



## **Growing in the Power of the Spirit**

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“Everywhere I go I find that God’s people lack something. They are hungry for something. Their Christian experience is not all that they expected and they often have recurring defeat in their lives. Christians today are hungry for spiritual fulfillment. The most desperate need of the nation today is that men and women who profess Jesus be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

- Billy Graham

“What we need is not more learning, not more eloquence, not more persuasion, not more organization, but more power from the Holy Spirit.”

- John Stott

There is a direct connection between our relationship to the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

### **Acts 1:4-8**

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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 2:1-4**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where

they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

## **Power**

The capacity to influence others or the course of events.  
The ability to do things by virtue of strength, skill, resources or authorization.

Power to do the things Jesus did.

“The Greek word for power is *dunamis*—from which we have derived words like dynamite, dynamo, and dynamic. Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit will be explosive; they will make a noise and have an impact. Their words, lives, and presence will change things. It is the fullness of that power that Paul wants us to enter into. Paul declared that the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (1 Cor. 4:20). Sadly, however, we often seem all talk and no power. Impotent, academic, and anemic, we have placed God in a box; we have domesticated God and rarely want Him to disturb us. But the Scriptures reveal a God who is all power, who breaks our boxes, shatters our bonds, shakes whole rooms, and turns the world upside down and

right-side up. This Holy Spirit power was always the mark of the men and women of God in Scripture—power.”

- Simon Ponsonby

*More: How You Can Have More of the Spirit When You Already Have Everything in Christ*

“The days of the early Church [were] days in which obviously the church seethed and surged with power.”

- William Barclays

“Those early Christians had no degrees from the best universities, they had been on no MBA management courses, gone through no psychological Myers-Briggs compatibility profiles, they had no financial investment portfolios—but they had a revelation of God, a revelation of their inheritance in Christ and Holy Spirit power from on high. With this God took 120 people and shook the world.”

- Simon Ponsonby

### **John 14:12-14**

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. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be

glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

## **Intimacy + Gifts + Faith + Holiness = Power**

### **Intimacy**

“When I speak of listening to God’s voice, I mean developing a practice of communion with the Father in which we are constantly asking, ‘Lord, what do you want to do now? How do you want to use me? How should I pray? Whom do you want me to evangelize? Is there someone that you want to heal?’ Sometimes he gives me specific insights about people for whom I am praying. These come as impressions: specific words, pictures in my mind’s eye, physical sensations in my body that correspond to problems in their bodies. These impressions help me know who and what to pray for and how to pray.”

- John Wimber

### **Faith**

Faith is spelled “R.I.S.K.”

“God’s main goal is to encourage us to trust his love, so it makes perfect sense that he would arrange things so that power flows most easily through those who fully trust his compassionate generosity in providing it. So, I’d put it this

way: Miracle-working faith believes that God is genuinely eager for the goodness of miracles.”

- Jordan Seng

## **Gifts**

### **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

## **Holiness**

“To be set apart for God’s special purposes.”

“To be set apart from, and to be set apart for.”

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