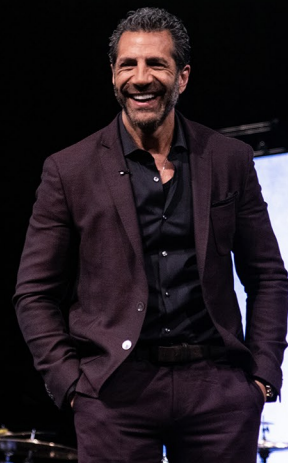


POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Did you know there is ONE pursuit above all others that this world is after?

More than money, more than sex, more than anything . . . it is the pursuit of the ages—it is the **PURSUIT OF POWER!**

In one form or another, everything this world seeks boils down to the pursuit of power.

In Acts 8:9–24, Peter and the other apostles were experiencing signs, wonders, and miracles after the resurrection of Jesus. A wealthy man named Simon, recognized with worldly power, saw the real power of God flow through the apostles' hands and then offered MONEY to HAVE THE POWER OF GOD. Of course, Peter, in his own subtle and soft-spoken way, responded by saying, “May your silver perish with you for thinking that you can obtain the gift of God with money!”

So we see here that the Power of God is far more valuable than money. In fact, people often use money to obtain power. The Power we're talking about here, however, is priceless.

The Lord put on my heart to write you about how to release the Power of the Holy Spirit in your life every day and in every situation.

In a sense, there's nothing wrong with the world seeking power—it's something God intended for us to walk in. However, He didn't intend for us to get it the way the world does.

True power—the power to be healed, the power over life's circumstances, the power over our enemies, the power to have joy, peace, and prosperity—COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“And you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . .” (Acts 1:8) The word “power” here comes from the world “dunamis”—the root word for

our word, “dynamite.” It means ability, might works, miracles, strength, dominion, and authority.

Why is it so important that we have power?

First, because every negative emotion that we face in our lives comes from a sense of powerlessness.

For example, if we don’t feel we have the power to change something, it can cause depression. If we don’t have the power to reconcile a relationship, it can cause anger or bitterness. If we don’t have the power to get ahead, it can turn into jealousy.

Secondly, every negative circumstance we face in life comes from this same powerlessness . . . the inability to do anything about the situation we’re in—the inability to change things.

The Holy Spirit solves our deepest need in our emotions and in our circumstances: to be free from powerlessness!

Look at John 16:13: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own authority; but whatever he hears He will speak; and he will tell you things to come.”

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can know what is to come. Think of the benefits of knowing the things that are going to come:

- 1. You will be free from fear and stress, because uncertainty is eliminated.**
- 2. You can know what to pray about and how to pray effectively.**
- 3. You can change the things that the Holy Spirit shows you to change.**
- 4. You can help others prepare for the future by knowing what is to come.**

Often, the Holy Spirit will show us what is to come so we can pray and change it. There are certain things He is warning us of that we have power to do something about through prayer.

The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God in our lives! When God said, “I will never leave you or forsake you,” He had His Holy Spirit in mind. The Holy Spirit is: God with us . . . God in us . . . God for us . . . God through us.

And when He is operating in our lives the way He desires, several things happen.

Let me show you some of them and then let me show you how to release His power in your life.

Six results of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life:

1. The blessing of God in your household. (2 Samuel 6:1-11) When the Ark of God's presence was in the house of Obed-Edom, his whole household was abundantly blessed.

2. Supernatural guidance and fellowship with God. (Exodus 40:36-38; Exodus 25:22)

3. The hard-to-move mountains in your life will melt like wax. (Psalm 97:5)

4. Joy, laughter, and pleasure will be yours. (Psalm 16:11 and 21:6)

5. Your enemies will fall and perish. (Psalm 9:3)

6. Times of refreshing and restoration will come. (Acts 3:19-20)

Now, how do we RELEASE THIS POWER AND PRESENCE in our everyday lives? Very simply:

1. By our words. As we speak the Word of God out of our mouths on a regular basis, the Holy Spirit takes those words and brings them to pass. Acts 10:44 says, "While he spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening . . ."

2. Pray in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:2, Romans 8:26-27 As we pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit is strengthening us and praying God's perfect will through our lives! The will of God in heaven penetrates and invades the earth as we pray in our heavenly language, even in the face of earthly circumstances and uncertain times.

3. Obedience to God. Acts 5:32 says He gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. Of course, we know that the Holy Spirit is a gift, but as we obey God, the Power of the Holy Spirit is released into our lives.

4. Giving. In Acts 10:3-4, Cornelius gets the attention of God through his prayers and his continual giving of alms. It was through his giving that the Gospel was brought to his household and the non-Jewish world. It was in this chapter that Cornelius became the first Gentile believer to be filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit! As a result, an entire region of the world was opened up to the Gospel through his giving!

