

Powerless Christianity? No Power, not Saved

If you do not experience God's resurrection power in Christ, you are not saved. You are not born again. You are not a child of God.

- "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power [dunamis], and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance" (1Thes 1:5)
- "because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works [energeo] in you who believe." (1Thes 2:13)
- "by the word of truth, by the power [dunamis] of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left" (2Cor 6:7)
- "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration [apodeixis] of the Spirit and of power [dunamis], that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power [dunamis] of God." (1Cor 2:4-5)
- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power [dunamis] of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16)
- "So the word of the Lord grew mightily [kratos] and prevailed [ischuo]." (Acts 19:20)

A word often translated power is exousia, which means authority (see Jn 1:12-13; Acts 26:18; Lk 10:19). What is interesting about Lk 10:19 is that Jesus has given authority [exousia] to Christians to trample over the power [dunamis] of the enemy.

Authority over Satan's Power

- "Behold, I give you the authority [exousia] to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power [dunamis] of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Lk 10:19)
- "because you are strong [ischuros], and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome [nikao] the wicked one." (1Jn 2:14)
- "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power [exousia] of Satan to God" (Acts 26:18)
 - Satan is not be feared, but respected
 - Your authority over Satan has been granted to you by Jesus, in His name
 - "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority [pas exousia] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt 28:18)
 - "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." (Col 2:15)
 - "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." (1Jn 3:8)
 - "He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb 2:14)
 - "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one." (1Jn 2:14)

4 Greek root words for power in:

- "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power [dunamis] toward us who believe, according to the working [energeia] of His mighty power [ischus kratos]" (Eph 1:19)
 - Christians have the amazing resurrection power in us

3 Greek root words for power in:

- "Finally, my brethren, be strong [endunamoo] in the Lord and in the power [kratos] of His might [ischus]." (Eph 6:10)
 - Christians need the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to stand against the enemy
- "To this end I also labor, striving according to His working [energeia] which works [energeo] in me mightily [dunamis]." (Col 1:29)
 - Paul needed God's power to labor as a Christian leader
- "strengthened [dunamoo] with all might [dunamis], according to His glorious power [doxa kratos], for all patience and longsuffering with joy" (Col 1:11)
 - Yielding to God's power produces patience and longsuffering in you and releases joy

The Gospel imparts power in believers when received:

- "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power [dunamis], and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance" (1Thes 1:5)
 - The Thessalonians did not have personal copies of the Old Testament, the New Testament, a long period of discipleship with Paul, electricity, Bible study commentaries, or the internet, but they did have

persecution. Paul's Gospel imparted God's power, His Holy Spirit, and much assurance. Christians are really supernaturally energized people, radically transformed from the inside out

- "because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works [energeo] in you who believe." (1Thes 2:13)
 - The word of God should be working effectively in you
- **"of which I became a minister according to the gift [dorea] of the grace [charis] of God given to me by the effective working [energeia] of His power [dunamis]." (Eph 3:7)**
- "by the word of truth, by the power [dunamis] of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left" (2Cor 6:7)
 - God's truth, God's power, and God's armor will prepare you to live victoriously as a Christian
- "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration [apodeixis] of the Spirit and of power [dunamis], that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power [dunamis] of God." (1Cor 2:4-5)
 - Americans thrive on learning about a Gospel that does not impart power. The biblical Gospel imparts the Holy Spirit and God's power into your life, not secular wisdom.
- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power [dunamis] of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16)
 - Your salvation is impossible on your own. But the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God that saves you.
- "So the word of the Lord grew mightily [kratos] and prevailed [ischuo]." (Acts 19:20)
 - Three point sermons should not be confused with the Word of God. The Word of God is powerful, will produce spiritual growth that will grow. It cannot be stopped.

Grace and Power

- "of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace [charis] of God given to me by the effective working [energeia] of His power [dunamis]." (Eph 3:7)
 - God's grace imparted spiritual gifts to Paul and God's power worked effectively in Paul as a minister
- "And He said to me, My grace [charis] is sufficient for you, for My strength [dunamis] is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power [dunamis] of Christ may rest upon me." (2Cor 12:9)
 - Only in your weakness will Christ's power rest on you and envelope you. It is through God's grace.
- "For sin shall not have dominion [kurieuo=to be lord] over you, for you are not under law but under grace." (Rom 6:14)
 - God's grace provides the power to break the control sin has in your life. You are free from the power of sin.
- "You therefore, my son, be strong [endunamoo] in the grace [charis] that is in Christ Jesus." (2Tim 2:1)
 - You should be spiritually strong in the grace of God.

Christians have divine power to live godly and to have spiritual life now

- "as His divine power [theios dunamis] has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" (2Pet 1:3)
 - You can live a godly and abundant life because you have been given divine power
- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens [endunamoo] me." (Phil 4:13)
 - Christ will strengthen you to do His will and to handle the depravations and blessings of life.
- "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened [endunamoo] me" (2Tim 4:17)
 - Paul was in need to God's strength, and Jesus provided for Him. Jesus will provide His strength to you whenever you need it.
- "For sin shall not have dominion [kurieuo=lordship over] over you, for you are not under law but under grace." (Rom 6:14)
 - You are more than a conqueror and have victory in Jesus Christ. You have liberty and freedom overcome sin and love others.

God's Unlimited Power manifested in Christians who exercise His power

- "Now to Him who is able [dunamai] to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power [energeo] that works in us" (Eph 3:20)
 - Could it be that you are limiting God's ability to bless you because you are limiting God's power working in you?

God's Power to do God's will

- "for it is God who works [energeo] in you both to will [thelo] and to do [energeo] for His good pleasure." (Phil 2:13)
 - God's power enables you to desire to do His will and the energy to do His will

Our Strength [ischus] in loving God

- "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength [ischus]. This is the first commandment." (Mk 12:30)
 - The strength mentioned in this verse is really your force, your ability, your drive, not muscle strength

Power and Miracles

- "Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works [energeo] miracles [dunamis] among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" (Gal 3:5)
 - The Holy Spirit worked miracles in the churches in Galatia
- "And Stephen, full of faith and power [dunamis], did great wonders and signs among the people." (Acts 6:8)
 - Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was full of the Spirit, faith, and power to do miracles
- "seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did." (Acts 6:3; 8:6)
 - Men Stephen and Philip among others, who were qualified to serve widows, had to have integrity, be full of the Holy Spirit, and full of wisdom
- "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient - in mighty signs and wonders, by the power [dunamis] of the Spirit of God" (Rom 15:18,19)
 - Paul's miracles gave credibility to his preaching, and they were done by the power of the Holy Spirit

Resurrection Power Inside

- "that I may know Him and the power [dunamis] of His resurrection" (Phil 3:10)
 - Paul committed to knowing Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Have you?
- "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound...Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:1,4)
 - Your water baptism signifies your death to the old nature and the baptism of the Holy Spirit provides the power to live in newness of life, pleasing the Lord.
- "And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power [dunamis]." (1Cor 6:14)
 - God's resurrection power is yours now in this life, and it will raise you in your new eternal body

Holy Spirit, Power, and Spiritual Fruit

- "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power [dunamis] of the Holy Spirit." (Rom 15:13)
 - The Holy Spirit fills you with His power that releases all joy and peace and abounding hope.
- "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out [ekcheo] in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Rom 5:5)
 - The Holy Spirit has been given to you, and He pours the love of God into your heart
- "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Rom 14:17)
 - When God's kingdom is reigning in your heart, you will experience righteous living, peace, and joy.
- "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power [dunamis] and of love and of a sound mind." (2Tim 1:7)
 - Fear has been removed from you, and you have been given God's power, love, and a disciplined healthy mind

Satan's Authority over non-believers

- "in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power [exousia] of the air, the spirit who now works [energeo] in the sons of disobedience" (Eph 2:2)
 - You have been delivered from the authority of the devil and the influence of the world (the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life) when you were born again. You no longer have to succumb to the sins, spiritual temptations, distractions, and weaknesses you had before.

You have Power in Prayer

- "The effective, fervent [energeo] prayer of a righteous man avails [ischuo] much." (Jm 5:16)
- "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom 8:26-27)

- You have the same power that Elijah had in prayer. The Holy Spirit helps you pray, teaches you how to pray effectively, and provides the power to pray. You will see God answer your prayers. At times, the Holy Spirit will intercede through you.

Ultimately, God's power releases His love into your hearts, so that you can love the Lord with all your being and love others. It is only when you are born again that will possess His Holy Spirit, His divine power, and much assurance.

- "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment." (Mk 12:30)
- "Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matt 22:37-38)
- "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (Lk 10:27)
- "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matt 22:39)
- "And the second, like it, is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mk 12:31)
- "By this all will know that you are My disciples [mathetes], if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:35)
- "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law." (Rom 13:8)
- "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." (Rom 13:10)
- "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well" (Jm 2:8)
- "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2)
- "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Gal 5:14)
- "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (Rom 15:1)
- "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself" (Rom 15:2,3)
- "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Phil 2:4)
- "in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Phil 2:3)
- "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Rom 12:10)
- "Let no one seek [zeteo] his own [heautou], but each one the other's well-being." (1Cor 10:24)
- "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." (Rom 14:19)

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