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## YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER

*The Christian life can only be lived  
by the power of God*

**T**he Christian life is a life of power. **You can never be a victorious Christian without the power of God.** No power of God, no Christian life.

Everything we do for Christ **must be done with His power.** The power of God makes all the difference. Power in the Christian life is so essential that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Himself needed the power of God when He began His ministry (Luke 4:18).

### **The Power Of God Is The Power Of The Holy Spirit**

Jesus said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you” (Acts 1:8).

This power is not a force or energy. It is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead. As Christians, we have been given the Holy Spirit’s power i.e., the life-giving power of the

Kingdom of God. This is the same supernatural power of the Holy Spirit that has been at work since creation.

*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.  
(Gen 1:2-3)*

The power of God parted the Red Sea, drowned the army of the Egyptians, held back the River Jordan and brought down the walls of Jericho.

The Holy Spirit manifested as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead the children of Israel in the desert. As long as the pillar of cloud or the pillar of fire stayed still, the people remained where they were. When they saw the pillar of cloud or the pillar of fire move, they moved (Ex 13:21-22; 40:36-38).

Moses and the people of God experienced the physical manifestations of the power of God: fire, thunderings, lightning flashes, trumpet blasts, thick darkness, Mount Sinai quaking and smoking (Ex 19:18-20; 20:18-21).

### **The Power Of God Transforms**

It was the power of God that transformed Moses from being a person who could kill in anger to being the meekest man on earth. The Moses who previously could not handle two quarrelling men now had the power and patience to deal with around three million people and their complaints.

Even God wanted to wipe them out and make of Moses a nation mightier and greater than them. But Moses was so changed that he stood in the gap and interceded on their behalf with the Almighty God. He waited 40 days in the presence of God twice (Ex 24:15-18; Deut 9:14-29).

**Whenever “the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him”, Samson did extraordinary things that were beyond his abilities as a natural man.** He tore a lion apart with his bare hands, killed 30 men in Ashkelon and single-handedly slaughtered 1,000 men in Lehi (Judg 14:6,19; 15:14-15). When God heard his prayer and strengthened him one last time, Samson brought the temple down on 3,000 men and women (Judg 16:27-30).

If Samson, who only had a visitation of the Holy Spirit of God, could become so strong and do such amazing feats, how much more can we do, who in these days have the Holy Spirit living in us, a God Who would never leave us nor forsake us?

More than that, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is quickening our mortal bodies.

*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Rom 8:11)*

## **Only Through The Power Of God Can We Overcome**

**Why is the power of God so important?**

**Because the Christian life can only be lived by the power of God.** It is impossible to live a victorious Christian life without the power of God.

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Cor 4:7)*

The power of God enables us to experience the reality of God and live in the supernatural. It transforms us, helps us to pray and defeat the powers of darkness, sin and temptation. This power that has overcome death and hell has been given to us to overcome sickness and disease, discouragement and disappointment, rejection and hurts, fear and intimidation,

persecution and opposition.

The power of God gives us a burden for the lost and a boldness to preach, teach and minister. It makes us effective witnesses for God and enables us to fulfil His call upon our life, freely giving what we freely receive from Him (Matt 10:8).

The power of God carries us through hardship and suffering for the Master. It enables us to live a life that is pleasing to God, knowing that although we are in the world, we are not of this world.

**We must know that as Christians, we have the power of God.** Only with this power can we lead powerful Christian lives and be effective in ministry.

There may be many Christians today but not many have experienced the abundant life that Jesus died to give us. Many are struggling, trying to live a Christian life. Many are sick, defeated and discouraged. Paul also faced this struggle.

*For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. (Rom 7:19, NKJV)*

Paul rejoiced that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, but only for those who walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh (Rom 8:1). He saw that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus had made him free from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2). Although these two opposite laws were operating, Paul found victory.

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)*

Paul suddenly realised that he could not live the Christian life by his own strength but only by the power of God. This power was the life of the Son of God flowing through his life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **To Be Clothed With The Power Of God Is To Be Filled With The Glory Of God**

We need to be endued with the power of God to do the work of God, to live a Christian life.

To be endued with the power of God means to be clothed with power from on high, to be filled with the glory of God.

When God created man, man was filled with the glory of God. The glory of God was the clothing of man. But when man fell into sin, he fell short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). In falling short of the glory of God, man could no longer have fellowship with God.

That is why Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of God after they sinned. Suddenly they realised that they were naked. They hid themselves from the presence of God (Gen 3:8).

It was only when they had sinned that they realised they were naked. They had not realised this before because they had previously been clothed with the glory of God.

As long as they were sinless, they were filled with the glory of God and could have fellowship with the Lord of glory. The minute they fell into sin, their fellowship with God was broken and they were filled with shame at their nakedness.

As long as man was filled with the glory of God, he had the authority and power to rule. As long as man was obedient to God, man ruled but the minute man disobeyed God, he lost the right to rule. When he lost the glory of God, he had to leave Eden even though God had given Eden to him to rule.

We must realise that there are two powers that are at work: the power of God and the power of Satan. The power of Satan destroys but the power of God gives life. To be a Christian is not only to receive forgiveness of sins but more so, to be delivered from the power of Satan to experience the power of God.

Acts 26:18 sums up the Christian message:

*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me (Acts 26:18)*

Jesus Christ came to restore God's glory back to man so that man could once again be filled with the glory of God. When man is restored back to the glory of God, he will once again rule and reign as God had intended him to. When the Holy Spirit, the power of God, came upon Peter on the day of Pentecost, **he was transformed into a man of boldness, power and authority.**

Jesus came not only to forgive us of our sins but also to reconcile us back to God. He came to restore us back to the glory of God and to re-position us into a place of power and authority. This is the same place of power and authority that Jesus had in His ministry. **He was effective against the powers of darkness because He had the power of God.**

### **Even Jesus Christ Needed The Power Of God**

Jesus Christ Himself operated by the same power of the Holy Spirit. Although He was the Son of God, He only began His ministry after He was baptised by the Holy Spirit. In fact, right from His conception to His birth, baptism and ministry, Jesus Christ's whole life was lived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The power of the Highest overshadowed Mary when Jesus was conceived (Luke 1:35). The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove when He was baptised. God anointed and empowered Him.

*Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,*

*And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. (Luke 3:21-22)*

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit's power when He was led of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness (Luke 4:1). After His 40 days of fast, He was tempted by the devil but He overcame by the power of the word of God. **He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit** (Luke 4:14).

By the time He announced His ministry, Jesus was fully equipped to minister, fully empowered by the Spirit of God.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. (Luke 4:18)*

**Jesus was confident in His ministry because He knew that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him.** Because the power of God was evident in His life, the people recognised that He ministered with authority and power. **His ministry and teaching were completely different from all that they had previously known.**

*And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. (Luke 4:32)*

*And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. (Luke 4:36)*

Over and over again, our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated the power of God. He preached, taught, cast out demons, healed, delivered, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, opened blind eyes and caused the deaf to hear. Many miracles took place because of the power of God released through His life.

In Mark 5:25-34, the Bible tells of a woman who had suffered an issue of blood for 12 years. She had such great faith in Jesus that she believed that if she could only touch His garment, she would be made well. She pressed through the

crowd surrounding Jesus and touched His garment.

She immediately received her healing. And Jesus immediately knew that someone had touched Him even though there were multitudes around Him. How did He know? **Because He felt that power had gone out of His body to bring healing.**

**Jesus healed by the power of God. He touched multitudes with the power of God.**

*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

*Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

*Great multitudes followed Him. (Matt 4:23-25a, NKJV)*

*And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases,*

*as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed.*

*And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. (Luke 6:17-19, NKJV)*

**This was the same power that empowered Jesus throughout His ministry.** The Holy Spirit had taken over.

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (Zech 4:6b)*

**How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:** *who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)*

**Jesus' life is an example to every one of us.** He always ministered in the power of God. The ministry of our Lord Jesus



Christ was power-packed.

### **Jesus Gave Us The Same Power He Had**

Jesus Himself demonstrated the power of God and promised it to His disciples.

*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (Matt 9:35)*

*And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. (Matt 10:1)*

*And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (Matt 10:7,8)*

*And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.*

*And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*

*And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils (Mark 3:13-15)*

*After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. (Luke 10:1)*

*And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.*

*And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing*

*shall by any means hurt you.*

*Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20)*

As the Son of God, **Jesus had the right** (Greek “exousia”) to heal sicknesses and cast out demons. When He sent the disciples out to preach, He delegated this authority to them so that they too could do what He did. In fact, Jesus said that the works His disciples do would be greater than His own (John 14:12). **Exousia power is found in the name of Jesus and in the blood of Jesus.**

Jesus wrought miracles through using might and great force (Greek “dunamis”). This power is associated with words such as “dynamite” and “dynamic”. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus was an awesome example of the exercise of dunamis power.

These two power words may be explained this way: A policeman at a blockade has the right and delegated authority to command a car to stop. When the car does not stop, he has the might and the force to shoot.

God has given us His authority (“exousia”) over the enemy, to stop him from whatever evil he wants to do. When the enemy does not seem to obey, we have the might (“dunamis”) to destroy his works.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent 40 days teaching the disciples about the Kingdom of God before He ascended to heaven to be with the Father (Acts 1:3).

*And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. (Acts 1:4)*

*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)*

This is a very powerful key to successful living for every Christian. We need to be endued or clothed with power from on high.

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

*And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

***And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***  
*(Acts 2:1-4)*

### **The Early Church Demonstrated The Power Of God**

All the 120 disciples who waited in the upper room were mightily endued with power from on high. Let us look at the life of Peter.

Before Peter received the power of God, he behaved like a coward and denied Jesus three times, once even before a servant girl (Luke 22:54-62).

This same Peter was so transformed by the power of God that he could rise to defend his brethren against charges of drunkenness. He preached to a multitude gathered from the different nations of the world with such power and conviction that 3,000 people were saved.

It was indeed the power of God at work. The power from on high gave Peter boldness and his preaching cut the people to the heart. Peter demonstrated the transforming power of God and multitudes came to know the Lord through his ministry.

It was the power of God that enabled Peter to pray. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he could not watch and pray with Jesus for even an hour. But after receiving the power of God, Peter was continually found praying.

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In Acts 3:1-10, Peter and John went to the temple to pray and saw a man lame from birth begging for alms. Peter told the man, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”

He lifted the man by the hand and immediately power flowed from Peter to the man. The man was completely healed. Such was the power of God.

When Peter said, “Such as I have give I thee”, what did he have? The power of God. Peter was so led of the Holy Spirit that he gave the man what he actually needed – the power to walk and to be set free.

Peter was warned not to preach but he still did. He was put in prison but he still praised God. He lived by the Spirit of God and had such a power of God that even his shadow healed the sick (Acts 5:15).

This same power is available to us today just as it was during the time of Jesus and the disciples.

Stephen had to be “of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom” to be a deacon in the early church (Acts 6:3). He was “a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 6:5a).

Because he was “full of faith and power”, Stephen “did great wonders and miracles among the people” (Acts 6:8). **Stephen was so filled with the life and power of God** that when Paul persecuted Stephen, it was as if Paul was persecuting Jesus (Acts 9:4).

When Stephen was made a martyr for his faith in Jesus, Paul was a fervent persecutor of the church. But when Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus and **was confronted with the power of God**, he made a 180-degree turn and became a powerful witness for the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1-22).

Paul was sovereignly chosen by God to turn the people **from the power of Satan to God** (Acts 26:18). He

acknowledged the importance of **the power of God** and spoke in “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Cor 2:4). He believed that **“faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God”** (1 Cor 2:5).

Paul experienced such an outworking of the power of God upon his life that he was able to do great exploits for his God. It enabled Paul to go through hard times and stand in the face of severe persecution. He could live a victorious Christian life overcoming discouragement, temptations, trials, persecutions, hardships and opposition because he had the power of God within him.

Paul was even willing to die for the Lord. The life of Christ was powerfully manifested in his life because he experienced the life of God flowing through him (2 Cor 4:8-11; 2 Cor 11:22-28).

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Cor 4:7)*

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)*

Paul was like any other ordinary man but when the power of God came upon him, he became extraordinary and was used of God to work “unusual miracles” (Acts 19:11, NKJV). He could do unusual miracles because of the power of God in his life.

**Paul was always talking about the power of God**, conscious about the power of God that worked mightily in him (Eph 1:19). This power can also work mightily in us. We too must encounter the real power of God, “the power that worketh in us” (Eph 3:20).

*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead*

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*dwelling in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Rom 8:11)*

Having experienced the power of God in his life, Paul asked us to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might” (Eph 6:10). He encouraged us as Christians that we should **not only be strong in the Lord, but we are also to be strong in the power of His might.**