

POWER



The world is obsessed with many things, two being that of power and influence. But what does God desire for his children? Does He desire us to be power hungry people? Does He leave us powerless and alone in this world, left to fend for ourselves? God does indeed want to give us power to live life, but not in the way of the world (See **1 John 2:15-17**) God's power is always provided for his purposes in the world — to make us more like Christ, give us power to walk in integrity, and to be his witnesses to others in the world.

THINK ABOUT IT

God gives us power to live strong for Him through two main avenues — The Abiding Word of Christ and The Empowering Presence of the Holy Spirit.

THE ABIDING WORD OF CHRIST

Read John 15:1-8

How can the word of Christ remain in you?

How can you remain in His words?

What does it mean to "bear much fruit" for Jesus Christ.

THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God sends his Holy Spirit to indwell all believers in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us power to live for God and be Christ's witnesses in the world.

Read the account of how the Holy Spirit empowered a man named Peter to testify about the Lord Jesus and impact lives for the Kingdom of God. The story is found in the book of **Acts 4:1-22**

What message did Peter bring to the people?

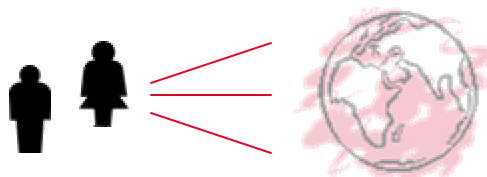
GOD GIVES POWER TO US FOR HIS PURPOSES IN THE WORLD

God's Purpose to Make you More like Jesus and to Empower you to Live a Holy Life (Walk in Integrity)

God has a plan for each of his children. He is in the process of transforming you to be more like Jesus, a process known as sanctification. There is no one but Almighty God that can make the powerful soul-level changes in your life. Passages for further study — **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8** and **1 Timothy 2:8-12**

God's Purpose for Us to be His Witnesses in the World

Like Peter, we to are called to testify to the good news of salvation that is found through faith in Jesus Christ. He has called us to preach the good news to all people and he has promised to give us power through the indwelling Holy Spirit to be his witnesses — See **Acts 1:8**





PRAY ABOUT IT — ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION

- A** Praise God that He is all-powerful and can help us with anything.
- C** Confess to God that you have depended on your own power and strength to live life rather than depending on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.
- T** Thank God that he has give us His Word and Spirit to guide us and give us power to live a holy life of integrity and be a witness to those around us.
- S** Ask God to empower you this hour, this day, this week so that you might become more like Him and serve others in His Name.

WORK IT OUT — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

Ask God for His Power and Boldness to Help you to...

- i. Forsaking habitual sins...What are some things you need to trust God to change in your life? How could God's power help you to act differently on the field of competition—discuss this in your group.
- ii. Witness to your teammates:

Principle — First talk to God about people , then talk to people about God

1

Make a list of friends and teammates who do not know Jesus Christ.

2

Write down their names and pray for them. That God would open a door to share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3

Take the initiative to have lunch with them and talk to them about Jesus Christ.

"THE GOSPEL FOR US"

I like to compare the Christian's struggle against sin to an individual swimming upstream against a surging current. His progress is slow and tortuous; he is constantly swept backward by powerful undercurrents. Hovering near the swimmer is a speedboat with a powerful motor. He can continue to try to swim upstream or he can choose to climb aboard the speedboat, which can easily whisk him up the river. Staying in the water means he must trust in his own efforts. Accepting a ride in the speedboat allows him to take advantage of a power far greater than his own.

We have a similar choice. When battling evil spiritual forces, worldly influences, and our own fleshly temptations, we can either fail miserably by fighting temptation in our own efforts or defeat that sin-current that drags us down by living in the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit.

Bill Bright, *God — Discover His Character* (Orlando: FL, New Life Publications, 1999) 57.

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

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