesus explained regarding His life:

**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. . . (John 10:18)**

#### **POWER TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT:**

God has given Jesus power to execute judgment:

**And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. (John 5:27)**

#### **POWER OVER DEMONS:**

Jesus had power and authority over demonic forces:

**All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out! (Luke 4:36)**

**The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him. (Mark 1:27)**

**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

#### **POWER OVER ALL THE WORKS OF THE ENEMY:**

The purpose for which Jesus came into the world was to destroy all the works of the Devil:

**The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. (I John 3:8)**

## **PRESENT POWER**

After His death and resurrection, Jesus returned to Heaven. There He continues to minister in power and authority at the right hand of God:

**But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God. (Luke 22:69)**

**“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56)**

Jesus also continues to minister through the power delegated to believers. Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He delegated power and authority to His followers. They were to do the works He had done, and even greater works (John 14:12). You will study about this delegated power in the next chapter.

## **FUTURE POWER**

Someday, Jesus will return to earth in great power and glory:

**Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30)**

At that time all the powers of Heaven and earth will be delivered up to Jesus:

**Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. (I Corinthians 15:24)**

All the universe will acknowledge the power of God the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ:

**In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

**Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” (Revelation 5:12-13)**

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What were the limitations of Jesus' power?

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3. Who was the source of Jesus' power and authority?

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4. Summarize what you learned in this chapter concerning the power and authority of Jesus.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Continue to learn about the power and authority of Jesus by studying His life and ministry in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Keep a record of how many times Jesus attributes His power to God the Father. What is the total number?

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Keep a record of the demonstrations of His power in teaching, healing, casting out demons, miracles, control of nature, etc. Use this chart:

Reference	How Power Was Demonstrated	Results
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# CHAPTER FIVE

## DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify the source from whom we receive spiritual authority.
- ☐ Explain the relationship between responsibility and authority.
- ☐ Explain the responsibility Jesus delegated to His followers.
- ☐ Define two Greek words for power.

### KEY VERSE:

**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:19)**

### INTRODUCTION

God is the source of power. He delegated "all power" to His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus then delegated spiritual power to His followers. This power enabled them to fulfill a great responsibility assigned to them.

### RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

When Jesus concluded His earthly ministry and returned to Heaven, He left His followers with a great responsibility. He said:

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

**And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)**

The responsibility Jesus gave His followers was to reach the entire world with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

There is a definite relationship between responsibility and authority. When someone is given a responsibility to do something, he must also be given the authority to do it. That authority must be delegated by someone greater than he.

For example, a policeman is given the responsibility to maintain order in a village or city. He is also given authority by the government to fulfill that responsibility. He is given authority to carry a weapon to give him power to fulfill his task. The policeman does not have authority in himself. His authority is delegated (given) to him by his superiors. He is a man working with power delegated to him by a higher authority. He represents the government.

Jesus gave His followers the responsibility of reaching the world with the Gospel. He also gave them the authority to accomplish the task. You cannot give someone responsibility without giving them authority to carry out that responsibility. What was this authority? It was spiritual power. Jesus said:

**. . . All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)**

Then He said,

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

**And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)**

### **THE AUTHORITY TO DELEGATE**

When Jesus came to this earth, He came with power and authority. Jesus had "all power" delegated from God. Because of this, He (Jesus) had the authority to delegate both power and responsibility to His followers:

**Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. (Matthew 10:1)**

And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach,

**And to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3:14-15)**

**Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. (Mark 6:7)**

**When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1)**

It was not emotionalism or material blessings which Jesus delegated to His disciples. He did not establish an organized base of operations in Jerusalem. He knew these alone would not accomplish the task. He delegated power.

In Chapter Three you learned about the power of Satan. The power which Jesus delegated to His followers is greater than the power of the enemy:

**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:19)**

Satan is not afraid of you. He will not respect you, but he fears your God-given authority. Authority is based on relationship. For example, the policeman has authority because of his relationship with the government. Your authority is based on your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Behind you stands Jesus with "all power." When you realize this truth, your life will change. Jesus told the disciples:

**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)**

When the Disciples were endued with this power they were changed from fearful, unbelieving, doubting men to men of authority:

**. . . the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)**

The book of Acts records how the promise of spiritual power was fulfilled in the lives of believers. The miracles, signs, and wonders described in this book are impressive. Each manifestation of God's power contributed towards the fulfillment of the great responsibility of reaching the world with the Gospel.

## **TWO WORDS FOR POWER**

In the New Testament, two different Greek words are translated by the one word, power. The two meanings are illustrated in this verse:



**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy. . . (Luke 10:19)**

The Greek word "exousia" means delegated power or authority. The word "dunamis" refers to inherent power. "Inherent" power is derived from the mind and self. Inherent power (dunamis) is used in this verse to describe the power of Satan. Delegated power (exousia) is used to describe the power of Jesus which was delegated by God. It is this power, delegated from God, which is greater than the power of the enemy. It is this delegated power that is passed on to believers. You are not born with this power. You do not inherit it from your parents. It is delegated to you by Jesus Christ.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POWER**

The power Jesus gave His followers carried with it a specific responsibility: It was to be used to extend the Gospel to the nations of the world:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

This power is for the purpose of extending the Gospel to the nations of the world.

Jesus told a parable illustrating this truth in Mark 13. He said:

**It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. (Mark 13:34)**

The authority was given to accomplish a work. That work is the extension of the Gospel to the nations of the world.

### **IS IT PAST?**

Some people claim this great endowment of spiritual power was only for the early church. They say it was only for the disciples. They claim the day of miracles is past.

But consider this question: Has the entire world been reached with the Gospel? The task Jesus left to His followers is not yet finished. We still have the responsibility of reaching the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus would not withdraw the authority before the responsibility was fulfilled.

Read the story of the death and resurrection of Lazarus in John 11. When Jesus arrived after Lazarus had already died, Martha met Him and said:

**... if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (John 11:21)**

Jesus said to her. . .

**... Your brother will rise again. (John 11:23)**

Martha said:

**... I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.  
(John 11:24)**

Then Jesus said to her:

**... I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even  
though they die; (John 11:25)**

Martha believed Jesus could have raised Lazarus in the past ("... if thou hadst been here"). She believed Jesus could raise him in the future ("in the last day"). But Jesus shared a very important truth with her. He said "I Am" the resurrection and life. "I am" is speaking in the present tense. Then He raised Lazarus from the dead.

There is no such thing as a past day of miracles. There is no such thing as future day of miracles. In every age there is power to work miracles to meet the needs of people. In every day and age, God is manifesting His power. He says to you, "I Am"--present tense.

### **LIFE FROM THE VINE**

**I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear  
much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)**

In the natural world, life comes from the vine. The vine sends a life flow into the branches of a plant to produce fruit. The branch does not bear fruit of its own. If it is separated from the main vine, it ceases to bear and eventually dies.

This is the example Jesus used to illustrate the flow of God's power in the spiritual world. We are the branches that bear the fruit. Jesus is the vine. You do not produce the fruit, you just bear it (see John 15).

The powerful miracles of New Testament times were not Peter's miracles. They were not the work of Paul's hands. They were a result of the life of God flowing through them as spiritual branches bringing forth spiritual fruit.

These men did what God had commanded them. They preached the Word. They laid hands on the sick. They commanded demons to loose their hold on the lives of men and women. They obeyed and left the results to God.

Obey God and leave the results in His hands. You are not the miracle worker. God is the source of power. When you are obedient to God and act on His Word, then it is up to Him. He produces the power through you.

When the disciples asked "What shall we do that we might work the works of God?", Jesus answered. . .

**. . . The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.  
(John 6:29)**

Jesus is the One who works through you. He is the One who has delegated the authority. You do not have to work up the power by emotionalism. You do not have to "pray it down." It is the power of God working in and through you:

**. . . the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)**

Often in ministry this pattern is switched. Many try to work *for* God. But the method that brings powerful results is "The Lord working *with* them."

Jesus told the disciples:

**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)**

Many ministries fail because they go forth before receiving the endowment of spiritual power. If we are to meet the challenges of the great responsibility Jesus gave us, we must do so in the authority and power of God.

## **THE PURPOSES**

People do not delegate power to others unless they have a reason for doing so. There is always a purpose when authority is delegated.

You learned in this chapter that the main purpose for spiritual power is the extension of the Gospel. But there are many other important purposes for this delegated authority. You will learn these purposes for power in the following chapter.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. From whom does the believer receive spiritual authority?

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3. What is the relationship between responsibility and authority?

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4. What was the great responsibility Jesus delegated to His followers?

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5. There are two Greek words used for power.

What does the word "dunamis" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the word "exousia" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is this statement True or False?

"The day of miracles is past. We no longer have the manifestations of power experienced by the disciples."

The statement is \_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read the book of Acts to see how the Disciples fulfilled their responsibility with the authority delegated by Jesus.

List the reference of each demonstration of God's supernatural power in column one below. Briefly summarize what happened in the second column. In the third column, explain the results of God's power. An example is provided for you to follow.

You will see how the authority Jesus delegated enabled the Disciples to fulfill the responsibility He had given them of reaching the world with the Gospel.

<b>Acts Reference</b>	<b>How God's Power Was Demonstrated</b>	<b>Results</b>
Acts 2	The Holy Ghost is given.	Peter, formerly a fearful man, gives a powerful witness which results in the salvation of 3,000 people.

# CHAPTER SIX

## THE PURPOSES OF POWER

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Explain how spiritual power differs from worldly power.
- ☐ Give a Biblical reference which confirms that the principles of the world are opposite of those of the Kingdom of God.
- ☐ Identify purposes for spiritual power.

### KEY VERSE:

**Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.  
(Mark 16:20)**

### INTRODUCTION

Undirected power can be dangerous. The power of a mighty river can be channeled for good purposes. It can bring water to farmers. Great ships can sail upon its waters. In some societies it is used to produce powerful energy in a form called "electricity."

But the same river, if undirected, can flood its banks and cause great damage. It can ruin crops and land, destroy homes, and take lives. It is the same river. It is the same power. The river is a positive force when directed for proper purposes, and destructive when it is not.

Spiritual power used for wrong purposes is as dangerous as a mighty river flooding out of control. For this reason it is important to understand the Scriptural purposes for spiritual power.

### WORLDLY PURPOSES

As you learned in the introduction of this course, there are many types of power operative in the world today. People use this power for various purposes:

**Political power** is used to take leadership of organizations, tribes, villages, cities, states, provinces and entire nations.

**Intellectual power** is used to make great inventions, literary and musical creations, and to establish educational institutions.

**Physical power** results in great fame in the world of athletic competition.

**Financial power** creates profitable businesses, corporations, and great financial empires.

**Military power** is used both to defend and gain territories.

**The power of energy** serves man in many ways ranging from a simple fire for warmth to electricity serving an entire city.

**Religious power** creates great denominations and religious cults.

But none of these are Biblical purposes for power.

### **NOT AS THE GENTILES**

On one occasion when Jesus was teaching His disciples about leadership, He said:

**. . . You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.**

**Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant**

**And whoever wants to be first must be your slave.  
(Matthew 20:25-27)**

Jesus was teaching His followers an important principle which can be applied to many other areas of life besides leadership. The word "Gentiles" is used to identify people and nations apart from God. Jesus explained that the Kingdom of God operates on principles completely different from those of the world.

This same principle is true in relation to the subject of power. Worldly purposes for power are not the purposes for power in the Kingdom of God. Power is used for selfish purposes in the world. In the Kingdom of God, it is to be used for unselfish purposes to advance the Kingdom.

Some people abuse spiritual power and use it to create great religious and denominational movements. They use it to create financial kingdoms and gain personal popularity. But these are not Scriptural purposes for spiritual power. They are abuses of the true purposes for which Jesus delegated authority to believers. The Scribes and Pharisees of New Testament times are examples of the abuse of spiritual power. Jesus said:

**Woe unto you, Pharisees! For you love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.**

**Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it. (Luke 11:43-44)**

The scribes and Pharisees were powerful religious leaders. They used this power for personal gain. They took the best seats in the synagogues. They commanded special greetings in the marketplace. They also used their power to control people:

**Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. (Matthew 23:13)**

**Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are. (Matthew 23:15)**

The Pharisees made a great show of outward religious power, but used it for personal gain:

**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer; therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. (Matthew 23:14)**

They had religious power, but they did not have true spiritual power. Jesus said they were like unmarked graves, so dead and powerless that people walked over them unawares.

## **BIBLICAL PURPOSES FOR POWER**

Here are Biblical purposes for spiritual power:

### **SALVATION:**

A primary purpose of spiritual power is salvation:

**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)**

**For 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. (I Corinthians 1:18)**

The demonstration of God's power results in salvation. The villages of Lydda and Sharon were converted when Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bed ridden for eight years, was healed (Acts 9).



## **WITNESSING:**

A major purpose of the spiritual power delegated to believers was given when Jesus first promised this power:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
(Acts 1:8)**

You will learn more about the power of the Holy Spirit later in this course.

The power Jesus delegated to His followers was to come upon them after the coming of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the power was to extend a mighty Gospel witness, starting in Jerusalem and spreading to the ends of the earth.

The first demonstration of this spiritual power was seen in the Apostle Peter. After receiving the Holy Spirit, he gave powerful witness to the Gospel which resulted in salvation for 3,000 people. This was the same Peter who fled at the time of Jesus' arrest. This was the same Peter who denied even knowing the Lord. What had happened?

Peter had been endued with spiritual power. He remembered the purpose of that power as stated by Jesus, "Ye shall be my witnesses." When he received the power he began to use it for a proper purpose--extending the Gospel to unsaved men and women.

In a court of law, "witness" consists of two factors; verbal testimony and evidence. The same is true in the spiritual realm. Our witness of the Gospel must include both testimony and evidence. Evidence is the demonstration of God's power:

**With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.  
(Acts 4:33)**

Paul wrote:

**Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power. . .  
(I Thessalonians 1:5)**

Jesus promised to work with those who fulfill the command to go into the world as witnesses to every creature. Some people seek powerful signs in their ministry, but they are not fulfilling the command to go. The power Jesus promised is to those who fulfill this command.

## **BOLDNESS:**

**For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)**

In the early Church the Gospel went forth in boldness because of the endowment of spiritual power:

**After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31)**

**But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told . . . how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. (Acts 9:27)**

**He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. . . (Acts 18:26)**

**Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. (Acts 19:8)**

**. . . with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel. . . (I Thessalonians 2:2)**

## **WORKING THE WORKS OF GOD:**

The disciples were amazed at the powerful works of Jesus:

**Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.**

**When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? (Mark 6:1-2)**

Jesus said:

**As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. (John 9:4)**

Jesus had a definite purpose: He must work the works of God. This was His motivation. After witnessing these works for a time, the Disciples came to Jesus with this question:

**... What must we do to do the works God requires? (John 6:28)**

Jesus answered:

**... The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.  
(John 6:29)**

The greatest work of God was manifested in Jesus. The Lord focused the attention of His Disciples upon this fact rather than the visible demonstration of signs and wonders. True miracles always exalt Jesus. This is the work of God.

Later, Jesus told His followers:

**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing,  
and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.  
(John 14:12)**

His followers were to do the same works He had done. The past had not exhausted the possibilities for power. They would do greater works. These works would be greater in quantity, not quality--because Jesus must return to Heaven.

His promise came true. Throughout the book of Acts, we witness believers doing the works of God. The sick are healed, demons are cast out, prison doors are opened, and the dead are raised again to life.

## **REVEALING GOD:**

You learned that one reason God demonstrates His power on earth is to reveal Himself to man. Spiritual power delegated to believers is also for this purpose:

**When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who  
had given such authority to man. (Matthew 9:8)**

Through a powerful Church, God desires to reveal Himself to the entire universe:

**His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be  
made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.  
(Ephesians 3:10)**

The purpose of this revelation through power is to:

**... open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (Acts 26:18)**

### **REVEALING THE KINGDOM OF GOD:**

Jesus combined the proclamation of the Kingdom of God with its demonstration. When Jesus was questioned "are you the one who was to come?" (Luke 7:19), He did not reply with argument or logic. He said:

**... Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. (Luke 7:22)**

Power demonstrates the Kingdom of God in action. The miracles of Jesus demonstrated that the Kingdom of God was at hand. They were illustrations of what the Kingdom will be like in its visible form when the New Heaven and New Earth are created:

-Casting out demons signals God's invasion of the realm of Satan and his final destruction: Matthew 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21; John 12:31; Revelation 20:1

-Healing the sick looks forward to the day when all suffering will end: Revelation 21:4

-Miraculous provision of food tells us of a day when all human need will end: Revelation 7:1

-Stilling the storms looks forward to victory over the powers using nature to threaten the earth: Revelation 21:1

-Raising the dead announces that death will be forever done away with: I Corinthians 15:26

### **CONFIRMING THE WORD:**

Powerful signs and wonders confirm the Word of God:

**So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. (Acts 14:3)**

**Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.**

**Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (Acts 4:29-30)**

**Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.  
(Mark 16:20)**

## **MINISTRY TO OTHERS:**

The power of God rested on Jesus to equip Him for ministry:

**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2)**

**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1)**

**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

**The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. (Mark 1:22)**

This same power was evident in the ministries of believers in the early church. Paul said:

**I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. (Ephesians 3:7)**

The effectual working of God's power within you results in ministry. Your ministry comes into being and develops into maturity through the power of God at work in you. Paul said:

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,**

**So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.  
(I Corinthians 2:4-5)**

The early Church was born in a demonstration of God=s power, not through great orators or theological debate. This permitted their faith to be in God instead of the skillful speaking abilities of men.

God's power enables all areas of spiritual ministry: Spreading of the Gospel, ministering to the sick, oppressed, and those bound with demonic powers:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. . . (Matthew 28:18-19)**

**And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;**

**They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. (Mark 16:17-18)**

**Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. (Matthew 10:1)**

You are approved as a minister of God by the power of God:

**Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves. . . in truthful speech and in the power of God... (II Corinthians 6:4,7)**

#### **FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE:**

As you fulfill the purpose of power to extend the Gospel, you will encounter the opposition of Satan. Jesus has delegated power to you for spiritual warfare. He has given you power over all the power of the enemy:

**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:19)**

**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.**

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:10-12)**

### **PREVENTING SPIRITUAL ERROR:**

People fall into spiritual error for two reasons:

**Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. (Matthew 22:29)**

Spiritual error results if you do not know the Word of God because you are open to deceptive doctrines and false teaching. Spiritual error also results when you do not know the power of God. You are open to the deceptive power of the enemy. You fall victim to his powers operating against you when you have no spiritual power with which to resist his forces.

Some have a form of godliness and even know the Scriptures, but they deny God's power. The Bible warns that these people have. . .

**. . . a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. (II Timothy 3:5)**

### **VICTORY OVER SIN:**

Spiritual power conquers sin:

**For sin shall no longer be your master. . . (Romans 6:14)**

### **EDIFICATION:**

Paul wrote the Corinthians:

**So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down. (II Corinthians 10:8)**

**This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. (II Corinthians 13:10)**

Paul knew his authority was not to be used to control people or destroy them at will. He apparently had a tendency to speak sharply, so he wrote the Corinthians concerning difficult matters. He did not want to abuse the spiritual power God had given him. The power from God

was given to Paul to edify others, not to destroy them. To "edify" means to build up and promote spiritual growth.

This does not mean we do not have power to properly discipline within the church. Spiritual authority is given to leaders to discipline according to the instructions given in God's Word. A powerless church will result in the absence of such discipline.

### **CREATING WILLINGNESS:**

Each person has a will of their own. That will is the power of choice. The demonstration of power creates willingness or openness to God:

**Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. . . (Psalms 110:3)**

### **ENABLING GOD TO WORK:**

God acts in proportion to the measure you permit His power to work in you:

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)**

All you ask God for--all that you think concerning spiritual truths--is affected by the power of God at work in you.

### **SPIRITUAL STRENGTH:**

The power of God is not only a force working through you, but the strength maintaining you. Paul said we are. . .

**Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience. . . (Colossians 1:11)**

God's power strengthens you in difficult times when you need patience in suffering. You can face difficult situations with joy because of His glorious power at work in you. It is not just a measure of (limited) strength. You are strengthened with "all might"--all the power and strength flowing from God are the inner resources available to you in time of need. It is an important purpose of His power at work in you.

**But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (II Corinthians 12:9)**



## **PRESERVATION:**

You are kept, or preserved through God's power, until the end of time:

**Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (I Peter 1:5)**

## **RESURRECTION:**

You live in a mortal body which will die unless Jesus returns to earth first. It is spiritual power that will raise your mortal body in resurrection:

**it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; (I Corinthians 15:43)**

**By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. (I Corinthians 6:14)**

## **ETERNAL LIFE:**

God's power enables endless life:

**one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. (Hebrews 7:16)**

## **FOR ALL THINGS:**

All things that pertain unto life and godliness are given to you through the power of God:

**His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (II Peter 1:3)**

Think of the many things involved in life. Think of the many virtues involved in godliness. The purpose of His divine power is to give you these things. All things.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. How does spiritual power differ from worldly power?

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3. Give a Biblical reference which teaches that the principles of the world are opposite of those of the Kingdom of God.

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4. You studied many purposes for spiritual power in this lesson. Write a brief paragraph summarizing what you learned about three of these purposes.

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(Answers to test are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Jesus said believers would do the works which He had done. Read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Make a list of all the works Jesus did. These are the same works you can do through God's power.
2. Below is a list of the purposes of power discussed in this chapter. Evaluate your own spiritual level. Which of these purposes are now manifested in your life and ministry? Place a plus mark (+) by those you now manifest in your life. Place a minus (-) by those which need to be manifested.

Salvation	Victory over sin
Witnessing	Edification
Boldness	Creating willingness
Working the works of God	Enabling God to work in you
Revealing God	Spiritual strength
Revealing the Kingdom of God	Preservation
Confirming the Word of God	Resurrection
Ministry to others	Eternal life
Spiritual warfare	All things pertaining to life
Preventing spiritual error	

3. David speaks often of the works of God in the book of Psalms. Study the following references:

8:6; 9:1; 14:1; 26:7; 28:5; 33:4,15; 40:5; 46:8; 66:3,5; 71:17; 73:28; 75:1; 77:11;  
78:4,7,11,32; 86:8; 92:4,5; 103:22; 104:13,24,31; 105:2,5; 106:13,22,35,39;  
107:8,15,21,22,24,31; 111:2,4,6,7; 118:17; 119:27; 138:8; 139:14; 141:4; 143:5;  
145:4,5,9,10,17

Summarize what you learned from these passages:

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# CHAPTER SEVEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE ONE: THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Define "Gospel."
- ☐ Identify a Scriptural reference which summarizes basic elements of the Gospel.
- ☐ Explain why the Gospel is powerful.
- ☐ Identify benefits of the power in the blood of Jesus.
- ☐ Identify faith as necessary for claiming the power of the Gospel.
- ☐ Experience the power of the Gospel.

### KEY VERSE:

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.  
(Romans 1:16)**

### INTRODUCTION

You have learned the importance of power in your life. You discovered the source of power in God and studied about the power delegated to Jesus Christ. In the last chapter you learned how spiritual power was delegated to believers. But how do you receive this power? How can you claim it for your own life and ministry? What are the spiritual principles by which it operates? This chapter begins a series of studies entitled "Power Principles." Each lesson examines a different principle necessary in order for you to receive and maintain spiritual power. The first principle is "The Power Of The Gospel."

### THE GOSPEL

The word "Gospel" actually means "good news." When we speak of the Gospel in a Biblical sense, it refers to the good news of the Kingdom of God and of salvation through Jesus Christ. The basic elements of the Gospel are summarized by the Apostle Paul:

**For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

**That he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (I Corinthians 15:3-4)**

The basic elements of the Gospel focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. It includes His death for the sins of all mankind, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead according to the written record of God's Word. There is great power in the Gospel message. Paul said:

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**

**For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.**

**The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,**

**Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (Romans 1:16-19)**

These verses reveal why the Gospel is powerful. It is powerful because:

- It is the revelation of God's power to man.
- It brings salvation to all men, regardless of race, color, or creed.
- It reveals that which may be known by men about God.
- It reveals the judgment and wrath of God against sin.
- It reveals the righteousness of God.
- It shows how to be justified by faith.
- It is the basis of the faith by which we live.

### **POWER IN THE BLOOD**

The cross is the instrument of death, the wooden construction upon which Jesus died. The power of the Gospel is inseparable from the power of the cross and the blood shed upon it.

The power of the cross is not in the wooden structure itself. The power is not in any symbol of the cross which we wear or put on our church buildings. The power of the cross is in what happened on that cross. It is in the blood of Jesus which was shed on the cross for the sins of all mankind.

The Bible teaches that the life of man and beasts is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11,14). Because the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23), and since life is in the blood, God established the principle that forgiveness of sins comes only through the shedding of blood:

**In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)**

In the Old Testament, the blood of animals was offered as sacrifice for sin. The blood sacrifices were made over and over again whenever man sinned. But in the New Testament, God sent Jesus to shed His blood for sin once and for all. It is no longer necessary that the blood of animals be offered as sacrifice for sin:

**He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:12)**

The power of the cross is in the blood of Jesus. What spiritual power is in that blood? The blood:

- Was shed for the remission (forgiveness) of sins for many: Matthew 26:28
- Brought redemption from sin: Ephesians 1:7; 2:13; I Peter 1:2,18-19; Revelation 5:6-9
- Is precious, because it redeemed us: I Peter 1:18-19
- Cleanses us from sin: I John 1:7
- Purges our conscience from sin: Hebrews 9:14
- Speaks for us: Jesus is our intercessor and His blood cries or speaks for us: Hebrews 12:24
- Gives access to God's presence so we can approach Him: Hebrews 9:12; 10:19-22; Ephesians 2:13
- Made Jesus the mediator between God and man: Hebrews 12:24
- Sanctifies us: Hebrews 13:12-13
- Is the means of justification: Romans 3:24-25
- Is the cup of spiritual blessings: I Corinthians 10:16
- Redeems us from sin and sickness: Isaiah 53:4
- Backs Christ's promises: When Jesus took the cup of wine and said "This cup is the new covenant in My blood" he was saying "Every promise that is part of that covenant will be kept at the cost of My own lifeblood": Luke 22:20
- Is the power behind the resurrection of Jesus: Hebrews 13:20
- Brings life: John 6:53-57
- Enables us to do God's will: Hebrews 13:20-21
- Enables us to overcome all the power of the enemy: Revelation 12:11
- Provides protection: When the blood of the Passover lamb was placed on the doors of the Israelites in Egypt, evil could not enter: Exodus 12:21-23

These are the reasons Paul said:

**For 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. (I Corinthians 1:18)**

### **A MATTER OF CHOICE**

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, did this mean His enemies had greater power than He did because they caused Him great suffering and in the end put Him to death? Read what the Bible records about this:

**Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"**

**Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin. (John 19:10-11)**

**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father. (John 10:18)**

The enemies of Jesus did not have greater power. Jesus chose to give His life for the sins of all mankind according to God's plan. Jesus did not have to do it. He had the power to deliver Himself from the cross. He willingly laid down his life.

### **THE RESURRECTION**

The death of Jesus on the cross was not the end of the story. The power of the Gospel does not conclude here. Three days after His death, Jesus was resurrected from the dead. You can read about this in Luke 24:1-12.

**But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. (Acts 2:24)**

The greatest illustration of God's power was in the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

**For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you. (II Corinthians 13:4)**

The resurrection of Jesus is a vital part of the power of the Gospel because through it. . .

**. . . you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.**

**And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:10,15)**

Through His resurrection, Jesus triumphed over the power of the enemy. Because of it, we have power over all the power of the enemy. We even have power over death, because our mortal bodies will also experience resurrection. There is great power in the resurrection. Paul spoke of knowing Jesus in the power of the resurrection (Philippians 3:10). You will learn more about this principle in Chapter Sixteen, "The Power Of His Resurrection."

## **THE FAITH FACTOR**

There is one factor necessary to experience the powerful benefits of the blood of Jesus Christ. You must have faith in the blood:

**And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

**God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished**

**He did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. . .**

**For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. (Romans 3:24-26,28)**

It is not enough that there is power in the Gospel. You must apply that power to your own life. You do this through faith. Basically, faith is believing. You must believe in the power of the Gospel in order to experience it. You will learn more about the relation between faith and power later in this course.

## **EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL**

If you have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and been forgiven of your sins, then you cannot experience the power of the Gospel. To experience the power of the Gospel you must:

### **1. ADMIT YOU HAVE SINNED:**

**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)**



**2. BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS:**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)**

**3. CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOU:**

**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:8-9)**

**4. EXPERIENCE A CHANGED LIFE:**

Let the power of the Gospel work in you to change your old life-style, your sinful actions, attitudes, and thoughts:

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (II Corinthians 5:17)**

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Define the word "Gospel."

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3. Which Scripture reference best summarizes the basic elements of the Gospel?

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4. Why is the Gospel so powerful?

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5. Summarize what you learned about the power in the blood of Jesus.

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6. What is necessary for claiming the power of the Gospel?

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7. How can you experience the power of the Gospel?

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8. Is this statement True or False? "The enemies of Jesus had greater power than He did because they were able to kill Him.≡ The statement is \_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Study further about the Gospel. Summarize what the following Scriptures teach:

Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14

Mark 1:14

Acts 20:24

Romans 1:1-3,9; 15:16,19

II Corinthians 4:4

Ephesians 1:13; 6:15

I Thessalonians 2:2,9

II Thessalonians 1:8

I Timothy 1:11

I Peter 4:17

Revelation 14:6

# CHAPTER EIGHT

## POWER PRINCIPLE TWO: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Give a Biblical reference which reveals the relation of the Holy Spirit to power.
- ☐ Identify the main purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Give a Biblical reference which lists the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ List Scriptural guidelines for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### KEY VERSE:

**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)**

### INTRODUCTION

Jesus made an important promise to His followers regarding spiritual power:

**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)**

The power of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit are two key principles in understanding the Biblical concept of power. Experiencing both is necessary to receive spiritual power. You have already learned the importance of the power of the Gospel. But there is another vital spiritual experience which you must receive. It is the power of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus. This chapter discusses this important principle. This chapter is only an introduction to the Holy Spirit. To study this subject in depth, obtain the Harvestime International Institute course, "*Ministry Of The Holy Spirit*."

### THE PROMISE OF POWER

Jesus told His followers He would. . .

**. . . ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—**

**The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)**

The Spirit of which Jesus spoke is the third person of the Trinity of God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would "endue" or literally "clothe" the Disciples in spiritual power:

**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)**

### **THE RELATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO POWER**

Note that this great spiritual power was to be experienced after receiving the Holy Spirit:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

Power is a spirit:

**For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)**

**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. (Luke 4:14)**

That "power of the Spirit" is the Holy Spirit:

**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

### **PURPOSES OF THIS POWER**

The Holy Spirit ministers in many powerful ways in the lives of believers. The Holy Spirit:

**Dwells in him:** (I Corinthians 6:19) We are actually the temple or dwelling place of the Holy Ghost.

**Unites him in one spirit with God and other believers:** (I Corinthians 6:17) There is great power in unity as demonstrated in the story of the tower of Babel (See Genesis 11; especially note verse 6).

**Intercedes for him:** (Romans 8:26) This powerful intercessor prays for us according to God's will.

**Guides him:** (John 16:13) The Holy Spirit enables us to walk in power and not confusion. He guides us to the place of power, the perfect will of God.

**Imparts the love of Christ to him and through him:** (Romans 5:5) You will learn more about the power of love in the next chapter.

**Reveals Biblical truth to him:** (I Corinthians 2:10) Powerful spiritual revelation comes through the Holy Spirit.

**Comforts him:** (Acts 9:31 and John 14:17, 26) He comforts us in times of grief.

**Conforms him to the image of Christ:** (II Corinthians 3:18) We are powerless to change ourselves into the image of Christ. Self-improvement plans are doomed to failure. But through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be conformed to the image of Jesus.

**Teaches him:** (John 14:26) The greatest teacher takes up residence within us when we are endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Knowledge is powerful, and the Holy Spirit imparts spiritual knowledge.

**Inspires him to true worship:** (John 4:24) Praise and worship are powerful spiritual strategies. In some Old Testament battles they were the main methods used against the enemies of God.

**Quickens him:** (Romans 8:11) The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us to quicken us. This means we are endowed with resurrection-like power while yet in these mortal bodies.

**Sanctifies him:** (II Thessalonians 2:13-14) We do not have to try to live a holy life through self effort. The power of the Holy Spirit sanctifies our thoughts and actions. He enables holy living.

**Changes him:** (Titus 3:5) Power is necessary to effect change and the Holy Spirit gives power for positive change.

**Convicts him of wrong:** (John 16:8-11) You will learn later in this course that sin results in spiritual power failure. The Holy Spirit convicts of wrong and leads us to repentance. This enables the continued flow of God's power.

**Gives assurance of salvation:** (Romans 8:16) Knowing your position gives you power. The Holy Spirit assures your position in God.

**Gives him liberty:** (Romans 8:2) Liberty provides the greatest opportunity for power. The Holy Spirit gives liberty through Jesus Christ.

**Speaks through him:** (Mark 13:11) We are not limited by our own speaking ability. The Holy Spirit speaks God's Words of power and authority through us.

**Demonstrates God's power:** (I Corinthians 2:4) The Holy Spirit enables the demonstration of God's power in every area of life.

**Strengthens him:** (Ephesians 3:16) When you are weak, God's strength is manifested.

### **THE GREATEST PURPOSE**

These are all important purposes, but there is one main purpose for the power of the Holy Spirit. All the purposes of the Holy Spirit are targeted to accomplish this greater purpose. The greatest purpose of the Holy Spirit is revealed in the promise by Jesus:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

The power to become witnesses for Jesus is the true evidence of the Holy Spirit. It was present immediately in the life of the Apostle Peter. Before the Holy Spirit experience, Peter fearfully denied he knew Jesus. After receiving the endowment of power of the Holy Spirit, Peter stood and gave a powerful witness to the Gospel that resulted in the salvation of 3,000 people.

It was the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church that resulted in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The book of Acts is a record of the powerful witness which was evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

This endowment of power comes through an experience called "the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Jesus spoke of this baptism:

**For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5)**

Peter spoke of this baptism:

**Then I remembered what the Lord had said: „John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 11:16)**

## **THE PHYSICAL SIGN**

The true evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is spiritual power, but this experience is also accompanied by a physical sign. There are three places in the New Testament where we are told what happened when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit. These include the first giving of the Holy Spirit recorded in Acts 2:2-4; at the house of Cornelius in Acts 10:44-45; and when the converts at Ephesus received the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 19:6.

In comparing these passages, one physical sign is common to all three: Those who received the Holy Spirit spoke in languages other than their native tongue. These were not languages they had learned. They were languages given through the power of the Holy Spirit. The "tongues" of the Holy Spirit can be in actual languages used on earth:

**Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"**

**Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?  
(Acts 2:7-8)**

The tongues can also be in a language not known to man. This is called an "unknown tongue":

**For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God.  
Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.  
(I Corinthians 14:2)**

## **PURPOSES FOR TONGUES**

The tongues given by the Holy Spirit serve powerful purposes in the lives of believers. Some of the purposes for tongues found in I Corinthians 14 are:

**-Prayer to God:** Verse 2

**-Self-edification:** Edification is not exalting self, but means encouragement, improvement, and development. Verse 4.

**-When interpreted, they edify the Church:** Verse 12

**-Intercession:** Verse 14. See also Romans 8:26-27

**-Praise:** Verses 15,17

**-Fulfillment of prophecy:** Verse 21. See also Isaiah 28:11-12



**-Sign to unbelievers:** Verse 22. See also Acts 2

## **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Jesus left His followers with a responsibility to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth:

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)**

The power of the Holy Spirit was given to help the Disciples fulfill this task (Acts 1:8).

Part of this power of the Holy Spirit is spiritual gifts which the Holy Spirit gives believers to equip them to minister effectively. The task is too great to be accomplished with natural abilities.

These spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents. Natural talents and abilities are given at the time of physical birth and/or developed by natural efforts. They may also be used in ministry, but they are not the same as spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts are powerful abilities given by the Holy Spirit to enable the task of ministry. Gifts of the Holy Spirit are God-given abilities. . .

**To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up**

**Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

**Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching. .**

**Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-15)**

The main passages listing the spiritual gifts available to believers through the Holy Spirit are: Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 4:7-11.

Here is a list of the spiritual gifts. (The Bible does not list them by categories given here. This grouping is done for study purposes only.)

### **Special Gifts**

Apostles  
Prophets  
Evangelists  
Pastors  
Teachers

### **Speaking Gifts**

Prophecy  
Teaching  
Exhortation  
Word of wisdom  
Word of knowledge

### **Serving Gifts**

Discerning Spirits	Giving
Leadership	Helps
Administration	Serving
Faith Hospitality	Mercy

### **Sign Gifts**

Miracles  
Healing  
Tongues  
Interpretation of tongues

The Harvestime International Institute course, "*The Ministry of the Holy Spirit*," explains each of these gifts in detail. It will help you discover your spiritual gifts. Proper use of spiritual gifts is a real key to effective spiritual power. Without them, it is like trying to do a job in the natural world without the proper tools.

## **FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The endowment of power of the Holy Spirit also enables you to live a Christ-like life. This is accomplished through qualities the Holy Spirit develops in your life. These qualities are called spiritual fruit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit refers to the nature of the Holy Spirit being evident in the life of a believer. God desires that all the fruit be evident in your life. Here is a list of the fruit of the Holy Spirit:

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.  
(Galatians 5:22-23)**

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is discussed in detail in the course, "*The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit*." These qualities give you the spiritual power to be like Jesus.

## **RECEIVING THE ENDUMENT OF POWER**

As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit was given by the Father as the disciples waited in Jerusalem (Acts 2). The Holy Spirit has already been given, but each believer needs to receive this power through the personal experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Here are Biblical guidelines for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

## **REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED:**

You must first experience the power of the Gospel by repenting from sin and receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. It is also suggested that you be baptized in water:

**Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)**

## **BELIEVE IT IS FOR YOU:**

**The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. (Acts 2:39)**

## **DESIRE IT:**

**. . . Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.**

**Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.**

**By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (John 7:37-39)**

## **REALIZE IT IS A GIFT:**

The Holy Spirit has already been given. It was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2. Because it is a gift, you can do nothing to earn it. Begin to praise and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## **YIELD TO GOD:**

As you praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, speak your praises audibly as they did on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. As you praise God audibly you may first experience stammering lips. Yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit and He will speak through you words foreign to your understanding. The stammering lips will soon develop into a language as you continue to praise God:

**Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people (Isaiah 28:11)**

**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)**

**REQUEST THE PRAYERS OF OTHER BELIEVERS:**

The Holy Spirit can also be received through the laying on of hands by believers. Acts 8, 9, and 19 show how Spirit-filled believers can help you experience baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Give a Biblical reference which reveals the relation of the Holy Spirit to power.

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3. What is the main purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit?

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4. Give a Biblical reference which lists the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

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5. List six Biblical guidelines given in this chapter for receiving the power of the Holy Spirit:

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6. Use the following references to list the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are available to believers: Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 4:7-11.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Read Acts 8:14-17. The people of Samaria received salvation through the ministry of Philip. They received the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Peter and John.

Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit was a separate experience from receiving salvation. This demonstrates the power of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit working together in ministry.

See also Acts 19:1-6. Note Paul's question: "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

2. Obtain the Harvestime International Institute Course entitled "*Ministry Of The Holy Spirit*." This is a detailed study of the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. A real key to spiritual power is identifying your spiritual gifts and developing spiritual fruit in your life. This course will assist you in these matters.

If you are taking the Institute courses in their suggested order, you have already studied "*Ministry Of The Holy Spirit*." Review it again with the purpose of identifying the ways the Holy Spirit equips believers for powerful ministry.

# CHAPTER NINE

## POWER PRINCIPLE THREE: THE POWER OF LOVE

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Define "love."
- ☐ Define the word "charity."
- ☐ Identify love as the greatest principle of spiritual power.
- ☐ Identify the first and second greatest commandments.
- ☐ Explain how the world will know we are believers.

### KEY VERSE:

**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (I Corinthians 13:13)**

### INTRODUCTION

In the last chapter you studied about the power of the Holy Spirit. You learned that spiritual fruit was one manifestation of power produced by the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. One of these spiritual fruits is the Christ-like quality of love. It is the first fruit in the listing in Galatians 5:22-23:

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love. . . (Galatians 5:22)**

### THE GREATEST POWER

Read I Corinthians 13:1-13 before proceeding with this lesson. The word "charity" in this passage means love. This chapter focuses on one of the greatest principles of spiritual power, the power of love. The power of love is greater than:

**Tongues given by the Holy Spirit:** Someday these tongues will cease. Whether you speak in tongues known or unknown to men, it is a powerless message without love. (Verses 1 and 8)

**Knowledge and understanding:** Knowledge is powerful, but someday human knowledge will vanish. Love will remain. (Verses 2 and 8)

**The gift of prophecy:** What a powerful gift prophecy is--to be able to speak a direct message from God and foretell future events. But prophecies will some day cease. (Verses 2, 8-12)

**Faith:** Even if you have enough faith to move mountains it is nothing if you do not have love. (Verse 2)

**Giving:** No matter how much you give to others, it is of no benefit unless given in love. (Verse 3)

**Martyrdom:** Even if you were to die for the cause of the Gospel, it is a worthless sacrifice unless done in love. (Verse 3)

**Hope:** Hope is important because without it life is full of despair. But love is more important than hope. (Verse 13)

You have learned and will learn much more about spiritual power in this course. But remember this: All other principles of spiritual power, all spiritual gifts, all ministry must operate through the power of love, or they are useless. When everything else fails, the power of love will succeed.

### **THE DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE**

Love is an emotion of deep affection, care, and concern developed in your life through the Holy Spirit. It is not a type of love you can develop yourself. It is a Godly type of love that can only be developed by the power of the Holy Spirit:

**... God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)**

Note the characteristics of this Godly love given in I Corinthians 13:

#### **VERSE 4:**

Love suffers long.  
Love is kind.  
Love does not envy others.  
Love is not prideful, lifting up self.

#### **VERSE 5:**

Love does not behave unseemly (bad conduct towards others).  
Love does not seek for itself (is not selfish).  
Love is not easily provoked (made angry).



Love does not think evil of others or think of evil in general.

**VERSE 6:**

Love does not rejoice in iniquity (does not take pleasure in doing wrong or hearing about wrong done to others).

Love rejoices in truth (not lies and gossip).

**VERSE 7:**

Love bears all things (even hard things).

Love believes all things (believes in others).

Love hopes all things (does not give up hope in God or others, despite the circumstances).

Love endures all things.

**VERSE 8:**

Love never fails (regardless of the circumstances).

**WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT LOVE**

To understand the power of love, you must know what the Bible teaches on the subject. The spiritual fruit of love, this powerful force, is not the type of sexual or carnal love depicted by the world. It is Unfeigned love, which means it is a holy love. Unfeigned love is the type of love you are to show to others:

**Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. (I Peter 1:22)**

The first and greatest commandment is that you are to love God:

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)**

(See also Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 10:27; I John 2:5,15; 3:11-17; 4:7-20; 5:2; II John 1:5-6)

Your love for God is tested by your obedience to Him:

**Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (John 14:23)**

**But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.  
This is how we know we are in him: (I John 2:5)**

The second greatest commandment is love of others:

**The second is this: „Love your neighbor as yourself.“ There is no  
commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:31)**

Jesus wants you to love others as much as He loves you:

**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you,  
so you must love one another. (John 13:34)**

**As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**

**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
(John 15:9,12)**

**I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known  
in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may  
be in them. (John 17:26)**

It is by love that you are recognized as a believer:

**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.  
(John 13:35)**

**We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each  
other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. (I John 3:14)**

If you do not love other believers, God's love is not in you:

**Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister  
is still in the darkness**

**Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there  
is nothing in them to make them stumble. (I John 2:9-10)**

(This is a very important truth. Study it further in John 13:34; 14:15,21,23,31; 15:9-17; 17:26;  
21:15-17).

Love of other believers results in spiritual unity which is a powerful force. When they were united in prayer, Pentecost happened (Acts 2). They were of "one heart and mind" and with power continued to testify (Acts 4:32-33). They devoted themselves to the unity of fellowship and many signs and wonders were done (Acts 2:42-43).

You are to love your enemies:

**But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,**

**Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

**And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.**

**But love your enemies, do good. . (Luke 6:27,28,33,35)**

**Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.**

**You have heard that it was said, „Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:43-44)**

Your love is to abound, which means it is to continually increase:

**And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight (Philippians 1:9)**

**May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone. . . (I Thessalonians 3:12)**

You are to be rooted and grounded in love:

**So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,**

**may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep**

**And to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)**

If you are to be filled with the fulness of God and His power, you must have love. It is important to power because it eliminates fear:

**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.  
(I John 4:18)**

You are to walk in love:

**And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)**

You are to "forbear" or relate to others in love:

**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)**

You are to keep yourself in love:

**Keep yourselves in God's love. . . (Jude 21)**

**. . . pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.  
(I Timothy 6:11)**

Faith, which is so important to power, works by love:

**. . . is faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6)**

Your work for the Lord is to be a labor of love:

**We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love. . . (I Thessalonians 1:3)**

**God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.  
(Hebrews 6:10)**

As we near the end of time here on earth, the love of many will not endure. It will "wax cold," which means people will become uncaring:

**Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,  
(Matthew 24:12)**

But we are given the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love:

**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?**

**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,**

**Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Romans 8:35, 38-39)**

### **THE GREATEST LOVE**

The greatest love is the love God had for the sinful world. He showed that love by sending Jesus to die:

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

Jesus demonstrated this great love as He willingly gave His life on the cross:

**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
(John 15:13)**

**Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.**

**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:7-8)**

It is this powerful force of love--the love of God--that the Holy Spirit desires to develop in your life:

**... God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)**

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What is love?

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3. What are the first and second greatest commandments?

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4. How will the world know we are believers?

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5. Complete this sentence:

"All other principles of spiritual power, all spiritual gifts, all ministry must operate through the power of \_\_\_\_\_ or they are useless."

6. What is the greatest principle of spiritual power?

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7. What does the word "charity" mean in I Corinthians 13?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. David wrote much about love. See Psalms 18:1; 31:23; 40:16; 97:10; 116:1; 119:97, 113, 119, 127, 132, 159, 163, 165, 167; 122:6; 145:20.
2. Study the book of I John. The major theme of this book is love.
3. Here is I Corinthians 13 in the Amplified Version of the Bible which gives additional meaning to the words used in the text:

**If I (can) speak in the tongues of men and (even) of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

**And if I have prophetic powers--that is, that gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose; and understand all the secret truths and mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have (sufficient) faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing--a useless nobody.**

**Even if I dole out all that I have (to the poor in providing) food, and if I surrender my body to be burned (or in order that I may glory), but have not love (God's love in me), I gain nothing.**

**Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.**

**It is not conceited--arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it--pays no attention to a suffered wrong.**

**It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.**

**Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything (without weakening).**

**Love never fails--never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end. As for prophecy (that is, the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for**

**knowledge, it will pass away (that is, it will lose its value and be superseded by truth).**

**For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect).**

**But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away--become antiquated, void and superseded.**

**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways and have put them aside.**

**For now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim (blurred) reflection (of reality as in a riddle or enigma), but then (when perfection comes) we shall see in reality and face to face! Now I know in part (imperfectly); but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood (by God).**

**And so faith, hope, love abide; (faith, conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love, true affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us), these three, but the greatest of these is love.**



# CHAPTER TEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE FOUR: THE ANOINTING OF POWER

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Explain the purpose of sacred anointing in the Old Testament.
- ☐ Give examples of how sacred anointing was used in the Old Testament.
- ☐ Give the meaning of the name "Christ."
- ☐ Summarize purposes of the anointing of power.
- ☐ Explain the importance of discovering your specific anointing in ministry.
- ☐ Explain how to receive the anointing of power.
- ☐ Identify the source of spiritual anointing.

### KEY VERSE:

**As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. (1 John 2:27)**

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter concerns the anointing of God which empowers men and women for effective ministry. It also provides guidelines for receiving this anointing of power.

### THE PRACTICE OF ANOINTING

To "anoint" actually means to apply oil to a person or thing. It was a practice instituted in Old Testament times. Anointing was originally of three kinds: Ordinary, medical, and sacred.

**Ordinary anointing** was associated with personal grooming to make one smell good. You can read of its use in Ruth 3:3, Psalms 104:15, and Proverbs 27:9. Guests were anointed as a mark of respect (Luke 7:46) and the dead were prepared for burial by anointing (Mark 14:8; 16:1).

**Medical anointing** was used to help the sick and wounded. For an example, see Luke 10:34.

**Sacred anointing:** The third kind of anointing is the subject of this chapter. It is anointing for sacred or spiritual purposes. It was used to dedicate things or persons to God.

### **OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES**

The first occasion of anointing for spiritual purposes recorded in the Old Testament is found in Genesis 28:18. After Jacob had seen a great vision from God, he. . .

**. . . the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.**

**He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.  
(Genesis 28:18-19)**

God later spoke of this event and said:

**I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me.. . (Genesis 31:13)**

Later, God gave instructions concerning anointing priests, kings, and prophets to set them aside for spiritual purposes. Contents of the Tabernacle of worship were also to be anointed. You can study more about this in the "For Further Study" section of this chapter.

The purpose for anointing these people and things was to set them aside in special dedication to the service of God. Holy oil was used for these spiritual purposes:

**Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil.**

**Say to the Israelites, „This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. (Exodus 30:25,31)**

### **THE ANOINTING OF JESUS**

Following the pattern instituted by God, Jesus was anointed for service. Jesus said:

**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,**

**To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19)**

This was a fulfillment of the prophecy given in Isaiah 61:1.

It was recognized by the Disciples that. . .

**. . . God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

### **THE SOURCE OF ANOINTING**

The power in spiritual anointing is not in the oil itself. The power does not rest in the person doing the anointing or the abilities of the recipient. The power of the anointing flows from the source, God the Father. Note that Jesus said "The Spirit of *the Lord* is upon me for *He* hath anointed me."

Paul said:

**Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, (II Corinthians 1:21)**

God was the source of Christ's anointing. He is still the source of the anointing. Oil is only a natural symbol used to represent this anointing. Jesus used the practice of anointing, but not always with oil. A blind man healed by Jesus reported:

**He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see. (John 9:11)**

This verse confirms it is not the substance used but rather the power behind the practice of anointing that is effective. Although men and women were symbolically anointed with oil by man, the true anointing of power was from God. God said of King David:

**I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. (Psalms 89:20)**

Years before he was ever anointed by man, David had been anointed by God:

**Then Nathan said to David. . . This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: „I anointed you king over Israel. . . (II Samuel 12:7)**

## **THE PURPOSES OF THE ANOINTING**

The anointing of the spirit of God is very important in the life and ministry of the believer. Here are some purposes of the anointing:

### **SERVICE:**

When the anointing of God came upon Saul, he was changed into a new man to serve Israel as king:

**Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?"**

**The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.  
(I Samuel 10:1,6)**

Jesus was anointed by God for service:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19)**

**. . . God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

These verses provide a list of the purposes of the anointing for service. The anointing enables you to:

- Preach the Gospel.
- Minister to the poor.
- Heal the brokenhearted.
- Heal the physically ill. (See also James 5:14-15 and Mark 6:13).
- Preach deliverance to those in spiritual bondage.
- Open the eyes of those in spiritual blindness.
- Set free those bruised, wounded by the enemy.
- Preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (See II Corinthians 6:2).
- Go about doing good.
- Heal all those oppressed by the Devil.

## **RESPONSIBILITY:**

God anoints believers with spiritual responsibilities. Whatever He entrusts to you, whether great or small, it is not because of your own abilities. It is not because of your education, personality, or social position. You receive spiritual responsibility by the anointing:

**Then the LORD said to Aaron, “I myself have put you in charge of the offerings presented to me; all the holy offerings the Israelites give me I give to you and your sons as your portion, your perpetual share. (Numbers 18:8)**

## **INSTRUCTION:**

The anointing teaches you:

**As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. (I John 2:27)**

This does not mean you should not receive Scriptural teaching from others. God has set in the Church teachers for this purpose (Ephesians 4:11). The Holy Spirit anoints them to teach God's Word. But if you do not have the opportunity to receive the ministry of such men chosen by God, the anointing of the Holy Spirit will still teach you.

This anointing helps you evaluate the truth of teachings you hear from others. It also reveals to you truths you do not understand and clearly opens up the revelation of God's written Word to you. Note that the anointing teaches us of "all things." There is such power in the anointing that it instructs you in every area of life and ministry.

## **ABIDING:**

The anointing of God enables you to abide in Jesus. Note this portion of the verse just studied:

**As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you. . . just as it has taught you, remain in him. (I John 2:27)**

It is one thing to accept Jesus as Savior. It is another to learn how to abide in Him and walk in obedience to His Word and His will. The anointing teaches you how to do this.

## **LIBERTY:**

The yoke of bondage is destroyed by the anointing. Yokes were used all over the ancient world

to unite animals together to labor in the fields. They are still used for the same purpose in many nations today. Jesus spoke of the yoke when He said:

**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)**

We are all under a yoke of some type. You are either under the yoke of Satan or of God. The yoke of Satan's bondage is three-fold:

**1. The yoke of sin:**

**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high. (Leviticus 26:13)**

The "yoke of Egypt" means the yoke of sin. This yoke must be broken if you are to come under the yoke with Jesus.

**2. The yoke of self:**

Paul struggled with the yoke of self:

**I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. (Romans 7:15)**

**3. The yoke of man:**

The yoke of man is bondage put on you by others:

**They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. (Matthew 23:4)**

The yoke of man can include the bondage of guilt, tradition, denominationalism, or impossible standards of behavior imposed by others. How can these strongholds be broken in your life and in the lives of those to whom you minister? They are broken by the anointing:

**In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders, their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be broken because you have grown so fat.  
(Isaiah 10:27)**

You cannot break the yoke of Satan in your own power. You cannot do it by your own words of wisdom. Every yoke, every bondage of man, is broken by the anointing.

## **JOY:**

Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness:

**But about the Son he says. . . You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. (Hebrews 1:8-9)**

Those who love righteousness and hate wickedness will be anointed with this same joy. The anointing of God brings great joy in your life. The joy of the Lord is the strength that empowers your service for God.

## **SPECIFIC ANOINTINGS**

The purposes of anointing you just studied are for all believers. But God also anoints people for specific ministries and special tasks. Some are anointed as evangelists, others as teachers. Some are pastors while others are prophets. There are many different anointings God gives to believers.

Jesus had a specific anointing from God to die for the sins of the people. The name "Christ" means "the anointed one." The name Jesus means "Savior." When the name "Jesus Christ" is used together, it means He is the one anointed of God to be the Savior of the World. Prior to His death, a woman anointed Jesus with precious oil. Jesus said:

**When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.  
(Matthew 26:12)**

Jesus knew He was anointed of God to die for the sins of the people. No one else ever had this specific anointing.

Throughout the Biblical record, God anointed people for specific ministries (See II Chronicles 22:7). When people tried to assume a specific ministry without the anointing of God to do so, problems resulted. Read the story of Miriam and Aaron in Numbers 12 for an example of this. Miriam and Aaron thought they had the same anointing as Moses and could lead Israel just as well. They found out differently. Another example is found in Numbers 16 in the story of Korah who tried to claim the same anointing as Moses.

Much of the disharmony in the Body of Christ comes from people trying to move into areas of ministry for which they have not received the anointing. One person is anointed of God in a special way and soon everyone is imitating his ministry. But the imitators do not have the same powerful results. They wonder what is wrong. They are doing everything just like someone else, but without the same results. The answer is found in the anointing of power. The anointing of God is upon one man for the specific task, but not the other. Because of this, one succeeds while the other fails.

One of the sins of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:20 is called "emulations." Emulations is a form of envy demonstrated by imitating others. God cannot bless emulations. God seeks those who will move out of the sin of emulations into revelation through the anointing of power.

## **HOW TO RECEIVE THE ANOINTING**

How do you receive this anointing of power?

### **RECOGNIZE THE SOURCE:**

As you learned in this lesson, the source of the anointing of spiritual power is God. You cannot trust in your education, personality, or social standing. You do not receive your anointing from someone else.

There is nothing you can do to earn the anointing. You cannot work it up by emotionalism. God is the only source of spiritual anointing. To receive such anointing, you must first recognize the source from which it flows.

### **EXPERIENCE THE NEW BIRTH:**

Because this is spiritual power that flows from the source of God, you must be born again spiritually to receive it. The reason for this is:

**The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.  
(I Corinthians 2:14)**

This anointing of power flows from the Spirit of God. The carnal (sinful) man cannot receive it. You cannot receive it unless you are a spiritual man.

### **READ GOD'S WORD AND PRAY:**

Since God is the source of the anointing, you must stay in contact with Him through prayer (in which you talk to Him) and the Word of God (through which He speaks to you). The more you abide in His Word, and it abides in you, the more the anointing will flow into your life.



## **BREAK THE YOKE:**

You learned in this chapter that one of the purposes of the anointing is to break yokes of bondage. Ask God to break every yoke of sin, self, or those imposed by man. You must experience the anointing that breaks the yoke in your own life before it can flow through you to others.

## **RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST:**

**. . . God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)**

This verse illustrates how the anointing of God is related to the powerful work of the Holy Ghost in your life. To experience the anointing of power, you must receive the Holy Ghost. You already studied about this in Chapter Eight on "The Power Of The Holy Spirit."

## **DO NOT FOCUS ON YOUR INABILITIES:**

Many people dwell on their own disabilities instead of the abilities available to them through the anointing of power. King David once said:

**And today, though I am the anointed king, I am weak. . . (II Samuel 3:39)**

David recognized that in himself he was weak, even though He was king. The power he experienced was through the anointing. It turned his weakness into strength. He did not focus on his disabilities, but on his abilities through the anointing of power. This is why he was able to say:

**With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. (Psalms 18:29)**

The disciples were men who originally were fearful and unbelieving. They all deserted Jesus in His time of need. One even denied knowing Him. It was this same group that Jesus entrusted the mission of reaching the world with the Gospel. Jesus did not focus on their disabilities. He did not focus on their lack of education or social standing. He did not look at the record of their past failures. He saw what they would become when they allowed the anointing of power to change their lives. He saw them as they would be after receiving the Holy Ghost.

Stop focusing on yourself. Recognize that the Spirit of God is within you. It is His work, His ministry, His miracles, His anointing. Ask Him to let the anointing flow through you. Begin to reach out to others in ministry, and you will begin to feel that flow of power through you.

God does not anoint you to sit inactive on the back seat of the church. The anointing of power is given for the specific purposes which you studied in Chapter Six. The more you direct your energies towards these purposes, the more the anointing of power will flow through you.

### **DISCOVER YOUR SPECIFIC ANOINTING:**

To determine your specific anointing in ministry, you must discover the spiritual gifts God has given you. Consult the Harvestime International Institute course, "*Ministry Of The Holy Spirit*," for direction in this area.

### **THE POSITION OF THE ANOINTED**

Being anointed by God places you in the front lines of spiritual warfare. The Bible reveals that those who are anointed with power by God will experience opposition from the enemy:

**The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,**

**Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles. (Psalms 2:2-3)**

David said:

**The taunts with which your enemies, LORD, have mocked, with which they have mocked every step of your anointed one. (Psalms 89:51)**

But God has said of those who oppose His anointed that:

**. . . One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.**

**He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, (Psalms 2:4-5)**

God is your strength when faced with such opposition:

**The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. (Psalms 28:8)**

**Now this I know: The LORD gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. (Psalms 20:6)**

Be careful what you say about other anointed believers. Treat those anointed who are over you with respect. God takes the anointing of power very seriously. He warns:

**Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.  
(I Chronicles 16:22)**

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What was the purpose of sacred anointing in the Old Testament?

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3. Give some examples of how sacred anointing was used in the Old Testament.

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4. What is the meaning of the name "Christ"?

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5. Summarize what you learned about the purposes of the anointing of power.

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6. Why is it important to discover your specific anointing in ministry?

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7. How can you receive the anointing of power?

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8. Who is the source of spiritual anointing?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Study more about anointing for spiritual purposes in the Old Testament:
  - Anointing of priests: Leviticus 8:12,30; Exodus 28:41; 29:7; 30:30
  - Anointing of the tabernacle and its furnishings: Exodus 30:22-29; 40:9-11
  - Anointing of kings: There are many records of this. For examples see I Samuel 9:16; 10:1; 16:1,12,13; II Samuel 2:7; I Kings 1:33-34
  - Anointing of the prophets: I Kings 19:16; I Chronicles 16:22
2. Satan was once anointed by God. Read about it in Ezekiel 28:14.
3. Just because you are anointed of God does not mean you are exempt from chastisement for sin. See Psalms 89:38.
4. God looks upon the face of His anointed and is mindful of them (Psalms 84:9). He shows mercy to them (Psalms 18:50).
5. King David understood the importance of not harming God's anointed. See I Samuel 24 and 26 and II Samuel 1:16,21.
6. This chapter listed the purposes of anointing as it empowers believers for ministry. Evaluate your own ministry in relation to these purposes. How many are evident in your ministry?
  - Preach the Gospel.
  - Minister to the poor.
  - Heal the physically ill.
  - Heal the brokenhearted.
  - Preach deliverance to those in spiritual bondage.
  - Open the eyes of those in spiritual blindness.
  - Set free those bruised, wounded by the enemy.
  - Preach the acceptable year of the Lord  
(See II Corinthians 6:2. This refers to the message of salvation.)
  - Go about doing good.
  - Heal all those oppressed by the Devil.

# CHAPTER ELEVEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE FIVE: POWER, FAITH, AND WORKS

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Define faith.
- ☐ Identify levels of faith.
- ☐ Identify types of faith.
- ☐ Explain how faith can be increased.
- ☐ Summarize the relationship between power, faith, and works.

### KEY VERSE:

**Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)**

### INTRODUCTION

In Matthew 17, the disciples tried to cast a demon out of a child, but failed. When they brought him to Jesus, He was able to heal him.

The disciples asked Jesus, "Why could not we cast him out?" Jesus answered. . .

**Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, „Move from here to there,“ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:20)**

In this incident Jesus shared an important principle of spiritual power: Power must operate in faith in order to work the works of God. Faith is man's response to God's power:

**. . . Everything is possible for one who believes. (Mark 9:23)**

This chapter deals with the relationship between power, faith, and works.

## DEFINITION

Faith means to believe and have assurance of something. To believe means to have trust. The words "faith, believe, and trust" all mean the same thing in Scripture.

The Bible defines faith as:

**... confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.  
(Hebrews 11:1)**

The Amplified Bible adds to this definition:

**Now faith is the assurance, the confirmation, the title deed of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality--faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.  
(Hebrews 11:1)**

Faith gives assurance that things promised in the future are true and that unseen things are real.

Faith is not the same as "mind over matter" which is taught by some religions. "Mind over matter" teaches that man can overcome all problems in the real world (the world of matter) by using his mind, reason, or will. These teachings are man-centered. They rely on self and not on God. "Mind over matter" is not based on the Word of God. Faith is God-centered, not man-centered. Faith is not something man produces through the self-effort of his own mind.

The faith of which the Bible speaks is not natural faith which is trust in things in the natural world which you have learned by experience are usually dependable. For example, faith that the chair on which you are sitting will support you.

## BIBLICAL TYPES OF FAITH

There are different types of faith described in Scriptures:

### SAVING FAITH:

**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)**

Saving faith involves true repentance from sin. You must hear, believe, and personally accept the message of the Gospel. Saving faith requires a personal response toward God.

Faith is a gift of God to men to enable them to be saved:

**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. . . (Ephesians 2:8)**

You cannot be saved without faith:

**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)**

**And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)**

#### **SANCTIFYING FAITH:**

**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)**

Sanctifying faith enables you to live a holy life after receiving Jesus as Savior. You must experience saving faith in order to receive sanctifying faith.

#### **DEFENSIVE FAITH:**

Faith is one of the weapons for defense against your spiritual enemy, Satan:

**In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (Ephesians 6:16)**

Satan will attack your faith by sending darts of unbelief into your mind. Faith in God provides a spiritual defense to these attacks.

#### **THE GIFT OF FAITH:**

There is a spiritual gift of faith given by the Holy Spirit:

**To one there is given through the Spirit. . . faith. (I Corinthians 12:8-9)**

A person with the spiritual gift of faith has a special ability to believe God. He knows God is going to do the impossible. He exercises this faith even when others around him do not believe.



## **THE FRUIT OF FAITH:**

Faith is not something you can develop yourself. It is a spiritual fruit developed in your life by the Holy Spirit:

**But the fruit of the Spirit is. . . faithfulness. (Galatians 5:22)**

Faith as a fruit is character. It is an attitude of faith towards God. It is developed through the process of His life within you bringing spiritual growth.

While everyone does not have the spiritual gift of faith, the fruit of faith should be evident in the lives of all believers. It is a necessary quality in order to experience spiritual power.

## **LEVELS OF FAITH**

The Bible reveals there are various levels of faith. Jesus spoke of people who did not use their faith as being faithless (Matthew 17:17). He spoke of those with little faith (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; Luke 12:28) and of those with great faith (Matthew 8:10; 15:28; Luke 7:9).

The Bible teaches that each person has a certain amount of faith which is given to him as a gift from God:

**. . . in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.  
(Romans 12:3)**

But how do you increase this measure of faith to the level that will permit the flow of God's power?

## **HOW TO INCREASE FAITH**

The Bible tells how to increase faith:

**Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)**

You increase your faith through hearing the Word of God. Saving faith comes by hearing God's Word. You must first hear the Word of God in order to repent of sin and receive Jesus as Savior. You cannot experience spiritual power unless you have experienced saving faith.

After you are saved, Biblical teaching and preaching continues to increase your faith. The more you hear the Word of God, the more your faith will increase. This faith will continue to conform you to the image of Jesus by the process of sanctification.

Sanctification is living a holy life. You must live righteously in order to experience spiritual power. Continuing in known sin will prevent the flow of God's power in your life.

The more faith increases, the easier it will be to live a holy life and defend against the spiritual attacks of the enemy. Powerless Christians are defeated Christians.

Just a small amount of faith is very powerful:

**He replied. . . Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, „Move from here to there,“ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:20)**

### **FAITH, WORKS, AND POWER**

It is easy to see how faith affects the flow of God's power in your life. Without faith, you are in danger of having merely listened to words without experiencing their power:

**For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. (Hebrews 4:2)**

But there is also a vital relationship between faith, works, and power. To experience power, you must have faith. To demonstrate power you must have faith. For faith and power to be effective in the spread of the Gospel, they must be demonstrated by works. James wrote:

**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?**

**In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**

**But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.**

**As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.  
( James 2:14,17-18,26)**

Faith and works are related as closely as the spirit and the body.

Stephen was full of faith and power which enabled him to do great works:

**Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)**

The works of faith are done with power:

**With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.  
(II Thessalonians 1:11)**

God wants to do works of faith with power in you and through you. When you exercise faith, it links God's power with your works. "All things are possible," Jesus said, "to him that believeth!"

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Give the Biblical definition of faith.

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3. Identify the levels of faith of which Jesus spoke.

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4. List the Biblical types of faith discussed in this lesson.

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5. How can faith be increased?

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6. Summarize what you learned in this chapter about the relationship between power, faith, and works.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Study further on the power of faith by reading Hebrews 11 which is called "The Faith Chapter" of the Bible. Summarize what you learn about the power of faith from these examples:

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2. One of the greatest examples of faith in the Bible is Abraham.

-Abraham was justified because of faith: James 2:23

-His faith gave him full assurance of God's promises: Romans 4:18-21

-God found Abraham's heart faithful: Nehemiah 9:8

-Believers who follow his example are also people of faith: Romans 4:11-12

Summarize what you learn about Abraham from these verses:

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# CHAPTER TWELVE

## POWER PRINCIPLE SIX: POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verses from memory.
- ☐ Explain the importance of names in Bible times.
- ☐ Identify the greatest name which is above all others.
- ☐ Identify the meaning of the name "Jesus."
- ☐ Explain how Jesus got His name.
- ☐ Identify Biblical guidelines for using the name of Jesus.

### KEY VERSES:

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,**

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**And every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)**

### INTRODUCTION

You have learned of the power and authority given by God to Jesus Christ and how Jesus delegated this same power and authority to believers. One of these powerful spiritual principles is the use of His own name. This chapter focuses on power in the name of Jesus.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMES

In Bible times names had an importance they do not have today. In many modern cultures, a name is often used only as a personal label. In Bible times, great significance was attached to a person's name. The name given was often determined by some circumstance at the time of birth (Genesis 19:22). Sometimes the name expressed a hope or a prophecy (Isaiah 8:1-4; Hosea 1:4).

Because of the importance of names in Bible times, God changed the name of several people. He changed the name of Abram to Abraham in view of his destiny:

**No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. (Genesis 17:5)**

The name Abraham meant "father of a great multitude." God also changed in the name of Sarai to Sara and Jacob to Israel for similar reasons. In the New Testament this same pattern continues. Simon is called "Peter" and Saul becomes "Paul." Their names reflected their destinies in God's plan.

Because of the importance of the meaning of names, God selected a very special name for His only Son.

### **THE NAME OF JESUS**

The name of Jesus was given to the Son of God when He came to earth in human form. It was given in obedience to the command of an angel to Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus:

**She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)**

The name "Jesus" means "Savior." Jesus had other names too. He is commonly called Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, Lord Jesus, and Lord. These are also combined into the title the "Lord Jesus Christ." "Christ" means "anointed One."

Jesus is once called "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." Jesus called Himself "The Son of Man" and He is often called "The Son of God" in New Testament writings. John calls Him "the Word" and "the Lamb of God."

There are many other titles given to Jesus, such as the "bread of life," the "light of the world," etc. A complete listing of these names and titles is given in the Harvestime International Institute course, *"Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare."* Each of the names given Jesus is important in understanding His position and ministry.

But our Lord is most commonly spoken of by the name of "Jesus" throughout the New Testament. It is this name to which we refer in this chapter on power in the name. It is the name of Jesus, sometimes combined with His other names, that is used in the demonstration of God's power through believers in the book of Acts.

## **HOW NAMES ARE OBTAINED**

There are three ways great men obtain their names:

### **BY BIRTH:**

Some people are born with a great name. They are born as a prince, princess, or child of a great tribal leader. They may be born into a family with a name known for great wealth or political power. They inherit their great name through their parents.

### **BY ACHIEVEMENT:**

Some people make a great name by their personal achievements. They become great writers, inventors, politicians, and leaders.

### **BY CONFERRING:**

Other people receive a great name because it is conferred upon them. They are given a great name by another person. For example, a poor woman may receive the name of a rich politician when she marries him. A king or tribal leader may give a title of importance to one of the people in his kingdom or tribe.

## **HOW JESUS GOT HIS NAME**

Jesus received His name in all three ways that great men receive their names on earth:

### **BY BIRTH:**

Jesus received His name by birth, through inheritance from His Father:

**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,**

**But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.**

**The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

**So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. (Hebrews 1:1-4)**



Jesus inherited a name greater than any other being in the universe. His name is greater than any king, president, or tribal leader. It is greater than the name of any angel in Heaven.

#### **BY ACHIEVEMENT:**

Jesus also received His name by achievement because he conquered all the power of the enemy:

**And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)**

#### **BY CONFERRING:**

Jesus also received His name by having it conferred upon Him:

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,**

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)**

### **THE GREATEST NAME**

The name of Jesus is the most powerful name in the universe. It is above every other name:

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, (Philippians 2:9)**

**Far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:21)**

### **POWER IN THE NAME**

Jesus left His followers with the great mission of reaching the world with the Gospel message. He also left them with a special power to enable them to fulfill the mission. He gave them authority to use His own name:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)**

When a person gave his own name to another, it meant that the two of them were joined together in close unity. An example is when God gave His name to Israel:

**The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him.**

**Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. (Deuteronomy 28:9-10)**

To be sent or speak in someone's name is to have his authority:

**Therefore this is what the LORD says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, “Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD or you will die by our hands”— therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will punish them... (Jeremiah 11:21-22)**

Evil men sought to kill Jeremiah because he prophesied in the name of the Lord and they knew his prophecy had God's authority behind it.

One of the greatest keys to spiritual power is the name of Jesus. We often fail in ministry because we depend on our own ability to deliver someone. It is not our name, position, or authority that carries the power. Our power is in the name of Jesus.

Mere chanting of the name over and over can be little more than a ritual. It becomes vain repetition similar to that practiced by the Pharisees and scribes in Bible times. The name of Jesus is not some magical phrase. You must have faith in the name. The disciples emphasized this after a powerful healing recorded in Acts 3. Peter said:

**By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong... (Acts 3:16)**

We have chanted the name of Jesus like a ritual, but our faith in the name has been weak. How can this be corrected? How can we move beyond mere repetition of the name of Jesus to faith in the name which results in power? The Bible says:

**Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)**

Your faith in the name of Jesus can be increased by hearing what the Word of God says about that name. Through the Word you can understand the authority behind the name and Biblical guidelines for proper use of His name.

### **IN THE NAME OF JESUS**

The name of Jesus is used. . .

#### **FOR SALVATION:**

The greatest power in the name of Jesus is the power of salvation from sin. It is only through His name that salvation comes:

**She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)**

**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)**

**Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:18)**

You cannot be forgiven of your sins in any other way--only through the name of Jesus. You cannot gain access to God except through Jesus:

**Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)**

When presenting the Gospel it is important to emphasize that salvation comes only through the name of Jesus. Confession of the name of Jesus is important to salvation:

**If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)**

The power to become a child of God is through the name of Jesus:

**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— (John 1:12)**

#### **SANCTIFICATION:**

Not only are you cleansed from sin and justified through the name of Jesus, you are also sanctified. Sanctification comes through the power of God which continues to work in you after salvation to enable you to live a holy life. In I Corinthians 6 Paul speaks of the evils of sin. He says. . .

**And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (I Corinthians 6:11)**

Previously, these Corinthians lived in these sinful practices. Now they could live a holy life through sanctification which came through the name of Jesus.

#### **IN PRAYER:**

**Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. (John 16:24)**

"Hitherto" means "up until now." Up until the time Jesus spoke these words, His followers had asked nothing in His name. At this point He established a new relation with them. He told them to ask God for things in His name:

**. . . Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. (John 16:23)**

What a powerful promise! Whatever we ask In His name, we will receive.

But this promise has to be taken along with the other principles of prayer taught in the Bible. We can never isolate one verse on a subject without considering all that is taught on that subject in the Word of God. The Bible teaches you cannot ask selfishly:

**When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)**

You must also be living righteously before God. If you sin, you are to confess and pray for forgiveness:

**Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)**

You cannot continue to live in sin and think just because you ask in the name of Jesus you will be granted your requests. It is the prayers of righteous men and women that avail with God:

**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:7)**

This means if you are abiding in Christ you can ask and it shall be done. If you are walking in obedience to God's Word, then you can ask in the name of Jesus.

Praying in the name of Jesus is also subject to God's will. Jesus prayed:

**Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done. (Luke 22:42)**

In the weakness of human flesh, Jesus did not want to suffer. He wanted the cup of suffering removed, but He submitted His will to God's will.

In some matters clearly defined in Scripture, we know the will of God and exactly how to pray. In other matters we can express our will, as did Jesus, then submit our will to His will--all in the name of Jesus.

Requests made in the name of Jesus are subject to the sovereign will of God. We ask according to human reasoning and cannot always discern God's higher purposes:

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.**

**As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)**

You will not always know the will of God and exactly how to pray. When you are not sure of the will of God, it is a good time to pray in the language of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf according to the will of God:

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.**

**And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.  
(Romans 8:26-27)**

Some will disagree with this Biblical teaching. They will say you can ask anything in the name of Jesus and it will be done. When you arrogantly pray without submitting your requests to God's will, He may answer your requests, but it may not be in your best interests. He did this for the nation of Israel:

**So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them. (Psalms 106:15)**

You must also realize that when you ask for something on behalf of another person that their will enters into the situation. Nobody, through prayer in the name of Jesus, can push something on someone else which that person does not want. God does not take away the free will of man. Another person's will and unbelief can affect your prayer for them.

In John 17 Jesus prays a great prayer concerning the men God gave Him as disciples. All these men received the same training. They saw the same miracles. They received the same Word of God. But yet one of them was lost. Judas still had a will of his own, and despite all he had heard and seen, he rejected God's Word in unbelief.

Jesus spoke of the power of agreeing with others in prayer in His name:

**Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.**

**For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.  
(Matthew 18:19-20)**

As part of prayer, thanks should be given in the name of Jesus:

**Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20)**

You should also give thanks to the name of Jesus:

**Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. (Hebrews 13:15)**

You will learn more about the power of prayer in the following chapter.

## **IN ALL AREAS OF MINISTRY:**

The name of Jesus is to be used in all areas of ministry:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)**

**And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;**

**they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. (Mark 16:17-18)**

According to these verses, the following ministries are to be done in the name of Jesus:

### **Signs And Wonders:**

All powerful signs and wonders are to be done in the name of Jesus. The disciples prayed:

**. . . Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.**

**Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (Acts 4:29-30)**

### **Preaching And Teaching:**

Jesus said all power and authority was given to Him and through this power commissioned preaching and teaching of the Gospel in His name:

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. . .  
(Matthew 28:19-20)**

**. . . This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on  
the third day,**

**and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all  
nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)**

Because they recognized the power in the name of Jesus, enemies of the Gospel message warned the disciples that. . .

**. . . we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name. Then they  
called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name  
of Jesus.  
(Acts 4:17-18)**

But Peter answered:

**. . . we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.  
(Acts 4:20)**

The Disciples witnessed the power of God. The things they had seen and heard in the name of Jesus were a powerful force driving them to fulfill their ministries.

You are not only to teach in the name of Jesus, you are to teach about that name:

**But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of  
God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.  
(Acts 8:12)**

### **Baptism:**

New converts are to be baptized in water in the name of the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Ghost:

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19)**

**On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
(Acts 19:5)**

On the basis of that name, believers receive the gift of the Holy Spirit:



**Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)**

### **CASTING OUT DEVILS:**

Devils or demons are the angels of Satan. They were formerly the angels of God who joined Satan in rebellion against God. They are now part of the forces of Satan active on earth in many evil ways.

Demons can enter unbelievers and actually possess them. Demonic powers can oppress believers, but not possess them. Their Satanic powers are to be broken in the name of Jesus:

**And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;. . . (Mark 16:17)**

When Paul was confronted with a demon possessed woman, He said to the spirit:

**. . . I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. (Acts 16:18)**

Detailed teaching on demons and how to bring deliverance to those under their power and influence is given in the Harvestime International Institute course, "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*."≡

### **MINISTERING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

The Holy Spirit was given in the name of Jesus:

**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)**

Speaking with new tongues through the Holy Spirit is used as an example of His various ministries in this verse:

**And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name. . . they shall speak with new tongues. . . (Mark 16:17)**

All the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit are to operate in the name of Jesus. The gift of tongues is just one of these many spiritual gifts. It is used here as representative of all the ministries of the Holy Spirit since it was the first experienced when the Holy Spirit was given.

## **HEALING:**

The name of Jesus is to be used in ministering healing to those who are sick:

**And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name. . . they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. (Mark 16:17-18)**

**Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14)**

When Jesus died on the cross, He suffered not only for your sin but through His suffering and death, He obtained your healing:

**But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)**

**This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:  
“He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.” (Matthew 8:17)**

**He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”  
(I Peter 2:24)**

Why is it so easy to accept salvation from sin through His name, but difficult for us to believe for healing through His name?

When the Disciples encountered a lame man at the temple gate, Peter said:

**. . . “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” (Acts 3:6)**

Peter knew the power in the name of Jesus. He knew there was healing in that name. He knew he had the authority to use that name--"Such as I have!" The power behind that name had been delegated to him by Jesus.

Funds are important in the work of the ministry, but lack of funds cannot stop the true ministry of the power of God. Peter and John had no silver or gold, yet they continued to minister in power through the name of Jesus.

These men had no budget for advertising their ministry in the city of Jerusalem. But the entire city became aware of it through the demonstration of the power of God. You can read about this in Acts 3 and 4.

In many modern ministries, more emphasis is placed on fund-raising than on the power of the name of Jesus. The importance of finances in ministry is recognized, but the greater emphasis should be on the demonstration of God's power. Power through the name of Jesus is not affected by the presence or absence of finances.

### **FOR PROTECTION:**

**And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name. . . they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; (Mark 16:17-18)**

The Apostle Paul was bitten by a poison snake and it did not hurt him. You can read about it in Acts 28.

### **IN EVERYTHING:**

The Bible says that everything you do is to be done in the name of Jesus:

**And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)**

When you do everything in the name of Jesus, even a simple task of serving is turned to a powerful spiritual experience. You can sweep the church floors in the name of Jesus. You can prepare food for your family in the name of Jesus. What you do is not as important as how you do it: Is it done in the name of Jesus?

### **SUFFERING FOR THE NAME**

**If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. . . They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. (John 15:20-21)**

When the Disciples suffered because of the Gospel:

**. . . apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.**

**Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.  
(Acts 5:41-42)**

The disciples were men who risked their lives for the name of the Lord:

**So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—**

**Men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
(Acts 15:25-26)**

Although Jesus promised protection while engaged in ministry, it did not mean that the disciples did not suffer. Peter, Paul, and Silas were all in prison. These disciples were stoned and beaten, and Paul was once left for dead by enemies of the Gospel. When their ministries were finished, most of the disciples died as martyrs for the sake of the Gospel. The same Peter delivered from prison later died for the sake of the Gospel.

Hebrews 11 tells the stories of great men and women who were delivered through faith. But it also records the stories of those who died in faith for the Gospel when their ministries were completed. Peter tells us:

**If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. (I Peter 4:14)**

You will learn more about the power of the fellowship of His suffering in Chapter Seventeen.

### **REIGNING BY THE NAME**

Through the name of Jesus, you become part of the Kingdom of God:

**And giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.**

**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, (Colossians 1:12-13)**

As part of the kingdom of Jesus, you receive an inheritance of power to reign in life:

**For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!  
(Romans 5:17)**

You are to reign in life through the name of Jesus. You are to reign over the negative circumstances of life through the name of Jesus. You are to reign over all the powerful forces of the enemy through the name of Jesus!

### **THE FINAL REFERENCE**

The final Biblical reference to the name of Jesus is found in the book of Revelation. It speaks of the day when believers will be in the presence of their Savior in the new Heaven and earth:

**No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.**

**They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.  
(Revelation 22:3-4)**

-That name we have cherished. . .

-That name we have used in authority to minister and in which we have prayed. . .

-That name by which we have reigned in life. . . .

-THE NAME OF JESUS . . . Will become part of our identity for all eternity.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

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2. Explain the importance of names in Bible times.

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3. Who commanded Joseph to name Jesus?

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4. What is the greatest name in all the universe?

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5. How did Jesus obtain His name?

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6. How can you develop your faith in the name of Jesus and its power?

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7. Read the following statements and fill in the missing letter to complete the words.

- a. Jesus' name is necessary for s \_\_\_\_\_.  
b. When we pray for h \_\_\_\_\_ for sicknesses, it should be in the name of Jesus.
- c. S \_\_\_\_\_ comes through the name of Jesus.
- d. We are to p \_\_\_\_\_ and t \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus.
- e. Casting out of d \_\_\_\_\_ is to be done in the name of Jesus.
- f. We are to b \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

8. Write TRUE or FALSE on the blank in front of each statement.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ We are to give thanks in everything to the name of Jesus.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit was given in the name of Jesus.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Protection in the name of Jesus means we will never have to suffer for Him.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

The following list contains Scriptural references to the name of Jesus in the New Testament. Continue your study of power in the name of Jesus by using this list.

**Matthew:** 1:21; 1:23; 1:24,25; 10:22; 12:18,21; 18:5; 18:19,20; 19:29; 28:19

**Mark:** 9:38-41; 16:17-18

**Luke:** 10:17; 24:46-47

**John:** 1:12; 2:23; 3:18; 14:13-14; 14:26; 15:16; 15:20-21; 16:23,24,26; 20:31

**Acts:** 2:21; 2:38; 3:6; 3:16; 4:7,8,10,12,17,18; 4:29-30; 5:28,40-42; 8:12; 9:14-16; 9:21,27,29; 10:43; 10:48; 15:25-26; 16:18; 19:5

**Romans:** 1:5; 10:13

**I Corinthians:** 1:2; 1:10; 6:11

**Ephesians:** 5:20

**Philippians:** 2:9-11

**Colossians:** 3:17

**II Thessalonians:** 1:12

**II Timothy:** 2:19

**Hebrews:** 1:4; 6:10; 13:15

**James:** 5:14

**I Peter:** 4:14

**I John:** 2:12; 3:23; 5:13

**Revelation:** 19:12,13,16; 22:3-4

# CHAPTER THIRTEEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE SEVEN: THE POWER OF PRAYER\*

### OBJECTIVES:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Explain how prayer and fasting release God's power.
- ☐ Define prayer.
- ☐ Identify various levels of prayer.
- ☐ Identify various types of prayer.
- ☐ Identify hindrances to prayer.
- ☐ Define fasting.
- ☐ Identify two types of fasting.
- ☐ Explain the purpose of fasting.

### KEY VERSE:

**The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.  
(James 5:16b)**

### INTRODUCTION

As you studied about the power in the name of Jesus you learned that believers can use His name in prayer to make requests of the Father. This lesson explores the power of prayer in the name of Jesus. It also presents the associated practice of fasting. Prayer and fasting are powerful principles which release the power of God in the lives of believers.

### THE DEFINITION OF PRAYER

Prayer is communion with God. It takes different forms, but basically it occurs when man talks with God and God talks with man. Prayer is described as:

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\* Some material in this lesson duplicates a chapter on prayer and fasting in "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual On Spiritual Warfare*." These practices are not only weapons of warfare, they are power principles. For this reason, some material is repeated while new material is also presented.



Calling upon the name of the Lord:	Genesis 12:8
Crying unto God:	Psalms 27:7; 34:6
Drawing near to God:	Psalms 73:28; Hebrews 10:22
Looking up:	Psalms 5:3
Lifting up the soul:	Psalms 25:1
Lifting up the heart:	Lamentations 3:41
Pouring out the heart:	Psalms 62:8
Pouring out the soul:	I Samuel 1:15
Crying to Heaven:	II Chronicles 32:20
Beseeching the Lord:	Exodus 32:11
Seeking God:	Job 8:5
Seeking the face of the Lord:	Psalms 27:8
Making supplication:	Job 8:5; Jeremiah 36:7

### **THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS**

Prayer was a powerful tool in the life of the Lord Jesus:

#### **JESUS MADE PRAYER A PRIORITY:**

He prayed any time of the day or night: Luke 6:12-13

Prayer took priority over eating: John 4:31-32

Prayer took priority over business: John 4:31-32

#### **PRAYER ACCOMPANIED ANY EVENT OF IMPORTANCE:**

At His baptism: Luke 3:21-22

During the first ministry tour: Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16

Before the choice of the disciples: Luke 6:12-13

Before and after the feeding of the 5,000: Matthew 14:19,23; Mark 6:41,46; John 6:11,14-15

At the feeding of the 4,000: Matthew 15:36; Mark 8:6,7

Before the confession of Peter: Luke 9:18

Before the transfiguration: Luke 9:28,29

At the return of the seventy: Matthew 11:25; Luke 10:21

At the grave of Lazarus: John 11:41-42

At the blessing of the children: Matthew 19:13

At the coming of certain Greeks: John 12:27-28

Before His greatest anguish: Matthew 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 22:17-19

For Peter: Luke 22:32

For the giving of the Holy Spirit: John 14:16

On the road to Emmaus: Luke 24:30-31

Prior to His ascension: Luke 24:50-53

For His followers: John 17

## LEVELS OF PRAYER

Paul calls for believers to pray always with "all prayer" (Ephesians 6:18). Another translation of the Bible reads "praying with every kind of prayer" (Goodspeed Translation). This refers to the various levels and types of prayer.

There are three levels of intensity in prayer: Asking, seeking, and knocking:

**Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you**

**For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)**

Asking is the first level of prayer. It is simply presenting a request to God and receiving an immediate answer. In order to receive, the condition is to ask:

**. . . You do not have because you do not ask God. (James 4:2)**

We have the powerful spiritual weapon of prayer, and yet many do not use it. They do not ask, and because of this, they do not receive.

Seeking is a deeper level of prayer. This is the level of prayer where answers are not as immediate as at the asking level. The 120 gathered in the upper room where they continued in prayer is an example of seeking. These men and women sought fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit and continued seeking until the answer came (Acts 1-2).

Knocking is a deeper level yet. It is prayer that is persistent when answers are longer in coming. It is illustrated by the parable Jesus told in Luke 11:5-10. The knocking level is the most intense level of spiritual warfare prayer. It is illustrated by Daniel's persistence. He continued to knock despite the fact he saw no visible results (Daniel 10).

## TYPES OF PRAYER

There are various types of prayer illustrated in the model prayer given by the Lord (Matthew 6:9-13). Types of prayer include:

### 1. **WORSHIP AND PRAISE:**

You enter into God's presence with worship and praise:

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Psalms 100:4)**

Worship is giving honor and devotion. Praise is thanksgiving and an expression of gratitude not only for what God has done but for what He is. You are to worship God in spirit and in truth:

**Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

**God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)**

Praise and worship can be with:

Singing:	Psalms 9:2,11; 40:3; Mark 14:26
Audible praise:	Psalms 103:1
Shouting:	Psalms 47:1
Lifting up of the hands:	Psalms 63:4; 134:2; I Timothy 2:8
Clapping:	Psalms 47:1
Musical instruments:	Psalms 150:3-5
Standing:	II Chronicles 20:19
Bowing:	Psalms 95:6
Dancing:	Psalms 149:3
Kneeling:	Psalms 95:6
Lying down:	Psalms 149:5

## **2. COMMITMENT:**

This is prayer committing your life and will to God. It includes prayers of consecration and dedication.

## **3. PETITION:**

Prayers of petition are requests. Requests must be made according to the will of God as revealed in His written Word. Petitions may be at the levels of asking, seeking, or knocking. Supplication is another word for this type of prayer. The word supplication means "beseeching God or strongly appealing to Him in behalf of a need."

## **4. CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE:**

A prayer of confession is repenting and asking forgiveness for sin:

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9)**

## **5. INTERCESSION:**

Intercession is prayer for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case.

The Bible records that at one time God looked on the earth and saw there was no intercessor:

**He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. (Isaiah 59:16)**

When God saw there was no intercessor He supplied the need. He sent Jesus:

**For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, (I Timothy 2:5)**

**. . . Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)**

**Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25)**

**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (I John 2:1)**

An advocate in a court of justice is a legal assistant or counselor who pleads another's cause. Intercession in spiritual warfare is prayer to God on behalf of another person. Sometimes this intercession is made with understanding. You intercede in your own native language:

**I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people**

**For kings and all those in authority. . . (I Timothy 2:1-2)**

At other times, intercession is made by the Holy Spirit. It may be with groanings resulting from a heavy spiritual burden. It may be in an unknown tongue. It may be intercession for another or the Holy Spirit making intercession for you. When this happens, the Holy Spirit speaks through you

praying directly to God and according to the will of God. You do not understand this type of intercession:

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. (Romans 8:26)**

### **THE MODEL PRAYER**

During the earthly ministry of Jesus His disciples once came to Him with an interesting request:

**. . . one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray. . . (Luke 11:1)**

The disciples did not ask how to preach or perform miracles. They did not seek lessons on how to build lasting relationships. They did not inquire regarding the wonders of physical healing. They asked to be taught how to pray. What created this desire? It was the visible effects of prayer in the life and ministry of Jesus. The disciples had witnessed the powerful results of this spiritual strategy in action.

Read the model prayer on the next page and observe the various types of prayer we have discussed:

Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be they name.	Praise and worship
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven.	Commitment
Give us this day our daily bread.	Petition
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.	Confession, intercession
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Petition
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. (Matthew 6:9-13)	Praise and worship

### **HOW TO PRAY**

Look up each of the following references in your Bible. These Scriptures teach you how to pray:

-Prayer is to be made to God: Psalms 5:2

-Empty repetition is forbidden, but earnest repetition is not: Matthew 6:7; Daniel 6:10;

Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8

- You sin by neglecting to pray for others: I Samuel 12:23
- Pray with understanding (in a known tongue): Ephesians 6:18
- Pray in the Spirit: Romans 8:26; Jude 20
- Pray according to the will of God: I John 5:14-15
- Pray in secret: Matthew 6:6
- Quality rather than quantity is stressed. Prayer is not successful because of much speaking: Matthew 6:7
- Pray always: Luke 21:36; Ephesians 6:18
- Pray continually: Romans 12:12
- Pray without ceasing: I Thessalonians 5:17
- Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus: John 15:16
- With a watchful attitude: I Peter 4:7
- According to the example of the model prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- Pray with a forgiving spirit: Mark 11:25
- Pray with humility: Matthew 6:7
- Sometimes accompany prayer with fasting: Matthew 17:21
- Pray fervently: James 5:16; Colossians 4:12
- Pray with submission to God: Luke 22:42
- Use the strategies of binding and loosing in prayer: Matthew 16:19

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD PRAY FOR**

- The peace of Jerusalem: Psalms 122:6
- Laborers in the harvest: Matthew 9:38
- That you enter not into temptation: Luke 22:40-46
- Them that despitefully use you (your enemies): Luke 6:28
- All the saints: Ephesians 6:18
- The sick: James 5:14
- One for another (bearing each other's burdens): James 5:16
- For all men, kings, and those in authority: I Timothy 2:1-4
- For our daily needs: Matthew 6:11
- For wisdom: James 1:5
- For healing: James 5:14-15
- For forgiveness: Matthew 6:12
- For God's will and Kingdom to be established: Matthew 6:10
- For relief from affliction: James 5:13

## **PRAY THE PROMISES**

**When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)**

God answers prayer according to His promises. When you do not ask on the basis of these promises, your prayer is not answered. It is similar to how a father relates to his children. No parent commits to give his youngsters anything they want or ask for. He makes it clear that he will do certain things and not do other things. Within these limits the father answers his child's requests.

It is the same with God. His promises form the proper basis for prayer. Learn what God has promised and pray according to the promises of God. One good way to do this is to go through the Bible and mark all the promises. Use your Bible when you pray and base your prayers upon these promises.

## **HINDRANCES TO PRAYER**

Here are some things that will hinder your prayers:

- Sin of any kind: Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 1:15; Proverbs 28:9
- Idols in the heart: Ezekiel 14:1-3:
- An unforgiving spirit: Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:23
- Selfishness, wrong motives: Proverbs 21:13; James 4:3
- Power hungry, manipulative prayers: James 4:2-3
- Wrong treatment of a marriage partner: I Peter 3:7
- Self-righteousness: Luke 18:10-14
- Unbelief: James 1:6-7:
- Not abiding in Christ and His Word: John 15:7:
- Lack of compassion: Proverbs 21:13
- Hypocrisy, pride, meaningless repetition: Matthew 6:5; Job 35:12-13
- Not asking according to the will of God: James 4:3
- Not asking in Jesus' name: John 16:24
- Satanic demonic hindrances: Daniel 10:10-13; Ephesians 6:1
- Not seeking first the Kingdom: It is only when you seek first the Kingdom of God that you are promised the other things: Matthew 6:33
- God has a higher purpose in denying your request: II Corinthians 12:8-9
- When you do not know how to pray as you should, prayer is hindered. This is why it is important to let the Holy Spirit pray through you: Romans 8:26

## **WHEN NOT TO PRAY**

It is important to learn how to wait in prayer for the Lord's guidance and direction before acting. But it is equally important to know when not to pray. When God calls you to action, you must act--not continue to pray.

For example, at the bitter waters of Marah when Moses cried unto the Lord, God showed him exactly what to do to sweeten the waters. There was no need to wait further on the Lord in prayer. Moses was to act upon what God had revealed. The same was true of Joshua when he prayed about the terrible defeat of Israel at Ai. God revealed there was sin among the people of Israel. He actually told Joshua. . .

**Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned;. . .  
Go, consecrate the people... (Joshua 7: portions of 10,11, and 13)**

It was not the time to pray. It was time to act upon the direction given in prayer. Some people use prayer as an excuse to avoid involvement and acting upon what God has told them to do. Others continue to pray when God has already answered but they did not like the answer. Review the story of Balaam in Numbers 22. Note especially verses 18-19. Balaam had no right to go to God with the same matter for God had clearly forbidden him to have anything to do with it (see verse 12).

## **COMBINING PRAYER WITH FASTING**

Prayer is even more powerful when combined with fasting. Fasting, in the most simple definition, is going without food.

### **TYPES OF FASTS:**

According to the Bible there are two types of fasts. The total fast is when you do not eat or drink at all. An example of this is found in Acts 9:9. The partial fast is when the diet is restricted. An example of this is in Daniel 10:3.

### **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FASTING:**

Fasting is a personal matter between an individual and God. It is to be done in private and not boasted about:

**When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,**



**So that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:16-18)**

Leaders may call a public fast and request the whole church fellowship to fast:

**Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. (Joel 2:15)**

### **THE PURPOSES OF FASTING:**

There are definite spiritual purposes for fasting. It is important that we understand these, for if we fast for the wrong reasons it will be ineffective. Study each of the following references regarding the purposes of fasting. They reveal the great power of fasting in spiritual warfare. You fast:

- To humble yourself: Psalms 35:13; 69: 10
- To repent for sin: Joel 2:12
- For revelation: Daniel 9:2; 3:21-22
- To loose the bands of wickedness, lift heavy burdens, set the oppressed free, and break every bondage: Isaiah 58:6
- To feed the poor, both physically and spiritually: Isaiah 58:7
- To be heard of God: II Samuel 12:16,22; Jonah 3:5, 10.

Fasting does not change God. It changes you. God relates to you on the basis of your relationship to Him. When you change, then the way God deals with you is affected. You do not fast to change God, because God does not change. But fasting does change how He deals with you. Read the book of Jonah for an example.

### **LENGTH OF THE FAST:**

How long you fast depends upon what God speaks into your spirit. He may lead you to fast a short or lengthy time. Remember the story of Esau and Jacob? Jacob was originally making a meal for himself but denied himself in order to obtain the birthright. How much better off Esau would have been if he had fasted that one meal!

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. What are two principles which release God's power in the lives of believers?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the three levels of prayer discussed in this lesson?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. List the types of prayer illustrated in the model prayer.

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5. List some of the hindrances to prayer discussed in this chapter.

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6. Define prayer.

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7. Define fasting.

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8. What are the two types of fasts?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

9. Summarize the purposes of fasting.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Answers to prayer are granted:
  - Immediately at times                      Isaiah 65:24; Daniel 9:21-23
  - Delayed at times                              Luke 18:7
  - At times, different from our desires      II Corinthians 12:8-9
  - Beyond our expectations                    Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 3:20

Remember: The prayer of Jesus in the Garden did not change God's will, but God's will became plain through it (Hebrews 5:7-9). Our prayers are not unanswered, just because they are not answered the way we want. What we see as unanswered prayers often serve a higher purpose.

2. When we pray according to the pattern of the Lord's Prayer it encourages proper attitudes:

When we pray...	We are showing...
Our Father in Heaven	A childlike attitude
Hallowed be Thy name	A respectful attitude
Thy kingdom come	An expectant attitude
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven	A submissive attitude
Give us this day our daily bread	A reliant attitude
Forgive us our debts	A repentant attitude
As we forgive our debtors	A forgiving attitude
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil	A victorious attitude
Thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever	A worshipful attitude

3. Read James 5:17-18. This is a model prayer of power and faith because:
  - It is based on a definite promise of God: I Kings 18:1
  - It fulfilled the condition of the promise: I Kings 18:2
  - He persevered despite adverse reports: I Kings 18:43
4. Study the following examples of powerful prayers recorded in the Bible:

### **Genesis:**

Prayer history begins: 4:26  
Prayer and spiritual progress: 5:21-24  
Prayer and the altar: 12-13  
Prayer for an heir: 15  
Prayer, the language of a cry: 16  
Prayer and revelation: 17  
Prayer for a wicked city: 18-19  
Prayer after a lapse: 20  
Prayer of obedience: 22

Prayer for a bride: 24  
Prayer for a barren wife: 25:19-23  
Prayer changes things: 26  
Prayer as a vow: 28  
Prayer about a wronged brother: 32  
Prayer, the hidden fire: 39-41; 45:5-8; 50:20,24  
Prayer for blessing upon the tribes: 48-49

### **Exodus:**

Prayer expressed as a groan: 1-2  
Prayer as a dialogue: 3-4  
Prayer as complaint: 5-7  
Prayer in league with omnipotence: 8-10  
Prayer as praise: 15  
Prayer in peril: 17  
Prayer of the needy: 22:22-24  
Prayer for delay of deserved judgment: 32  
First prayer of Moses for Israel: 32:9-14  
Second prayer of Moses: 32:30-34  
Third prayer of Moses: 33:12-23  
Prayer and transfiguration: 34

### **Numbers:**

Prayer as benediction: 6:24-27  
Prayer for preservation and protection: 10:35-36  
Prayer for the removal of judgment: 11:1-2  
Prayer of a discouraged heart: 11:10-35  
Prayer of a meek man: 12  
Prayer for the upholding of divine honor: 14  
Prayer for divine action against rebellion: 16  
Prayer for relief from death: 21  
Prayer and prophecy: 23-24  
Prayer for a new leader: 27

### **Deuteronomy:**

Prayer for a privileged task: 3:23-29  
Prayer to one who is nigh: 4:7  
Prayer for the stay of judgment: 9:20,26-29  
Prayer as a blessing: 21:6-9  
Prayer as thanksgiving: 26  
Prayer as a song: 32-33

**Joshua:**

Prayer as a challenge: 5:13-15  
Prayer God does not answer: 7  
Prayer neglected with dire results: 9:14  
Prayer that produced a miracle: 10

**Judges:**

Prayer for direction: 1  
Prayer in time of war: 4-5  
Prayer for signs: 6  
Prayer in calamity: 10:10-16  
Prayer as a bargain: 11:30-40  
Prayer for an unborn child: 13  
Prayer in the face of death: 16:28-31  
Prayer directly answered: 20:23-28  
Prayer for a lost tribe: 21:2-3

**I Samuel:**

Prayer without words: 1  
Prayer, prophetic in outlook: 2:1-10  
Prayer in the sanctuary: 3  
Prayer for national trouble: 7  
Prayer for a king: 8  
Prayer as vindication: 12  
Prayer of a distressed king: 14  
Prayer of a grieved heart: 15:11  
Prayer as a still small voice: 16:1-12  
Prayer as the secret of courage: 17  
Prayer as enquiry: 23  
Prayer for deaf ears: 28:7  
Prayer for restoration of war-spoil: 30

**II Samuel:**

Prayer as to possession: 2:1  
Prayer for victory signs: 5:19-25  
Prayer for blessing upon house and kingdom: 7:18-29  
Prayer for a sick child: 12  
Prayer as pretense: 5:7-9  
Prayer for understanding of affliction: 21:1-12  
Prayer as a psalm: 22  
Prayer as a confession of pride: 24:10-17

**I Kings:**

Prayer for a wise heart: 3  
Prayer of dedication: 8:12-61  
Prayer for a withered hand: 13:6  
Prayer for closed skies: 17  
Prayer for resurrection of dead son: 17:20-24  
Prayer for divine honor: 18:16-41  
Prayer and perseverance: 18:45  
Prayer for death: 19

**II Kings:**

Prayer for a dead child: 4:32-37  
Prayer for vision: 6:13-17  
Prayer for deliverance from defiant foes: 19  
Prayer for longer life: 20:1-11

**I Chronicles:**

Prayer for spiritual prosperity: 4:9-10  
Prayer as trust: 5:20  
Prayer of fear: 13:12  
Prayer for establishment of covenant: 17:16-27  
Prayer answered by fire: 21  
Prayer as a sentinel: 23:30  
Prayer and giving: 29:10-19

**II Chronicles:**

Prayer in national danger: 14:11  
Prayer and reform: 15  
Prayer and appeal to history: 20:3-13  
Prayer of penitence: 33:13

**Ezra:**

Prayer of thanksgiving: 7:27-28  
Prayer and fasting: 8:21-23  
Prayer and confession: 9:5-10:4

**Nehemiah:**

Prayer born of distress: 1:4-11  
Prayer in a tight corner: 2:4  
Prayer for deliverance from reproach: 4:1-6  
Prayer triumphing over anger: 4:7-9  
Prayer and restitution: 5  
Prayer against craft: 6:9-14

Prayer and the Word: 8:1-13  
Prayer and God's goodness: 9  
Prayer for remembrance: 13:14,22,29,31

**Job:**

Prayer of resignation: 1:20-22  
Prayer for pity: 6:8-9; 7:17-21  
Prayer for justification: 9  
Prayer against injustice: 10  
Prayer for light on immortality: 14:13-22  
Prayer and profit: 21:14-34  
Prayer and reason: 23  
Prayer answered by whirlwind: 38  
Prayer as confession: 40:3-5; 42:1-6  
Prayer as intercession: 42:7-10

**Psalms:**

Prayer born of rebellion: 3  
Prayer of holiness: 4  
Prayer as a morning watch: 5  
Prayer for divine action: 7  
Prayer of praise for divine action: 8  
Prayer for preservation here and hereafter: 16  
Prayer of the cross: 22  
Prayer for shepherd care: 23  
Prayer for the manifestation of divine glory: 24  
Prayer as ascent to God: 25  
Prayer of a believing heart: 27  
Prayer as a cameo of Christ: 31  
Prayer of a tragic soul: 32  
Prayer for protection against enemies: 35  
Prayer in praise of loving kindness: 36  
Prayer of a pilgrim: 39, 90, 91  
Prayer and its accomplishment: 40  
Prayer in deep distress: 41  
Prayer as a door of hope: 42-43  
Prayer for divine assistance: 44  
Prayer for a refuge: 46  
Prayer of a broken heart: 51  
Prayer at all times: 55  
Prayer of distress: 57  
Prayer of trust: 71  
Prayer for God Himself: 73

Prayer as praise for God's greatness: 96  
Prayer for escape from trials: 102-103, 105  
Prayer of remembrance: 106  
Prayer for those in perils on sea: 107  
Prayer and affinity to Scripture: 19, 119  
Prayer for searching of heart: 139

**Proverbs:**

The book focuses on prayer as the channel of God-given wisdom.

**Ecclesiastes:**

The book discusses prayer in relationship to fatalism.

**Song of Solomon:**

Prayer's secrets: The whole book.

**Isaiah:**

Prayer God does not hear: 1:15; 16:12  
Prayer and cleansing: 6  
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**Jeremiah:**

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Prayer for divine vengeance: 15:15-21  
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**Joel:**

Prayer in emergency: 1:19-20

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**Jonah:**

Prayer of heathen sailors: 1:14-16

Prayer out of Hell: 2

Prayer of a repentant city: 3

Prayer of a displeased prophet: 4

**Micah:**

Prayer is waiting upon the Lord for fulfillment of His Word.

**Habakkuk:**

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**Matthew:**

Prayer and the necessity of forgiveness: 5:22-26; 6:12,14-15  
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Prayer as taught by Christ: 6:8-13  
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Prayer of a leper: 8:1-4  
Prayer of the centurion: 8:5-13  
Prayer in peril: 8:23-27  
Prayer of maniacs: 8:28-34  
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Prayer of Christ's gratitude to God: 11:25-27  
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Prayer of a demon: 1:23-28,32-34  
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Prayer in parable form: 11:5-13  
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Prayer for Peter in prison: 12:5,12-17  
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Prayer for a prosperous journey: 1:8-15  
Prayer inspired by the Spirit: 8:15,23,26-27  
Prayer for Israel's sake: 10:1; 11:26  
Prayer as a continuing ministry: 12:12  
Prayer for like-mindedness: 15:5-6,30-33  
Prayer for Satan's conquest: 16:20,24-27

### **II Corinthians:**

Prayer as a benediction: 1:2-4  
Prayer for removal of thorn: 12:7-10

### **Ephesians:**

Prayer and the believer's position: 1:1-11  
Prayer for perception and power: 1:15-20  
Prayer as access to God: 2:18; 3:12  
Prayer for inner fullness: 3:13-21  
Prayer and inner melody: 5:19-20  
Prayer as a warrior's reserve: 6:18-19

### **Philippians:**

Prayer as a request for joy: 1:2-7  
Prayer and peace of mind: 4:6-7,19-23

### **Colossians:**

Prayer as praise for loyalty: 1:1-8  
Prayer for a seven-fold blessing: 1:9-14  
Prayer fellowship: 4:2-4,12,17

### **I Thessalonians:**

Prayer of remembrance: 1:1-3  
Prayer for a return visit: 3:9-13  
Prayer, praise, and perfection: 5:17-18,23-24,28

### **II Thessalonians:**

Prayer for worthiness of calling: 1:3,11-12  
Prayer for comfort and stability: 2:13,16-17  
Prayer for the Word and protection: 3:1-5

**II Timothy:**

Prayer for Timothy's ministry: 1:2-7

Prayer for the house of Onesiphorus: 1:6-18

Prayer for false friends: 4:14-18

**Hebrews:**

Prayer as praise for creation: 1:10-12

Prayer for mercy and favor: 4:16

Prayer and ministry of Christ: 5:7-8; 7:24-25

Prayer for the outworking of God's will: 12:9,12,15

Prayer for perfectness: 13:20-21

**James:**

Prayer for wisdom: 1:5-8,17

Prayer that misses the target: 4:2-3

Prayer that prevails: 5:13-18

**I Peter:**

Prayer of gratitude for inheritance: 1:3-4

Prayer in the married state: 3:7-12

Prayer-watch: 4:7

Prayer for Christian stability: 5:10-11

**II Peter:**

Prayer for multiplication of grace and peace: 1:2

**III John:**

Prayer the background of reputation: 1-4,12

**Jude:**

Prayer in the Spirit: 20

**Revelation:**

Prayer as praise to the Lamb for redemption: 5:9

Prayer as golden incense: 5:8; 8:3

Prayer of the martyred host: 6:10

Prayer of the Gentile host: 7:9-12

Prayer of the elders: 11:15-19

Prayer of Moses: 15:3-4

Prayer of the glorified saints: 19:1-10

Prayers ending the Bible: 22:17,20

# CHAPTER FOURTEEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE EIGHT: THE POWER OF THE WORD

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify the source of the Word of power.
- ☐ Define the "rhema" and "logos" Words of God.
- ☐ Explain how Jesus met the challenge of Satan through the Word of power.
- ☐ Explain your responsibility for God's Word of power.
- ☐ Summarize the powerful purposes of God's Word.
- ☐ Explain why your own words are important in relation to spiritual power.

### KEY VERSE:

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)**

### INTRODUCTION

The Holy Bible is the written Word of the one true and living God. There is special power in these words of God:

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)**

**So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)**

You will never receive the fullness of God's power until you experience the power of His Word.

## **THE SOURCE OF THE WORD**

God is the source of power and of His written Word. This makes the Word of God powerful:

**The Lord announces the word, and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng: (Psalms 68:11)**

**And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. (I Thessalonians 2:13)**

God actually created the world by His Word:

**By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (Hebrews 11:3)**

God created the heavens by His Word:

**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. . . (Psalms 33:6)**

God continues to uphold the world and all things as they are by the power of His Word:

**The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:3)**

## **"RHEMA" AND "LOGOS"**

There are two different Greek words used in the Bible for the Word of God. One of these Greek words is "logos" and it refers to the total utterance of God. It is the complete revelation of what God has said.

The second word, "rhema," refers to a specific saying of God that applies to a special situation. The total "logos" revelation of the Word of God is powerful, but when God quickens a "rhema" word from His written Word, it is especially powerful. When God quickens a "rhema" word, a verse you have read many times before suddenly takes on new meaning. You can see how it applies to a specific situation you are facing. The "rhema" Word gives you the answer, revelation, or comfort needed at the time.

## **THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

The power of God was delegated to Jesus Christ but that power must be tested because strength increases under pressure. A major confrontation between the power of Jesus and the power of Satan came early in the earthly ministry of Christ. Before proceeding with this lesson, read about this encounter in Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; and Luke 4:1-13.

First, Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread. The power of Jesus which soon was to turn water into wine surely could have turned stones into bread. But to do so in this situation would have been acting independently of God and using His power for personal benefit.

Next, Satan tried to get Jesus to cast Himself down from the top of the temple to demonstrate His power. He even misapplied Scriptures to persuade Him it was all right to do so.

In the third encounter, Satan tempted Jesus with the appeal of worldly power. Satan said he would give up all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him.

In each of these power struggles, Jesus met the challenge with the Word of God. Jesus quoted Scriptures applicable to the immediate situation. He used the "rhema" Word of God.

## **USING THE WORD OF POWER**

It is not enough just to know there is power in the Word of God. To make it effective, that Word must be applied as Jesus did. Jesus made it clear that the words He spoke were not His own. They were God's Words (John 3:34; 14:10,24; 17:8,14)

Jesus spoke God's Word with power:

**They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.  
(Luke 4:32)**

**All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!  
(Luke 4:36)**

Jesus spoke the Word to a man with a withered hand and it was healed (Mark 3:1-5). He spoke the Word to a leper and he was cleansed (Matthew 8:2-3). He said. . .

- "rise" to the impotent man at the pool (John 5:8)
- "see" to the blind (Luke 7:21)
- "come out" to demons (Matthew 9:32-33)
- "hear" to the deaf (Mark 7:32-35)



- "come forth" to the dead (John 11:44)

Jesus knew there was power in God's Word, but He also knew men must hear and respond to that Word in order for it to be effective. The words of Jesus, which were God's Words, were so powerful that they worked from a distance. Jesus did not even have to be present at the scene of the problem. One man who had a sick servant said. . .

**Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.**

**Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.  
(Matthew 8:8,13)**

This man believed in the power of God's Word. He knew it was so powerful it was not affected by time, place, or any other limitations of man. But to make it effective in his own life and situation, he had to claim it. He must apply the Word of God to receive the benefit of its power.

The early church used God's words of power. Paul said:

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,**

**So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.  
(I Corinthians 2:4,5)**

**But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have.  
(I Corinthians 4:19)**

## **THE POWER OF THE WORD**

God is the power behind His Word:

**So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
(Isaiah 55:11)**

**. . . for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled. (Jeremiah 1:12)**

The Word of God gives great spiritual power:

**For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;**

**it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)**

God honors His Word above His name:

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name  
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted  
your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame. (Psalms 138:2)**

What are the powerful purposes accomplished by God's Word? Study the following verses.  
God's Word:

- Is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction: II Timothy 3:16-17
- Brings belief in the Gospel message: Acts 4:4
- Cleanses: John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26
- Brings eternal life, if we hear and believe it: John 5:24
- Is the basis for eternal judgment: John 12:48
- Is used to cast out unclean spirits: Matthew 8:16; Luke 4:36
- Is followed by miraculous signs and convinces people of the truth of the Gospel:  
Mark 16:20
- Gives assurance of salvation: I John 1:2-6
- Brings the born again experience: I Peter 1:23; Psalms 119:41
- Bears record of the truth of the Gospel: I John 5:7
- Sanctifies the believer: I Timothy 4:5
- Gives hope: Psalms 130:5; 119:49,81
- Brings healing: Psalms 107:20
- Keeps us from the path of the destroyer: Psalms 17:4
- Is spirit and life: John 6:63
- Brings joy and rejoicing: Jeremiah 15:16
- Increases faith: Romans 10:17
- Comforts: I Thessalonians 4:18, Psalms 119:50,52
- Brings spiritual nourishment: I Timothy 4:6
- Brings answered prayer: John 15:7
- Is the key to success: Joshua 1:8
- Blesses, if we hear and keep it: Luke 11:28
- Brings blessings when it is kept and curses when it is not: Deuteronomy 28
- Is a weapon in the time of temptation: Matthew 4
- Converts the soul: Psalms 19:7
- Makes wise the simple: Psalms 19:7
- Enlightens: Psalms 19:8
- Warns: Psalms 19:11
- Brings great reward when kept: Psalms 19:11
- Permits access to Heaven: Revelation 22:14

- Brings the blessing of walking in righteousness: Psalms 119:1-3
- Makes us wiser than our enemies, teachers, and the ancients: Psalms 119:98-104
- Quickens: Psalms 119:25
- Strengthens: Psalms 119:28
- Is the basis of His mercy: Psalms 119:58
- Brings delight: Psalms 119:92
- Gives the simple understanding: Psalms 119:130,104,169
- Delivers: Psalms 119:170

## **THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORD**

Because the Word of God is so powerful, believers have a responsibility to make it known to the world. The early Church assumed this responsibility for the Word of God. They went everywhere preaching it (Acts 8:4; 12:24; 13:49). They asked God for boldness to speak His Word (Acts 4:29,31). The Word of God increased throughout the world because of their faithfulness (Acts 6:7; 19:20).

God confirms His Word with signs following. One cannot wait for the signs to precede the Word. You have a responsibility for spreading this powerful Word to the world. Learn about your responsibility by studying the following Scriptures:

- God puts His Word in you so you can speak it to others: Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Isaiah 51:16; Jeremiah 1:9; 3:12; 5:14; 26:12; Ezekiel 2:7-8.
- If you are taught in God's Word, then you have a responsibility to teach others: Galatians 6:6.
- You are to preach the Word throughout the world: Luke 24:47; Mark 16:15; II Timothy 4:2.
- You are not to speak your own words, but His words: Isaiah 58:13.
- You are not to be ashamed of the Word: Mark 8:38.
- You are to teach it to your children: Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

## **YOUR OWN WORDS**

The Holy Scriptures have divine power because they are the Words of the true and living God. But your own words are also powerful, especially when you speak God's Word. You can overcome Satan through words:

**They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (Revelation 12:11)**

Confession by your mouth is part of salvation:

**But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:**

**If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:8-10)**

Your tongue has the power to bring spiritual death or life as you minister to others:

**The tongue has the power of life and death. . . (Proverbs 18:21)**

You can snare yourself with your own words. You can get yourself into difficulties by what you say:

**You have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth. (Proverbs 6:2)**

Your words can prevent you from acknowledging the power of God:

**Those who say, “By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?” (Psalms 12:4)**

Satan uses the things you say to cause a breach in your spirit. A breach is an opening through which he can enter:

**The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4)**

What you say affects your soul:

**The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives. (Proverbs 18:7)**

**Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity. (Proverbs 21:23)**

Your words affect your whole body:

**The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (James 3:6)**

Your words affect your whole life:

**Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. (Proverbs 13:3)**

Believers prevent the flow of God's power in their lives through their own words. They speak covetous, idol, and foolish words. They argue over commandments of men that turn people from the truth of the Gospel. They speak evil words about others, murmur, complain, boast, and lie. They speak words that cause division, words of cursing and bitterness.

Then they wonder why they are powerless.

Remember: The flow of God's power in your life is not only affected by the power of His Word, it is affected by the power of your words.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Who is the source of the Word of power?

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3. What is the "rhema" Word of God?

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4. What is the "logos" Word of God?

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5. How did Jesus meet the challenges of Satan?

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6. Summarize what you learned in this lesson about your responsibility for God's Word of power.

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7. Summarize what you learned in this lesson about powerful purposes of God's Word.

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8. Is this statement true or false? "Your own words have no effect on spiritual power."

The statement is:\_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Read Genesis chapter 1. Note the creative power in God's Word. Underline every use of the phrase "and God said."
2. Study more about the power of your own tongue in the Harvestime International Institute course, "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*." Strategies for controlling your tongue are given in this course.
3. Jesus is actually called the Word of God in human form. Read John 1.
4. The first record of God's Words being written down by man is found in Exodus 20:1-17.
5. There are two major divisions to God's Word: The milk of the Word and the meat of the Word. The milk of the Word is basic truth easily understood. The meat of the word is the deeper teachings of God's Word which bring spiritual maturity. Read about these divisions in Hebrews 5:13-14 and I Peter 2:2.

# CHAPTER FIFTEEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE NINE: POWER OF AUTHORITY

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Explain why you must be under authority in order to exercise authority.
- ☐ Explain how Jesus was a man of authority under authority.
- ☐ Identify structures of authority God has established in the Church.
- ☐ Identify structures of authority God has established in the home.
- ☐ Explain the structure of authority God has established in work relationships.
- ☐ Give a reference which explains the relationship of believers to government authorities.

### KEY VERSE:

**Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)**

### INTRODUCTION

From the creation of the world, God has worked to bring order out of confusion. One way He has done this is to establish structures of authority in every area of life. The greatest and highest authorities are God Himself, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

God has also established structures of authority which affect your life. These authorities are important if you desire spiritual power. If you are not properly under authority then you cannot exercise authority.

### A MAN UNDER AUTHORITY

One day in Capernaum, Jesus had an interesting encounter with a military leader. We are not given this leader's name. We only are told that he was a Centurion and had a servant who was quite ill. Read the story of the Centurion in Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10 before proceeding with this lesson.

The Centurion was a man under the authority of Rome. He also had authority, as he was the military leader of 100 men. Because of this he immediately understood the spiritual relationship in which Jesus worked with the Father. It was similar to his own natural relationship as a Centurion with his commander.



Jesus was a man of authority. He acted with authority. He forgave sins, healed the sick, cast out demons, and did miracles. But Jesus was also under authority. He was under the authority of the Father:

**Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19)**

**For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.**

**And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. (John 5:26-27)**

**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. (John 6:38)**

**. . . My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. (John 7:16)**

**The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. (John 8:29)**

The Centurion recognized the power of this authority structure and, because of it, he knew it was not necessary for Jesus to come to his home to heal his servant. He knew Jesus had enough power to just speak the word and healing would come. Jesus commended the Centurion for his great faith and healed his servant.

Wherever authority is manifested, there is a chain (proper order) of command. This is why the scribes and Pharisees questioned Jesus, "By what authority doest thou these things?" (Matthew 21:23). Whenever men see lives filled with power and authority, they seek to discover the source.

## **JESUS UNDER AUTHORITY**

God sought for someone to go forth with His authority:

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? (Isaiah 6:8)**

God gave a measure of His authority to men and women in Old Testament times, but the full revelation of His power and authority came through Jesus Christ. Jesus knew He had this authority:

**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)**

Jesus demonstrated that He had authority:

**But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” (Matthew 9:6)**

Jesus received His authority from God and with it He triumphed over all the powers of the enemy.

Jesus is the head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:10) because. . .

**. . . having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)**

Jesus is under the authority of God and in authority over all other powers and authorities. As you previously learned, Jesus has delegated authority to you:

**It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. (Mark 13:34)**

You come under the authority of Jesus and, by doing so, you are also under the authority of the Father. Believers are people of spiritual authority who are under authority.

### **AUTHORITIES SET BY GOD**

You already learned that God is the source of power:

**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)**

God is also the power behind all authority structures He has established in the world:

**Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)**

In addition to the supreme authority of God, believers are under other structures of authority He has established. These include authorities in the home, Church, work place, and government.

Each person's situation differs from others. Some women have no husband. Some people do not work and have no master or employer. They are not involved in these structures of authority. But it is important to recognize the structures which do relate to you because God has established them. You must be under the authorities He established in order to function in authority. Legitimate authority is always delegated from some source.

When you are under authority, you have a legitimate source from which your own authority is derived. For example, the wife in a home derives her authority from the husband. The deacons and elders in a Church derive their authority from the men God sets in spiritual leadership over them. An employee has limits of authority set by his employer. But all these chains of command lead ultimately to God, who is the source of all authority.

All authorities are instituted by God. When tracing authorities back to their source, we always end up with God. Because of this, rebellion against authority hinders the flow of God's power in your life. When you rebel against those in authority you are actually rebelling against God:

**Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (Romans 13:1-2)**

To be a person of authority, you must be under the authority of God and of those whom God has sets over you. These are some authority structures established by God:

### **AUTHORITIES IN THE HOME:**

The very first structure of authority established by God was the home (Genesis 1-3). Here is God's structure for the home:

#### **Husbands:**

The Bible teaches that the husband should be the head of the home. The authority of the husband in the home is to be based on love:

**For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.**

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:23,25)**

## **Wives:**

The wife is to be under the loving authority of the husband:

**Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.  
(Ephesians 5:22)**

## **Parents:**

Together, the wife and husband are to be in authority over the children:

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

**“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—**

**So that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.  
(Ephesians 6:1-3)**

But parents are warned:

**Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)**

All authority carries with it responsibility. Parents must exercise godly authority with love. Husbands must exercise leadership that is like that of Christ for the Church. They are not to be bossy and cruel and require the wife and children to serve them like slaves. They are to relate to their family as Jesus does to the Church.

Husbands should listen to their wives, as they are a gift from God and a "helpmate.≡ How can a wife help a husband who never listens to her and disregards her opinion? There are Biblical records where God told men to listen to their wives (Abraham) and where God spoke first to the wife before speaking to the husband (Manoah). This is why it is important for a husband and wife to respond properly one to another. It is interesting to note that one of the reasons God called Abraham to the great responsibility of ministry was that his home was in proper order.

Each authority structure is to be a fair and loving one. Unfortunately, in every structure, authority has been abused and people do not always act in a loving and fair way. The authority structure God has established in the home vitally affects ministry. If the home is not in order then one cannot exercise proper leadership in ministry which is a greater responsibility. This is why God established a properly ordered home as a requirement for leadership in the Church:

Now the overseer . . . must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

**(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) (I Timothy 3:2,4-5)**

**. . . faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. (Titus 1:6)**

The Bible also speaks of prayers being hindered when there is disharmony between a husband and wife.

### **AUTHORITIES IN THE CHURCH:**

When we speak of the authority structure in the Church, we are not talking about organizations of man. We are not talking about denominations and the way they organize, hire, or vote on leaders. We are referring to the Biblical structure of the Church established by God.

The head of the Church is Jesus Christ and believers are. . .

**. . . the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (I Corinthians 12:27)**

God sets in the Church special leadership gifts:

**So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, (Ephesians 4:11)**

These leadership gifts are set in the Church by God. When you become part of a local church, then you come under the authority of the men set by God as leaders in that particular fellowship. These special leaders are assisted in the local church by elders and/or deacons who are to serve under their direction. You can read about the duties and qualifications for these men in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

God also gives to each spirit-filled believer spiritual gifts. These gifts are to function in the church under the authority of leadership for the purposes of edification and the work of the ministry. You can read about the gifts in the following passages: Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 4:7-11. You can study these special gifts in detail in the Harvestime International Institute course, "*Ministry of The Holy Spirit*."

The Church is the spiritual body of Jesus Christ. Each member of the Church has a different responsibility, just as parts of a human body. Each part comes under the direction of the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ.

In the human body, each part receives direction from the head. The same is true in the spiritual body of the Church. There can be no unity in the body without the authority of the head, Jesus Christ.

Members of the body are to submit one to another, just as they do in the natural body. For example, when it comes to reading in the natural body, the eye takes authority. When it comes to walking, the feet take authority. Members of the spiritual body are to submit in a similar way one to another to enable effective functioning in ministry.

### **AUTHORITIES AT WORK:**

The Bible establishes the structure of authority for those who work either as employees or as employers. An employer is one who is the master, boss, or one in charge of workers. An employee is a worker who is hired and has the responsibility of doing a certain job.

The Bible teaches:

**Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.**

**Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.**

**Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,**

**because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. (Ephesians 6:5-8)**

The work of a servant or employee is to be done as unto the Lord because God is the source of all power. Instructions are also given to masters or employers. The structure of one in authority under authority is again clearly reflected in this passage:

**And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. (Ephesians 6:9)**

Employers are to treat their servants fairly, even as they are treated fairly by God from whom they derive their power.

### **AUTHORITIES IN GOVERNMENT:**

According to Matthew 20:25-28 the power structure of the world is not that of the Kingdom of God. But even though we are believers and part of God's Kingdom, at the present time we still

live in the world. Each one of us live in a village or city which is part of a larger county, province, state, and country. Each of us live under local and national government and there are laws and government leaders in authority over us.

You previously learned that the Bible teaches God is the source of all power. Romans 13 explains how this relates to governmental authorities. Turn to this chapter in your Bible.

**Verse 1** teaches that God is the source of all power and you are to be subject to these powers.

**Verse 2** indicates that when you rebel against these powers, you are in reality rebelling against God.

**Verses 3-4** explain that government leaders are a terror to you only when you disobey them. They are actually compared to ministers of God.

God brings government leaders to power and can dethrone them at will:

**He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.  
(Daniel 2:21)**

**. . . so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms  
on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.  
(Daniel 4:17)**

Daniel tells the story of a King named Nebuchadnezzar who did not recognize the source of his earthly power until God taught him:

**But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed  
from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.**

**. . . until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms  
on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes. (Daniel 5:20-21)**

God sent a prophet to King Amaziah to instruct him when he was planning to go to battle:

**But a man of God came to him and said, “Your Majesty, these troops from Israel  
must not march with you, for the LORD is not with Israel. . .**

**Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before  
the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow.  
(II Chronicles 25:7-8)**

These verses clearly illustrate that God sets up government leadership. He is at work even in the battles of this world, raising up one, casting down another. Unfortunately, just as authority structures are sometimes abused in the home and church, they are also abused in government. Wicked and ruthless leaders have seized power in many nations. They refuse to acknowledge God as the source of power and cause suffering for believers. When any government or regulation contradicts that which is taught in God's Word, then you must obey God rather than man. When the Disciples were told they could not preach in the name of Jesus. . .

**Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! (Acts 5:29)**

They realized that this request was contrary to the commandment of Jesus which told them to preach the Gospel in all the world. In other areas you are to. . .

**. . . submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.**

**This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.**

**Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.  
(Romans 13:5-7)**

Because of their great responsibilities and the potential for their abuse of power, you are to pray:

**For kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (I Timothy 2:2)**

### **ALL POWERS BECOME GOD'S POWER**

God is the source of all power in the natural and spiritual worlds. All power is delegated from Him. He delegated this power to establish structure in the home, Church, marketplace, community, and nation. But there will come a time in the future when all delegated powers again become His power:

**Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.  
(I Corinthians 15:24)**

**When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.  
(I Corinthians 15:28)**



## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Why must you be under authority in order to exercise authority?

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3. Explain how Jesus was a man of authority under authority.

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4. Summarize what you learned about the structures of authority God has established in the Church.

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5. Summarize what you learned about the structures of authority God has established in the home.

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6. Explain the structure of authority God has established in work relationships.

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7. Give a Biblical reference which explains the relationship of believers to government authorities.

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8. When you rebel against authorities over you, who are you really rebelling against?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Study Acts 6:1-6 for an example of authority functioning within the organization of the church. Summarize what you learned about authority from this passage.

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2. In Philippians 4:2 Paul requested that peace be made between Euodias and Syntyche. We are not told the nature of this struggle, but whenever there is such a problem someone is not in proper submission to authority.

3. Read I Samuel 13. In this story, King Saul assumed authority that was not rightfully his as king. He offered sacrifices which were to be made only by the prophet of God.

Read I Samuel 15. Here, King Saul rebelled against God's orders by saving some of the spoil from the battle with the Amalekites.

What were the results of King Saul's rebellion? (See I Samuel 13:13-14 and 15:26).

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4. Read John 19:10-11. Pilate thought He had power over Jesus. Was this true?

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5. Summarize the instructions given to husbands and wives in I Corinthians 7.

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6. Read in Acts 23 how Paul submitted to authority when he realized the person to whom he spoke was the high priest of God. How did he react?

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# CHAPTER SIXTEEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE TEN: THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Define resurrection.
- ☐ Explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus.
- ☐ Summarize present functions of resurrection power in the life of the believer.
- ☐ Identify the source of resurrection power.

### KEY VERSE:

**I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and Participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (Philippians 3:10)**

### INTRODUCTION

Paul spoke of spiritual power being experienced in two ways through Jesus:

**I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (Philippians 3:10)**

This chapter focuses on the resurrection power of Jesus Christ which indwells believers. The following chapter concerns the power of the fellowship of His suffering. There is no study more hated by Satan than the resurrection of Jesus, for it shows his inability to defeat God's plan more than any other event recorded in the Bible.

### DEFINITION OF RESURRECTION

The meaning of the word "resurrection" is a raising or rising up from the dead back to life.

### THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

After His death for the sins of all mankind, Jesus was raised from the dead by God:

**You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. (Acts 3:15)**

**Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)**

**Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (I Peter 1:21)**

You can read the story of the resurrection of Jesus in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

The resurrection of Jesus is a powerful truth because it is basic to our faith:

**If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.**

**And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (I Corinthians 15:13-14)**

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus is necessary to salvation:

**If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)**

The resurrection of Jesus confirms that believers are justified:

**He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:25)**

The resurrection means death is defeated:

**Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil — (Hebrews 2:14)**

The resurrection of Jesus confirmed He is supreme over all created beings:

**And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength**

**He exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,**

**Far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**

**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, (Ephesians 1:19-22)**

The resurrection confirms Jesus was the Son of God:

**And who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:4)**

### **THE FUTURE RESURRECTION**

The Bible speaks of a time in the future when this world as we know it will come to an end. At that time there will be a resurrection of all the dead. Those who have died as believers will be resurrected to eternal life. Those who have died as unbelievers will be resurrected, judged, and condemned to eternal punishment.

You can read about the future resurrection in I Corinthians 6:14; 15:1-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 5:28-29; II Corinthians 4:14; and Revelation 20:4-6. You can study the future resurrection in detail in the Harvestime International Institute course "*Foundations Of Faith*."

### **THE PRESENT POWER OF THE RESURRECTION**

It is true that we will someday experience resurrection from the dead, but the power of the resurrection is not reserved only for the future. Its power can be experienced now by believers. The resurrection is the basis for spiritual power now because it gives you:

#### **A NEW HOPE:**

It is through resurrection power that you have hope. Your life will not end with the grave. You have eternal life:

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (I Peter 1:3)**

Hope is a powerful force. Without hope, people grow discouraged and weary. The power of the resurrection keeps hope alive.

## **A NEW LIFE:**

When you accept Jesus as Savior, you are resurrected from the spiritual death of sin to spiritual life:

**When you were dead in your sins. . God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, (Colossians 2:13)**

Spiritual resurrection results in death to sin. Through resurrection power you can live a new life. You do not live like you used to live. You are dead to the evil things of the world and alive in Jesus.

You cannot live this new life by self-improvement. You cannot live it in your own power. You live it through the power of the resurrection:

**In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.**

**Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master. . . (Romans 6:11-14)**

The struggles you face are between spiritual death and life working within you. Resurrection power defeats the law of sin and death and frees you from spiritual bondage. Jesus said:

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)**

Not only eternal life in the future, but abundant life in the present is yours because of the power of the resurrection.

## **A NEW MASTER:**

Spiritual resurrection makes Jesus the master of your life. Instead of living for yourself, you live to serve Him:

**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.  
(II Corinthians 5:15)**

Power comes from understanding your position because of the resurrection. You are a servant of the living God. No longer are you a slave of Satan.

#### **A NEW LIFE PURPOSE:**

A new life purpose results from spiritual resurrection. Instead of concern about temporal things of the world, such as material gain, ambition, etc., your attention is focused on eternal things:

**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.  
(Colossians 3:1-3)**

The material things of the world no longer control a believer who has experienced resurrection power. The circumstances of the world no longer defeat him. Experiencing the power of the resurrection gives him a new perspective and purpose.

#### **A NEW QUICKENING:**

**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. (Romans 8:11)**

The word "quicken" means to make alive and to endue with life. God has already quickened you from sin:

**As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,  
(Ephesians 2:1)**

But He also wants to quicken your mortal body. God wants to endue your mortal body with resurrection power:

**But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (II Corinthians 4:7)**

If you have accepted Jesus as Savior and been filled with the Holy Spirit, then that same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you. That life flow can quicken you now with the power of the resurrection.

## **THE SOURCE OF RESURRECTION POWER**

The source of this resurrection power in the life of the believer is Jesus. He said:

**. . . I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; (John 11:25)**

Just as natural life is in the blood, spiritual life is through the blood of Jesus. Just as natural blood flows through your veins, resurrection life flows through your spirit. Are you walking in the power of His resurrection now. In your daily Christian life? In your ministry? Tap into that life flow today!



## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Define "resurrection."

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3. Summarize the importance of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

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4. Is this statement true or false? "Resurrection power can only be experienced by the believer in the future when he is raised from the dead." The statement is\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Summarize the present purposes of resurrection power in the life of the believer.

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6. Who is the source of resurrection power in the life of a believer?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Jesus never attended funerals. . . He attended resurrections. . .
  - The son of the woman of Nain: Luke 7:11-17
  - Jarius' daughter: Mark 5:35-43
  - Lazarus: John 11:1-46
  - His own: Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20
2. The preaching of the resurrection is an important part of the Gospel message. See Acts 4:2; 17:18,32; I Corinthians 15:1-8,14,19-22.
3. Abraham lived many years before the resurrection of Jesus Christ, yet he experienced resurrection power. Read about this in Romans 4:16-24.
4. Elisha had such power that a dead man who was thrown into his grave years after his death was resurrected! He had more power in his bones than many of us do in our lives (II Kings 13:20-21).

# CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

## POWER PRINCIPLE ELEVEN: THE POWER OF SUFFERING

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify the source of suffering.
- ☐ List five ways by which suffering comes.
- ☐ Summarize the purposes of suffering in the life of a believer.

### KEY VERSE:

**For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you. (II Corinthians 13:4)**

### INTRODUCTION

The last chapter began discussion of the two power principles of Philippians 3:10:

**I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (Philippians 3:10)**

Chapter Sixteen concerned the power of the resurrection in the life of the believer. This chapter focuses on the power of fellowship in suffering. Paul said of Jesus:

**For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you. (II Corinthians 13:4)**

We view suffering through human reasoning. By every standard of human reasoning the cross of Jesus was a waste of a great and noble life. But in the reasoning of God it was the greatest demonstration of His power. It resulted in the salvation of man.

Paul understood this important principle of spiritual power. The power of God is disguised in weakness. This is why he could say:

**... Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.**

**That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.  
(II Corinthians 12:9-10)**

We never see power in weakness or failure. This is a strange attitude for people whose center of faith is the cross. Jesus experienced the resurrection after He had suffered. Resurrection power comes through the fellowship of His suffering.

True spiritual power is demonstrated not in the absence of suffering, problems, and crises, but in the midst of them. Power turns what the world calls an ordeal into an opportunity for the demonstration of the power of God.

### **THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING**

God did not create suffering. It originally entered the world through man's sin which was instigated by Satan (Genesis 3). When man yielded to Satan's temptation and sinned, suffering entered the world. Sin, which resulted in all suffering, can be traced to its originator, Satan. Although there are different reasons why suffering enters your life, all suffering can be traced back to this original source.

Happily, in the life of a believer, God can take suffering, which Satan intends for evil, and turn it for good to accomplish His purposes. It can actually become an opportunity for the power of God to be demonstrated in your life.

### **THE REASONS FOR SUFFERING**

The Bible has much to say concerning suffering, problems, and afflictions. In summarizing its teaching, we discover five ways that suffering can enter a believer's life. All suffering you face in life will come through one of these ways:

#### **OTHERS AROUND YOU:**

Suffering and difficult circumstances of life may come through others around you.

Joseph is an example of this type of suffering. Through no fault of his own, Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brothers, was imprisoned falsely by Potiphar's wife, and was forgotten by those he helped in prison. But listen to his response. Joseph said:

**And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you... So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. (Genesis 45:5,8)**

### **CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE:**

The second way suffering comes to you is through the circumstances of life. This is illustrated by the experiences of Naomi recorded in the book of Ruth in the Bible. She was bitter with sorrow because of the death of her husband and sons.

Until Jesus returns and the final enemy of death is conquered, death is part of life. Death entered through the original sin of man and it is a natural circumstance which we all will face, for "it is appointed unto man once to die" (Hebrews 9:27).

When Naomi experienced these difficult circumstances of life, she said, "No longer call me Naomi (which means blessed), but call me Mara." The name Mara means "bitter."

### **YOUR MINISTRY:**

The third reason for suffering is because of your ministry for the Lord.

The New Testament speaks of suffering for His name's sake (Acts 9:16), in behalf of Christ, (Philippians 1:29) for the Kingdom of God (II Thessalonians 1:5), for the Gospel (II Timothy 1:11-12), for well-doing (I Peter 2:19-20; 3:17), for righteousness sake (I Peter 3:14), as a Christian (I Peter 4:15-16), and according to the will of God (I Peter 4:19).

The Apostle Paul is an example of suffering resulting from ministry. Some people view suffering as a sign of failure or lack of faith. If this is true, then the Apostle Paul had no faith and was the greatest failure in the history of the church.

Paul said that while in Asia he was so utterly crushed that he despaired of life itself (II Corinthians 1:8). He presents a different image than that of the cheerful evangelist who promises believers nothing but peace and prosperity.

When Paul was first called of God to ministry he was told of great things he would suffer for the sake of the Lord (Acts 9:16). Paul's response to suffering was to endure "the loss of all things to win some for Christ." He wrote to believers "to you it is given not only to believe, but to suffer for Him" (Philippians 1:29).

Paul was not alone in suffering for the ministry. The whole church suffered in New Testament times (Acts 8). Hebrews chapter 11 records the stories some of the cruel persecutions they endured. Many of these men and women of faith were delivered by the power of God. Prison

doors were opened and they walked out. They were sentenced to death in fiery furnaces but emerged unaffected by the flames.

But some of these believers, who are also called men and women of faith, did not receive such deliverance. They were imprisoned, afflicted, tormented, and even martyred because of their testimony of the Gospel (Hebrews 11:36-40). We focus on living faith but God also reveals His power in dying faith. This is a faith that stands true in the bad times, not just in good times when mighty deliverance is manifested.

### **DIRECT SATANIC ACTIVITY:**

Suffering can also enter your life as a result of direct Satanic activity.

This is evident in the story of Job. This book wrestles with the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?" God's testimony of Job was that he was a righteous man (Job 1-2). Job did not suffer because he had sinned, as his friends claimed. They believed if Job repented, his circumstances would change.

These friends tried to make a universal application based on individual experience. It would be similar to saying that because God delivered Peter from prison He will do the same for you. This is not true. Many have been martyred in prison despite their great faith and sinless lives.

We must be careful when we view the suffering of others that we do not accuse them of sin, faithlessness, or unbelief. The Bible does teach that a sinful man reaps a bitter harvest because of sowing in fleshly corruption (Galatians 6:8). But sowing and reaping cannot be used to explain the suffering of the innocent.

Job did not suffer because of anything he had done. Job was a righteous man. This was God's testimony of Job, Job's testimony of himself, and his reputation before man. Behind the scenes in the spiritual world was the true cause of Job's suffering. There was a spiritual battle going on over the heart, mind, and allegiance of Job.

There is a warfare going on in the spiritual world over you. That warfare is manifested in the difficult circumstances you experience in the natural world.

An important truth evident in Job's suffering is that nothing can enter the life of a believer without the knowledge of God. God does not cause your suffering. It is inflicted by Satan, but its limits are set by God. God's power is greater than that of Satan, and you will experience victory if you continue to trust Him.

### **YOUR OWN SIN:**

The fifth way suffering enters your life is because of your own sin.

Jonah is an example of such suffering. In disobedience to God, Jonah headed the opposite direction from Ninevah where he had been commanded to go and preach repentance. He experienced a terrible storm at sea and ended up in the belly of a great fish because of his own sin (Jonah 1-2).

Trouble should always be treated as a call to consider your ways and examine your heart before God. You may be suffering because of your own sin. The Bible reveals that God chastises those who live in disobedience to His Word. Chastise means to discipline, reprove, and correct:

**No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11)**

God uses suffering to correct you and bring you back to His will for your life:

**Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word...**

**It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees....**

**I know, LORD, that your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. (Psalms 119:67,71,75)**

### **THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUFFERING**

Trouble is not necessarily a sign of being sinful. The Bible declares, "many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Psalms 34:19).

When you suffer innocently and not because of your own sin, you should maintain a proper attitude towards suffering. The real test of your spirituality is how you respond in the day of distress:

**If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength! (Proverbs 24:10)**

The Bible describes the attitude you should have when you suffer as a believer within the will of God.

You should not be ashamed:

**However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. . . (I Peter 4:16)**

You should commit your soul (your suffering) to God, knowing He works all things for your good:

**So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. (I Peter 4:19)**

You should be happy when you suffer according to the will of God:

**The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. (Acts 5:41)**

Paul says you should be:

**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.  
(Romans 12:12)**

**. . . When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;  
(I Corinthians 4:12)**

**. . . as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great  
endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; (II Corinthians 6:4)**

**So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner.  
Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.  
(II Timothy 1:8)**

**so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well  
that we are destined for them. (I Thessalonians 3:3)**

**But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an  
evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (II Timothy 4:5)**

You should not think it strange when you experience suffering:

**Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you  
to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice  
inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be  
overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (I Peter 4:12-13)**

Paul summarizes the proper attitude toward suffering when he explains. . .

**. . . Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being  
renewed day by day.**

**For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory  
that far outweighs them all.**



**So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.  
(II Corinthians 4:16-18)**

Paul views suffering as a servant. He said it works for us.

## **POWER THROUGH SUFFERING**

Remember, God does not cause suffering. Suffering is in the world because of sin. But God uses suffering as an opportunity to demonstrate His power. He uses it. . .

### **TO TURN BAD TO GOOD:**

God takes that which was intended for bad and turns it to good. He redeems it to accomplish His purposes. Joseph told his brothers who had sold him into slavery:

**And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you... So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. . .  
(Genesis 45:5,8)**

Satan caused his brothers to bring suffering to Joseph, but God redeemed it for good. Despite the negative circumstances, God was at work behind the scenes. Satan inspired men to deliver Jesus to death, but God redeemed it for good. His death resulted in salvation and resurrection life.

God demonstrates His power when He takes your suffering and uses it to accomplish His purposes. There are no accidents or chance happenings in the life of believers because God:

**. . . who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,  
(Ephesians 1:11)**

### **TO TURN LOSSES TO WINS:**

God turns natural losses to spiritual gains. Paul wrote of his losses in the natural world:

**But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.**

**What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:7-8)**

## **TO TURN WEAKNESS TO STRENGTH:**

Paul knew that. . .

**. . . the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (I Corinthians 1:25)**

God told Paul. . .

**. . . My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.  
(II Corinthians 12:9)**

This is why Paul said. . .

**. . . Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that  
Christ's power may rest on me.**

**That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships,  
in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.  
(II Corinthians 12:9-10)**

Your human weakness provides opportunity for the demonstration of the power of God.

## **TO TEST YOUR FAITH:**

Everything in the spiritual world is based on faith. This is why the strength of your faith must be tested:

**These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater  
worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in  
praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.  
(I Peter 1:7)**

It is a trial of faith when you pray as Jesus did, for God to let the cup of bitterness pass, and yet it does not pass. Instead, you are forced to drink deeply of its suffering. Faith will learn that our prayers are not unanswered just because they are not answered the way we want.

## **TO EQUIP YOU TO COMFORT OTHERS:**

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of  
compassion and the God of all comfort,**

**Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any  
trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.  
(II Corinthians 1:3-4)**

When you share God's comfort with others you. . .

**. . . strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.**

**“Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. (Hebrews 12:12-13)**

### **TO TEACH YOU NOT TO TRUST IN YOURSELF:**

Paul spoke of the purpose of his sufferings in Asia:

**. . . about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.**

**Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. (II Corinthians 1:8-9)**

You will come to recognize that. . .

**. . . we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (II Corinthians 4:7)**

### **TO DEVELOP POSITIVE SPIRITUAL QUALITIES:**

**Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4)**

**. . . After you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. (I Peter 5:10)**

These qualities conform you to the image of Jesus, which is God's plan for you (Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 2:10,1).

### **TO MANIFEST THE WORKS OF GOD:**

When the disciples saw a man who had been blind from birth, they asked who was responsible for his condition. Was it the sin of his parents or of the man himself? Jesus answered:

**Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. (John 9:3)**

## **TO PERFECT THE POWER OF GOD:**

**But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. (II Corinthians 12:9)**

## **TO REMOVE THAT WHICH IS UNSTABLE:**

Suffering results in all that is unstable being shaken out of your life. You cease to depend on people, programs, or material things as these all fail in your time of need. God permits this...

**. . . removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—  
so that what cannot be shaken may remain. (Hebrews 12:27)**

During the storms of life, everything crumbles that is not built upon God and His Word (Psalm 11:89 and Matthew 7:24-27).

## **TO CHANGE YOUR FOCUS:**

When you experience suffering you often focus your attention on cause and effect. You are concerned with what caused the difficult circumstances and the terrible effect it is having in your life. God wants to change your focus from struggling to understand the temporal situation to recognizing the benefits of the eternal:

**For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.**

**So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (II Corinthians 4:17-18)**

**Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.**

**But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (I Peter 4:12-13)**

**If we endure, we will also reign with him. . . (II Timothy 2:12)**

## **TO CHANGE THE OLD SELF-NATURE:**

God said of the nation of Moab:

**Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another— she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged. (Jeremiah 48:11)**

Because Moab had not experienced the troublesome pouring out and stirring similar to that necessary to develop good wine, the nation did not change. Moab was at ease and settled in prosperity and because of this did not develop and mature properly spiritually. Therefore there was no change. His "own scent" remained in him.

Suffering rids you of the old self-nature. As you are stirred, troubled, and poured out, your spiritual scent changes from carnal to spiritual.

## **TO PREPARE YOU FOR MINISTRY:**

You have asked to be used by God. You desire to be more like Jesus and prayed to be a chosen vessel for His use. The answer to your prayer may come through suffering:

**See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. (Isaiah 48:10)**

It is through affliction that you move beyond the calling as a child of God to become chosen of God. Affliction according to the will of God refines you for His use just as metals are refined in a furnace in the natural world.

## **TO PREPARE YOU TO REIGN WITH CHRIST:**

**if we endure, we will also reign with him. . . (II Timothy 2:12)**

## **TO GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS:**

Jesus said:

**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.**

**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.  
(Matthew 5:10-12)**

#### **TO TEACH YOU OBEDIENCE:**

**Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered  
(Hebrews 5:8)**

#### **TO TEST THE WORD OF GOD WITHIN YOU:**

**And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible,  
like gold refined seven times. (Psalms 12:6)**

#### **TO HUMBLE YOU:**

**He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and  
waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you  
water out of hard rock.**

**He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors  
had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well  
with you. (Deuteronomy 8:15-16)**

#### **TO ENLARGE YOU SPIRITUALLY:**

This means you grow spiritually:

**Thou has enlarged me when I was under pressure.  
(Psalms 4:1 Revised Standard Version)**

#### **TO HELP YOU COME TO KNOW GOD INTIMATELY:**

You come to know God on a more intimate basis through suffering. Job, who suffered much, learned this truth and said. . .

**My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.**

**Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes. (Job 42:5-6)**

Some of us know God only second handedly. When we are experiencing the blessings of life, God is often a luxury instead of a necessity. But when you have a real need, God becomes a necessity.

Job came to know God more intimately through suffering. Before he suffered, Job knew God through theology. Afterwards, he knew Him by experience. This is why Paul said:

**I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,  
(Philippians 3:10)**

You can only come to know God in resurrection power through the intimate fellowship of suffering.

Throughout his ordeal, Job questioned God as to the cause of his suffering. It is not wrong to question God. Jesus knew the purpose for which He had come into the world was to die for the sins of all mankind. Yet in His hour of suffering He cried out, "My God, My God, *why* hast thou forsaken me?"

It is what follows the questioning that is important. The Lord's next words were, "Into thy hands I commit my spirit." Despite the questions, Job's response was. . .

**Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;. . . (Job 13:15)**

**I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.**

**And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;  
(Job 19:25-26)**

After all the questioning is finished, the emphasis must change from "me" to "Thee.≡ You must commit your suffering, with all its unanswered questions, into the hands of God.

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
(Proverbs 3:5)**

God may reveal some of the purposes in your suffering, but it is possible you will never fully understand it:

**It is the glory of God to conceal a matter;. . . (Proverbs 25:2)**

**The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed  
belong to us. . . (Deuteronomy 29:29)**

There are some secret things that belong only to the Lord. As Job, you may never understand all the purposes of your suffering:

**Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way? (Proverbs 20:24 The Living Bible)**

When God finally talked with Job, He used several examples from nature which Job could not explain. God stressed that if Job could not understand what he saw in the natural world, he certainly could not understand that which he could not see in the spiritual world.

When Job faces God, it no longer matters that he does not get an answer to his questions about suffering. He is in the direct presence of God, and that experience leaves no room for anything else. He is no longer controlled and tormented by human reasoning. He replaces questions, not with answers, but with faith.

When you come to know God intimately through suffering, you see yourself as you really are. You no longer know God second-handedly. That face-to-face encounter with God does what arguments and discussions cannot do.

When Job stood before God, he had no new answers. He was given no new facts about his suffering. But he replaced questions with faith. Job has been in the direct presence of God, and that experience leaves no room for questions or doubts.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

When you suffer according to the will of God, you should realize you are not alone. Many other believers are experiencing similar battles:

**... know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (I Peter 5:9)**

Storms of life are inevitable and uncontrollable, as illustrated by the parable of the two houses in Matthew 7:24-27. Storms will come to those who have built their lives upon God's Word as well as those who have not. The foundation of a man's life is what will determine the outcome of the storm.

Suffering is to be expected as part of the will of God:

**In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (II Timothy 3:12)**

**For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, (Philippians 1:29)**

**... you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. (II Thessalonians 1:5)**



**In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.  
(I Thessalonians 3:4)**

**Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. (Matthew 24:9)**

**. . . They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.  
(Luke 21:12)**

**Remember what I told you: „A servant is not greater than his master.“ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. . .  
(John 15:20)**

Now this does not mean that you make yourself suffer believing it would be pleasing to God. God is never pleased when people suffer. To purposefully make yourself suffer (an act called asceticism) is a sin.

Many people do this to try to appease God's anger or make themselves appear holy or religious before men. But God is only appeased by the blood of Jesus Christ. God does, however, take the tragedy of suffering when it does touch your life and redeem it for good.

Part of the follow up plan in establishing early churches was to teach believers that they would experience suffering. This is missing in many churches today:

**Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. (Acts 14:22)**

The call of Jesus to followers is one of denial and suffering:

**Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.  
(Matthew 10:38)**

**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)**

**. . . Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Mark 8:34)**

**. . . come, follow me. (Mark 10:21)**

**Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23)**

**And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)**

Jesus called believers to a life of denial, suffering, and the cross because of the powerful potential of the fellowship of His suffering.

Resurrection power and the power of His suffering are like the positive and negative forces of electricity used in modern societies. It takes both the positive and negative to create power.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Who is the source of all sin and suffering?

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3. How does suffering come into our lives? List the five ways discussed in this chapter.

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4. Summarize the powerful purposes which are accomplished in the life of a believer through suffering.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. In what areas of your life are you experiencing suffering?

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2. How did this suffering enter your life?

- ☐ Others around you
- ☐ Through the circumstances of life
- ☐ Because of your own sin
- ☐ Because of your ministry
- ☐ Direct Satanic activity

3. How have you been responding to this suffering?

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In order for God to demonstrate His power through suffering, you must respond correctly while experiencing it. You should not murmur and complain. This was the response of Israel to suffering. They murmured against Moses (Exodus 15:24). But all murmuring is actually against God and His plan to conform you to the image of Christ. All things work together to conform you to His image. When you complain about suffering, you are complaining against this process. See Romans 8:28-29.

When experiencing suffering, do not allow a bitter attitude to develop. Bitterness is a wrong response to suffering. It is a hateful, blaming, complaining, vengeful attitude. If you allow bitterness it troubles and defiles you (Hebrews 12:16), prevents you from hearing from God (Exodus 6:9), creates a vengeful spirit (I Samuel 30:6), causes depression and discouragement (Lamentations 3:18- 20), and poisons you spiritually (Acts 8:23).

4. How could you respond to your difficult circumstances in a more Scriptural way?

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# CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

## HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GOD

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Explain how to experience the power of God in your life and ministry.
- ☐ Identify the purpose of the Church as it relates to spiritual power.
- ☐ Explain how spiritual power is increased.
- ☐ Experience spiritual power in your own life and ministry.

### KEY VERSE:

**Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.  
(Mark 16:20)**

### INTRODUCTION

You have learned many principles of spiritual power in this course. In this chapter, these principles are summarized and final guidelines given to enable you to experience the endowment of spiritual power about which you have studied.

### RECEIVING SPIRITUAL POWER

Spiritual power is not something you work up through emotion. You do not produce it with Scriptural learning. Even knowledge of Biblical power principles will not guarantee receiving spiritual power.

Spiritual power flows from its source. Jesus is compared to a vine. You are a spiritual branch. You cannot produce power in yourself. He is the life flow from which the power comes. Just let His power flow through you:

**“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)**

Here are Biblical guidelines for experiencing the endowment of power:

## 1. FAST AND PRAY:

Come before God and humble yourself through fasting and prayer. God has promised to hear when we come before Him in this attitude:

**If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven,. . . (II Chronicles 7:14)**

Do not pursue power itself. Through prayer and fasting prepare yourself as a channel through which God's power can flow.

## 2. RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST:

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; (Acts 1:8)**

## 3. EXERCISE FAITH:

By faith, accept His promise of power:

**Have given you authority...to overcome all the power of the enemy;. . . (Luke 10:19)**

**Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)**

You accepted salvation by faith. Now accept the power of God by faith. Why is it so easy to accept salvation by faith and so difficult to trust God for miraculous demonstrations of His power like healing and casting out demons?

## 4. APPLY BIBLICAL POWER PRINCIPLES:

By faith, begin to apply the Biblical power principles you have learned in this course. These include:

**The power of the Gospel:** Your life must first be changed through the power of the Gospel. Repentance is the basis of true spiritual power.

**The power of the Holy Spirit:** You receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.

**The power of love:** Any spiritual gift, any manifestation of power is ineffective without it.

**The anointing of power:** It is the anointing that will break the yoke. You cannot do it in your own strength and power.

**Power, faith, and works:** These are inseparable. They must function together in your life and ministry.

**The name of Jesus:** You come in His authority. It is power through His name.

**The power of prayer:** Prayer and fasting result in spiritual power.

**The power of the Word:** Speak His words, not yours. His Word will not return void. It will accomplish the purpose for which it is sent forth.

**The power of authority:** Remain under authority so you can function in authority.

**The power of His resurrection:** Experience it now in your mortal body.

**The power of suffering:** You have power in adversity as well as over adversity. Greater pressure results in greater power. Turn ordeals into opportunities for the manifestation of God's power.

## **CORPORATE POWER**

Spiritual power must be experienced individually by believers but it is not to function independently of the Body of Christ. It is God's plan that the Church experience spiritual power corporately. The Church is to be the center for the demonstration of His power.

One day Jesus went into the temple in Jerusalem and found the leaders selling oxen, sheep, and doves. They had actually made a prosperous business out of people's need for sacrificial animals. They were using the church as the center for this merchandising.

Jesus made a small whip of cords and drove these people out of the temple. He poured out the money and overthrew the tables. He said. . .

**“It is written,” he said to them, “„My house will be a house of prayer“; but you have made it „a den of robbers.” (Luke 19:46)**

In many instances today the Church has become a social center, a place for recreation and fellowship. It has become a center of food distribution and entertainment.

Some of these activities may have their place, but it is not God's true purpose for the Church. The Church can even become a center of prayer and Bible study and still miss God's purpose if human needs remain unmet right outside its door. The temple Jesus cleansed had become a center of trading and merchandise. But Jesus explained the true purpose of the Church in a parable in Luke 14:16-24. In this parable, the master of the house told his servants:.

**... Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.**

**... Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. (Luke 14:21,23)**

The Church is to be filled with multitudes having deep human need. Believers are to go into all levels of society and compel them to come in. The Church is to be populated with believers who have spiritual power. This creates the corporate environment where God can manifest Himself. The lame will be healed, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the power of the Gospel will change lives.

Remember the lame man who sat at the temple gate in Jerusalem (Acts 3)? Religious services were going on inside the temple. There were beautiful ceremonies, expressive prayers, lovely singing--yet unnoticed and with his needs unmet, just outside the door sat the poor crippled man. Finally two men, believers in God who had experienced the endowment of spiritual power, passed his way. Peter said to him, "Look on me. Such as I have, give I thee." Immediately, his feet and ankles received strength and he was healed by the power of God. A needy world is looking on us. Suffering humanity is turning their eyes to the Church of Jesus Christ. We must have something to give.

### **THE LAW OF USE AND INCREASE**

There is a Biblical principle called the "Law Of Use And Increase" which affects spiritual power. Your spiritual power will be increased by proper application of this principle. Read the parable told by Jesus in Luke 19:12-26. The servants who used and increased the money given them received more. The one who did nothing with the money lost it. The "Law of Use And Increase" is just that: Use what you are given, and it will increase. You either must use it or lose it. God gives you spiritual power for the purpose of serving, not reigning (Matthew 20:25-28). If you use spiritual power properly, that flow of God's power will increase within you. You will see even greater manifestations of His power in your life and ministry. If you do not use it, you will lose it:

**I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. (Luke 19:26)**



## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Summarize the guidelines given in this lesson on how to experience the power of God.

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3. What is the purpose of the Church as it relates to spiritual power?

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4. How is spiritual power increased?

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

The power of God is experienced through signs, wonders, and miracles. Study these verses:

Exodus 15:11

Numbers 14:22

Deuteronomy 6:22; 7:19; 11:3; 29:3; 34:11

Joshua 3:5

Nehemiah 9:10

Psalms 77:11,14; 78:11,43; 88:10,12; 89:5; 96:3; 105:27; 136:4

Jeremiah 32:20

Daniel 4:2-3

Joel 2:30

Mark 16:17

John 2:11,23; 3:2; 6:2,26; 7:31; 9:16; 11:47; 12:37; 20:30

Acts 2:22,43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6,13; 14:3; 15:12; 19:11

Romans 15:19

I Corinthians 12:10,28,29

Galatians 3:5

Hebrews 2:4

# CHAPTER NINETEEN

## POWER FAILURE

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify Scriptural reasons for power failure.
- ☐ Give a Scriptural reference which confirms the sovereignty of God in situations for which man cannot find answers.

### KEY VERSE:

**And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.  
(Matthew 13:58)**

### INTRODUCTION

In the natural world, man depends on natural power sources for progress. Natural power may be as simple as a fire over which dinner is cooked. Without the fire, progress on the meal comes to a standstill. Natural power may also be as complex as electricity which is generated in cities by great power plants. When these plants fail, the power they generate fail. An entire city will experience a blackout. When there is a power failure in the natural world, progress comes to a standstill.

The same is true in the spiritual world. When there is a power failure, spiritual progress comes to a standstill. Lives are not changed through the power of the Gospel. The sick are not healed. Demons are not cast out.

There are reasons for power failure in the natural world. It may be a simple reason, like a fire burning out, or a complex reason, such as a piece of mechanical equipment breaking. When these reasons for failure are identified and corrected, the flow of power resumes.

There are also causes for power failure in the spiritual world. When these are identified and corrected, the flow of spiritual power resumes.

### IS YOUR NAME KNOWN IN HELL?

One of the greatest examples of spiritual power failure is recorded in Acts 19:13-16. Read this

story of the sons of the chief priest who tried to cast an evil spirit out of a man and failed. The spirit cried out. . .

**. . . Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you? (Acts 19:15)**

Then the man, whom the evil spirit possessed, leaped on these young men, ripped off their clothing, and injured them. They fled, naked and wounded, from the presence of the demon-possessed man. The demon knew the name of Paul. The demon knew the name of Jesus. But the names of these young men were unknown because they lacked true spiritual power in their lives.

If you are forgiven of your sins, your name is known in Heaven. It is written in the Lamb's book of life spoken of in Revelation 21:27. But is your name known in Hell? Do you have enough of the power of God flowing in your life that demonic powers recognize your authority in the name of Jesus?

These men used the name of Jesus in trying to cast out the demon, but it did not work. The name of Jesus is not a magical charm. You must possess the power behind it. You must recognize and possess the authority of that name.

In the hour of crisis you will face defeat if your name is not known in Hell. These men could not conquer Satan on the basis of Paul's experience and neither can you. Only when you have God's power manifested in your own life can you defeat Satan. If you are so powerless that your name is not known in Hell, you will flee wounded and naked before the enemy.

**POWER FAILURE**

Here are some reasons for spiritual power failure:

**SIN:**

Sin separates man from God. When you are separated from God, His power cannot flow through you.

Read Romans 7 where the Apostle Paul describes his struggle with the bondage of sin. Read of his liberation in Romans 8. As a believer, Paul had the same battles with sin which you experience, but he learned to overcome the law of sin which worked in his flesh. Because of this, his life was open to the flow of God's power.

When a sinful man named Simon offered money to obtain spiritual power, Peter answered:

**You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.**

**Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.**

**For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.  
(Acts 8:21-23)**

Repentance from sin and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ is the only way to bridge the gap of this separation. Sin separates from God's power. When Jesus returns again. . .

**He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (II Thessalonians 1:8)**

Those who are in sin will. . .

**. . . be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (II Thessalonians 1:9)**

In the end, sin will result in eternal separation from the power of God.

#### **BONDAGES:**

Spiritual bondage can prevent the flow of God's power in your life. Bondages are not sin in themselves. They are things or practices that become so important to you that you are brought under their control. Paul wrote:

**“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial.  
“I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.  
(I Corinthians 6:12)**

Anything in your life which consumes your thoughts and interests is a bondage. You are brought under its power.

It may be a hobby or habit. It may be attitudes of timidity and fear which prevent you from acting in faith and power. Such bondages result in power failure because you are brought under their power instead of the control of the Holy Spirit.

#### **VIOLATION OF POWER PRINCIPLES:**

You learned many Biblical power principles in this course. Violation of these principles results in power failure. Continually examine your life and ministry in relation to these principles, especially when you experience power failure.

## **REIGNING INSTEAD OF SERVING:**

When spiritual power is used to reign instead of serve, power failure results. You learned in Matthew 20:25-28 that God's power structure is not as that of the world. The worldly concept of power is to reign over others and control them.

From childhood, we struggle for worldly power. We try to control and manipulate our parents. We seek power in society, over our environment, and even try to predict and control the forces of nature. Worldly power can become a god that controls us.

Biblical power structure calls for serving and meeting human need through the manifestation of the power of God. Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers on this subject. As the great Apostle of the Church, Paul had authority over this group of believers. But he did not misuse this power. He told them:

**If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. (I Corinthians 9:12)**

Paul did not abuse his spiritual position. He did not reign over the Corinthians, rather he served them:

**We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. (II Thessalonians 3:9)**

## **PERSONAL PROFIT:**

Paul also wrote the Corinthians concerning power for personal benefit. He said:

**If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? (I Corinthians 9:11)**

Paul had labored among the Corinthians and sown spiritual seed. He had a right to receive from them their "carnal things" in terms of financial support. But he did not abuse this power. He would rather suffer than abuse spiritual power and hinder the work of God (I Corinthians 9:12).

Jesus was tempted by Satan to use his power for personal profit. Satan tempted Him to make stones into bread and to prove His power to the people by jumping from the top of the temple. Jesus refused.

When Jesus was suffering intensely on the cross for the sins of all mankind, He could have called 10,000 angels to come and rescue Him (Matthew 26:53). He refused this display of power in order to accomplish the higher purposes of God.

## **EMULATIONS:**

You learned earlier in this course of the sin of the flesh called "emulations" which is a form of envy expressed by imitation of others (Galatians 5:20). This was a problem which resulted in power failure in the early church. In Acts 19:13 it speaks of those who took it "upon themselves" to try to cast out demons in imitation of the ministry of Paul. When you try to imitate the ministries of others, you can experience serious power failure as did these men.

## **WRONG MOTIVES:**

Do not conclude that because spiritual power is sometimes misused that it is evil. Spiritual power which flows from God is good, but it can be abused and used for the wrong reasons with the wrong motives.

The original sin of Satan resulted from a wrong motive of seeking power. The same is true of man's first sin which was committed while seeking the power that comes with knowledge.

James and John once wanted to call down fire from Heaven to consume those who opposed Jesus. What a miraculous demonstration of power that would have been! But their motive was wrong. Their motive was to take revenge on these enemies. Such a display would have been an abuse of spiritual power. Jesus told them:

**. . .Jesus turned and rebuked them.**

**Then he and his disciples went to another village. (Luke 9:55-56)**

Improper motives result in an overbalanced emphasis on power. Jesus warned His disciples:

**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.**

**However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:19-20)**

## **UNBELIEF:**

Perhaps the greatest reason for spiritual power failure is unbelief. Unbelief affected even the ministry of Jesus:

**And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith. (Matthew 13:58)**

The demonstration of God's power can be affected by the unbelief of those to whom you minister. It also can be affected by your own unbelief (Matthew 17:14-21).

### **LIMITING GOD:**

There is no limit to God's power, but we can impose limits as to how it can work in and through us. Paul indicated that God is able to do above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us:

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (Ephesians 3:20)**

God sometimes does not do what we ask or think (much less abundantly above it) because we do not allow His power to work in us.

### **WHEN THERE IS NO MIRACLE**

When a believer experiences spiritual power failure, each of the areas discussed should be prayerfully examined. When violations are discovered, these should be corrected in order for the power of God to resume its unhindered flow.

But what if all these areas are dealt with, and still there is no miracle? What is the reason one person is delivered in answer to our prayer and another is not? Here are some true life examples.

-One Christian couple had two small children, a boy and a girl. Both were seriously ill. Both were prayed for by the parents and the same group of believing Christians. One was healed and is a minister of the Gospel today. The other was not healed. She spent many years in an invalid condition and then finally died.

-An internationally known minister used by God in powerful healings once stated that only 10% of those for whom he prayed were healed.

-The same Peter who was prayed out of prison by believers was later martyred for the sake of the Gospel. Why didn't the same power that once opened prison bars deliver him from this terrible death?

-There were many lepers in Israel at the time of Elijah, but only one was healed by God (Luke 4:27).

We do not have the answers to such questions. If we had all the answers, if we had all the knowledge, then we would be as God.



We must always acknowledge the sovereignty of God in the area of spiritual power. We function in delegated power. It is effective power. It is dynamic power. But it is delegated, that is, it is under the authority of another.

For questions for which we cannot find answers, the Bible reveals that. . .

**The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.  
(Deuteronomy 29:29)**

In some instances, God reveals why there is no miracle. In other cases, we will not be able to find the answer. There are secret things known only to God. We function in the realm of revelation, not sovereign knowledge. But do not let this hinder the demonstration of God's power in your life. Walk in what is revealed. Leave the unanswered questions, the secret things, to the sovereignty of God.

God's power is manifested in death as well as life. It is manifested in that which is known and understood as well as in that which is not known. It is demonstrated in weakness as well as strength.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Give a Scriptural reference which confirms the sovereignty of God in situations for which man cannot find answers.

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3. Summarize what you learned in this chapter regarding reasons for spiritual power failure.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. Read the story of David and Bathsheba in II Samuel chapter 11. David misused his God-given power as king to commit adultery, take another man's wife, and have her husband murdered. Note how the prophet of God stresses the misuse of power in the rebuke in II Samuel 12:1-14.
2. An Old Testament prophet named Balaam also abused the spiritual power God gave him. Read his story in Numbers 22-24.
3. Acts 8:9-11 illustrates the importance of knowing the true power of God so you will not be deceived by those who abuse spiritual power.
4. Read the story of Jehoash in II Kings 13:18-19. The Lord and the prophet were disappointed because Jehoash did not exercise all the power God gave him. He did receive from God, but only what he believed for. He did not receive all God wanted to give because he imposed his own human limitations.

# CHAPTER TWENTY

## FACING THE OPPOSITION

### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- ☐ Write the Key Verse from memory.
- ☐ Identify the source behind all challenges to spiritual power and authority.
- ☐ Identify reasons why spiritual authority is challenged.
- ☐ List guidelines for facing the opposition.

### KEY VERSE:

**The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD  
and against his anointed. . . (Psalms 2:2)**

### INTRODUCTION

The power and authority of Jesus was challenged often during His earthly ministry. After Jesus was baptized in water and the power of the Holy Ghost came upon Him, His power was challenged by Satan in a series of three temptations (Matthew 4:1-11).

Satan tempted Jesus to use His power for personal benefit by turning stones into bread. He tempted Jesus to show His power by jumping from the highest point of the temple. Satan offered all the kingdoms of the world if only Jesus would worship him.

The authority of Jesus was also challenged by the religious leaders of the day. They challenged His doctrine, manner of presentation, and the demonstration of God's power in His life and ministry.

### BEHIND THE CHALLENGE

In Chapter Three of this course you studied about the "Challenging Counterfeit.≡ Always remember that Satan is behind every force that challenges true spiritual power.

Some opposition to spiritual power comes through the circumstances of life. The "cares of the world" can become great and many. Satan is behind any circumstances that hinder the flow of God's power in your life.

Most opposition comes through other people around you, but you must always remember that it is not the people themselves who are opposing you. They are allowing their thought and behavior patterns to be influenced by Satan. Satan is actually the force operating against your spiritual power and authority.

## **REASONS FOR THE CHALLENGE**

There were reasons why the authority of Jesus was challenged. They are the same reasons why Satan will challenge your spiritual power:

### **UNBELIEF:**

Read the story of the raising of Jarius's daughter from the dead in Luke 8:49-56. Jesus performed a great miracle, but before doing so He had a problem similar to some challenges you too will face.

When Jesus entered Jarius' house He encountered unbelief. Whenever you trust God for a manifestation of His power, faithless people will tell you why it cannot happen, why it should not happen, and why it is not God's will for it to happen.

### **POPULAR OPINION:**

Do not make the mistake of thinking that because you are in the mainstream of God's power you will be loved by everyone. Popular opinion challenged the authority of Jesus. Read the story in Mark 5:5-15. Jesus performed a great miracle, but popular opinion was against Him:

**Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.  
(Mark 5:17)**

On another occasion, people laughed at Jesus (Mark 5:40). You must be ready, if necessary, to stand alone. Not everyone will welcome your ministry. It says in the last days people will heap to themselves teachers "having itching ears." The popular ministries will be those saying what people want to hear rather than the message God wants to give.

### **TRADITION:**

The scribes and Pharisees opposed Jesus's authority because it did not agree with their religious traditions. Jesus often said "Ye have heard," and would refer to a tradition of the religious leaders. Then He would say "But I say unto you," and proceed to share a powerful truth from

God. Jesus experienced opposition because His teaching of power and authority did not agree with man-made traditions.

The demonstration of God's power may not be approved by the traditions of your culture or denomination. If this is true, then you will face opposition for the same reasons Jesus did.

### **CREDENTIALS:**

The authority of Jesus was opposed because He was not an approved religious leader. He did not hold the credentials of a scribe or Pharisee. They questioned His authority because He was a carpenter's son from the poor village of Nazareth:

**“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t this mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?”**

**Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?  
(Matthew 13:55-56)**

Even one of the men who was to be a Disciple asked:

**... Can anything good come from there?... (John 1:46)**

The people questioned:

**... By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” (Matthew 21:23)**

Your power and authority may be challenged by those who feel you are not in the proper tribe, clan, or social level. You may be challenged because you do not have a formal Bible college education or hold credentials with a certain denomination.

It is more important to hold the credential of spiritual power than those of any denomination of man. The most important thing is to be a man or woman approved by God (Acts 2:22).

### **DOCTRINE:**

Jesus was opposed because of His doctrine:

**The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this?  
A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits  
and they obey him. (Mark 1:27)**

The power demonstrated by Jesus did not conform to the doctrines held by the religious leaders of the time. His teachings did not agree with the theories and beliefs they had developed and labeled as doctrine.

### **MANNER OF TEACHING:**

Some opposed the manner in which Jesus taught. He taught with authority, not with the dull monotony used by the Scribes. Some will oppose your manner of presentation. They will say you are too emotional or teach with too much authority.

The presentation of Jesus was simple, yet powerful. Some will advise you to preach deeper, theological messages with less demonstration and emotionalism. But remember what Paul said:

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words,  
but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,**

**So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.  
(I Corinthians 2:4-5)**

### **SPIRITUAL ERROR:**

The demonstration of power is challenged by those who are in spiritual error:

**Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures  
or the power of God. (Matthew 22:29)**

You may be challenged by those who are living in spiritual error because they deny the power of God.

### **MISUSE:**

You may be challenged by those who tempt you to misuse spiritual power. Satan challenged Jesus in this area. He tempted Jesus to use His power for personal benefit and to prove His position.

Satan will tempt you in this manner also. He will tempt you to use your authority to gain a place of prominence. He will suggest ways power can be used for personal benefit. This is one of the greatest challenges you will face.

### **YOUR LIFE WALK:**

You will face opposition when you live the life of faith and power. Those who walk by faith are an irritation to those who walk by natural sight.

Stephen was a man of faith and power (Acts 6:8). His life-style and testimony so irritated the religious leaders of the time that they were "cut to the heart" (Acts 7:54) and they stoned him to death.

## **MEETING THE CHALLENGE**

As you move beyond the point of spiritual blessing into the realm of power and authority, you too will be challenged. This is what to do when Satan challenges your authority:

### **RECOGNIZE THE SOURCE:**

Remember that all challenges to true spiritual power come from Satan. It is not circumstances or people who are the challengers. You must recognize the true source of opposition in order to effectively deal with it:

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)**

### **DO NOT SPEND TIME IN DEBATE:**

Because your battle is not with flesh and blood, do not waste time in argument or debate with man. Satan is not affected by logic, intellect, or theological debate.

Jesus did not spend time in argument or debate over His spiritual authority. He asked a few questions which focused attention on the spiritual condition of His challengers, and then said. . .

**. . . Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. (Matthew 21:27)**

### **FACE THE OPPOSITION:**

Do not flee before the opposition. Do not stop the flow of God's power to please people. Face opposition in the power of God.

When Jesus entered the house of Jarius to raise his daughter He faced the forces of unbelief. He did not let this stop Him. He did not flee the house in terror or defeat. He faced the opposition and accomplished the purpose for which He had come.

### **TAKE AUTHORITY:**

Remember the authority delegated to you by Jesus. He said "I have given you power over all the power of the enemy."



He has given it to you, but you must use it. When faced with a challenge of Satan, take spiritual authority over that challenge. Take authority in the name of Jesus. Take authority on the basis of God's Word. Apply the power principles you have learned in this course.

You have been given power over ALL the powers of the enemy. Overcome the negative forces of unbelief! Take your rightful place of authority in God.

## SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

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2. Who is the source behind all opposition to true spiritual power?

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3. Summarize what you learned in this lesson about the reasons power and authority are challenged.

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4. List guidelines given in this chapter for facing opposition to spiritual power.

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(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. The challenging of those anointed with God's power did not begin with Jesus. David spoke of it in Psalms 2. Summarize what this Psalm teaches about this subject:

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2. Read through the Old Testament and identify the challenges met by men and women endowed with God's power. Observe the ways they met and dealt with the opposition of Satan, then apply these truths to your own life and ministry. Use the following chart:

[illegible]

# ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

## CHAPTER ONE:

1. You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. (Psalms 63:1-2)

2. Religion is man=s attempt to know God. It is ritual and regulations, works and words without power. Religion brings spiritual death.

The power of God is the visible demonstration of His desire to reveal Himself to man. Spiritual power is God's Kingdom in action. It brings spiritual life.

3. Political, intellectual, physical, financial, military, religious power and the power of energy.

4. Matthew 20:25-28

5. The Biblical meaning of the word "power" is spiritual might, ability, force, and strength. It is a supernatural dominion which results in mighty works and miracles. The Biblical meaning of the word "authority" is closely related to and has similar meaning to the word "power." It refers to legal and rightful power to act on behalf of another. Taking authority is the act of demonstrating power.

6. The sources of Biblical spiritual power are God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The source of evil spiritual power is Satan.

7. The promise and the possession of the promise.

8. You must choose to possess the promise; You must understand the principles; You must apply the principles.

9. Repentance.

## CHAPTER TWO:

1. One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: "Power belongs to you, God, (Psalms 62:11)

2. The source of something is its beginning or origin.

3. The true and living God revealed in the Holy Bible.
4. God reveals His power on earth in the following ways:
 

Nature	Jesus Christ
Judgment	The Holy Spirit
Redemption	Supernatural Signs
His Written Word	Believers
5. False. God is the source of power and the greatest power, but He has also established other powers.
6. Ephesians 1:9-10 and 3:11

### **CHAPTER THREE:**

1. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. (II Corinthians 11:14-15)
2. When Paul speaks of "spiritual wickedness in high places," he is referring to wicked spirits who have infiltrated the religious systems of the world. They imitate the true power of God.
3. Compare your summary with the discussion in Chapter Three.
4. Compare your summary with the strategies given in Chapter Three.

### **CHAPTER FOUR:**

1. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18)
2. Jesus was not limited. He had all power in Heaven and earth. Matthew 28:18
3. God the Father.
4. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Four.

### **CHAPTER FIVE:**

1. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. (Luke 10:19)

2. The believer's spiritual authority is delegated by Jesus.
3. When someone is given a responsibility to do something, he must also be given the authority to do it.
4. To reach the world with the Gospel.
5. The Greek word "dunamis" refers to inherent power. The word "exousia" means delegated power or authority.
6. The statement is false.

#### **CHAPTER SIX:**

1. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)
2. Power is used in the world for selfish purposes. Spiritual power is to be used for spiritual purposes and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.
3. Matthew 20:25-27
4. You could have written on any of the purposes of power discussed in this chapter.

#### **CHAPTER SEVEN:**

1. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)
2. The word Gospel actually means "good news." When we speak of the Gospel in a Biblical sense it refers to the good news of the Kingdom of God and of salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. I Corinthians 15:3-4. The basic elements of the Gospel focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. It includes His death for the sins of all mankind, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead according to the written record of God's Word.
4. See Romans 1:16-19

- It is the revelation of God's power to man.
- It brings salvation to all men, regardless of race, color, or creed.
- It reveals that which may be known by men about God.
- It reveals the judgment and wrath of God against sin.

- It reveals the righteousness of God.
  - It shows how to be justified by faith.
  - It is the basis of the faith by which we live.
5. Compare your summary on the power in the blood to the discussion in Chapter Seven.
  6. Faith.
  7. Admit you have sinned: Romans 3:23  
 Believe that Jesus died for your sins: John 3:16-17  
 Confess your sins to God and ask Him to forgive you: I John 1:8-9  
 Experience a changed life: II Corinthians 5:17
  8. False. Jesus gave His life willingly on the cross.

#### **CHAPTER EIGHT:**

1. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)
2. Acts 1:8. Power comes after the Holy Spirit has come upon us.
3. To become witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. See Acts 1:8
4. Galatians 5:22-23
5. Repent and be baptized  
 Believe it is for you  
 Desire it  
 Realize it is a gift  
 Yield to God  
 Request the prayers of other believers
6. Compare your list to the discussion in Chapter Eight.

#### **CHAPTER NINE:**

1. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (I Corinthians 13:13)
2. Love is an emotion of deep affection, care, and concern developed in our lives as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

3. The first great commandment is love of God. The second is love of others. Mark 12:30-31
4. By our love one for another. John 13:35
5. Love.
6. Love.
7. The same as love.

#### **CHAPTER TEN:**

1. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. (I John 2:27)
2. Sacred anointing in the Old Testament was used to set aside people and things in dedication for service to God.
3. Sacred anointing was used to anoint prophets, kings, priests, altars, the tabernacle and its furnishings.
4. The anointed one.
5. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Ten.
6. Because God does not anoint everyone for the same specific ministry. Failure and confusion result if you try to imitate a ministry that God has not anointed you.
7. Compare your answer with the guidelines given in Chapter Ten.
8. God.

#### **CHAPTER ELEVEN:**

1. Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)
2. Faith means to believe and have assurance of something. To believe means to trust. The words faith, believe, and trust in Scripture mean the same thing. Faith gives assurance that the things promised will come true and that unseen things are real. See Hebrews 11:1



3. Jesus spoke of people who did not use their faith as being faithless (Matthew 17:17). He spoke of those with little faith (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; Luke 12:28) and of those with great faith (Matthew 8:10; 15:28; Luke 7:9).
4. Saving faith, sanctifying faith, defensive faith, gift of faith, fruit of faith.
5. By hearing the Word of God.
6. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Eleven.

## **CHAPTER TWELVE:**

1. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)
2. Names in Bible times had great significance. The name given was often determined by some circumstance at the time of birth (Genesis 19:22). Sometimes the name expressed a hope or a prophecy (Isaiah 8:1-4; Hosea 1:4). Names like Abram, Sarai, Jacob, Peter, and Paul were changed because of their destinies in God's plan.
3. An angel sent from God.
4. Jesus.
5. Jesus obtained His name in the three ways great men on earth obtain their names: By birth, achievement, and conferring.
6. Through hearing of the Word of God. Romans 10:17
7.
 

a. Salvation	d. Preaching, Teaching
b. Healing	e. Devils
c. Sanctification	f. Baptize
8. a. True    b. True    c. False

## **CHAPTER THIRTEEN:**

1. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16b)
2. Prayer and fasting.

3. Asking, seeking, knocking.
4. Worship and praise, commitment, petition, confession, intercession.
5. See the list in Chapter Thirteen.
6. Prayer is communion with God. It takes different forms, but basically it occurs when man talks with God and God talks with man.
7. Fasting, in the most simple definition, is going without food.
8. According to the Bible there are two types of fasts. The total fast is when one does not eat or drink at all. An example of this is found in Acts 9:9. The partial fast is when the diet is restricted. An example of this is in Daniel 10:3.
9. To humble yourself  
To repent for sin  
For revelation  
To loose the bands of wickedness, lift heavy burdens, set the oppressed free, and break every bondage  
To be able to feed the poor, both physically and spiritually  
To be heard of God

#### **CHAPTER FOURTEEN:**

1. For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)
- God.
2. The "rhema" Word of God refers to a specific saying of God that applies to a specific situation.
3. The "logos" Word of God refers to the total utterance of God. It is the complete revelation of what God has said.
4. He met them with the Word of power, God's Word. He used the "rhema" Word of God.
5. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Fourteen.
6. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Fourteen.
- 7.

8. False.

#### **CHAPTER FIFTEEN:**

1. Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.  
(Romans 13:1)
2. You must derive your authority from a legitimate source.
3. Jesus was under the authority of God. This was the source of authority which He exercised. Because of this, He was in authority over sickness, demons, sin, and natural elements.
4. Compare your summary with the discussion in Chapter Fifteen.
5. Compare your summary with the discussion in Chapter Fifteen.
6. Compare your summary with the discussion in Chapter Fifteen.
7. Romans 13:1-7
8. God.

#### **CHAPTER SIXTEEN:**

1. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (Philippians 3:10)
2. The meaning of the word "resurrection" is a raising or rising up, to cause to raise up from the dead back to life.
3. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Sixteen.
4. False.
5. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Sixteen.
6. Jesus. John 11:25

#### **CHAPTER SEVENTEEN:**

1. For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise,

we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you. (II Corinthians 13:4)

2. Satan.
3. Suffering comes into our lives through others, the circumstances of life, ministry, sin, and direct attacks by Satan.
4. Compare your summary of the purposes of suffering to the discussion in Chapter Seventeen.

#### **CHAPTER EIGHTEEN:**

1. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)
2. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Eighteen.
3. The Church is to be the center for the demonstration of God's power.
4. You must use it to increase it. See the parable in Luke 19:12-26.

#### **CHAPTER NINETEEN:**

1. And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Matthew 13:58)
2. Deuteronomy 29:29.
3. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Nineteen.

#### **CHAPTER TWENTY:**

1. The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed... (Psalms 2:2)
2. Satan.
3. Compare your summary to the discussion in Chapter Twenty.
4. See the guidelines listed in Chapter Twenty.