

Turn on the Power
Presented by Mary Lowman
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Day One

A term we hear a lot these days is empowerment. We're told when a person feels empowered, then they are motivated; they are capable of being all they can be. I certainly agree we need to be empowered, but my question this week is, how do we turn on the power?

New age philosophy says we need to simply get in touch with the unlimited power within us. It tries to convince us we can be anything we want to be, do anything we want to do if we believe in ourselves. That's how you turn on the power.

Many people have bought into this—even Christians—because it sounds good, and it caters to our desire for control. But if you've been trying to turn the power on yourself, you've discovered it just doesn't always work. Your internal self-powerhouse is often out of service or overloaded or has frequent power failures.

No, just as light fixtures and light bulbs are useless without electrical power, we need some outside power source flowing to us and through us if we're ever going to turn the power on. The truth of Scripture is there is only one ultimate source of power. All power rests in the hands of the Creator, who has chosen to share it on terms he alone controls. He has a monopoly and if you want to turn the power on in your life, you have to go to the source, the Eternal God who has all power.

After his resurrection before ascending into heaven, Jesus told his disciples: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." Please note he didn't say, "You have power in yourselves to conquer the world. Just look within yourselves and be the best you can be." No, he said, power will be given to you from an outside source. And incredibly, that power source is going to dwell in your body.

When and how do we get this Holy Spirit power? Romans 8:9 tells us *if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

Every true believer has received the Holy Spirit; it happens when we believe in Jesus Christ. So, we have the powerhouse within us because he is within us. It's not our personal power; it's the power of the Holy Spirit, located right inside of us.

But I find sometimes I never turn the power on, or I run on very low wattage—how about you?

Day Two

Do you feel powerless? Can you see evidence in your life of real inner power? You can have an incredible power system right within you. In fact, if you're a believer you have that power system already, but you may never have learned how to turn it on.

We saw Jesus told us we will have power when we have the Holy Spirit. What does this power enable us to do?

First, it enables us to be children of God. John wrote *to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God* (John 1:12).

Second, we can pray with power. *The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

Third, we can speak words of power. *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power...* (1 Corinthians 2:4).

Fourth, we can have a powerful mind. *For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ* (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Fifth, we can demolish our enemy and have victory over sin. *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds* (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Oh, there are so many more. We have the power to:

- *endure and be strong* (Colossians 1:11),
- *no longer be timid or weak, but be bold for Jesus* (2 Timothy 1:7).
- *live holy and godly lives* (2 Peter 1:3).

Does that describe you? If not and you are a believer, it may be because you're just not turning on the power that is within you—the power of the Holy Spirit.

Suppose you never turned on the power in your house. You have light bulbs and lamps; you have a washer and dryer and a vacuum cleaner. But you never have light or clean clothes or clean floors because you've never learned how to turn on the power. Silly thought, isn't it? Well, it's just as ridiculous for us to have the power of the Holy Spirit but never see the evidence of it in our lives.

Day Three

When was the last time you had a power outage at your house? It's the strangest feeling, isn't it, as you flip on all those switches, but nothing happens. All your electrical conveniences and appliances are useless without power. Sometimes as Christians we live as though there's a power outage. We've got a powerhouse within us because of the Holy Spirit who indwells our bodies, but maybe we just don't know how to turn on the switch.

The switch that turns on God's divine power within us is to use the divine weapons we have been given.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Have you been using your divinely empowered weapons? What are these weapons:

- **Prayer** is a divine weapon. You probably know that, but the question is, how much do you pray? Studies show the average Christian prays less than five minutes per day. Prayer is our major power source. Maybe you haven't learned how to pray. What are you doing to become more effective in your prayer life? You can take the prayer given by Jesus to use as a model for your own prayer life. I've developed a Prayer Journal to help you apply that prayer format in a very practical way, and you can find it on our website or contact us for information on it, if it would be helpful to you.

- **The Word of God** is another divine weapon. Hebrews 4:12 tells us *for the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* Have you learned how to use this divine weapon, this powerhouse we have because we have the Bible?

For example, quoting Scripture is a great way to turn on the power in your life. I encourage you to memorize scripture as much as possible. Join our Hidden Word team, where together we memorize a verse each week.

When you know you are weak in a certain area, such as impure thoughts or lying or having a critical spirit, memorize verses that relate to those matters and quote them often to yourself throughout the day. You will be amazed at how that will empower you to have victory over those problems.

So, if you've been powerless in your spiritual life lately, maybe you just haven't been using these divine weapons—prayer and the Word of God. They are the switches that turn on the power, and you can have access to the power any time you're willing to use your divine weapons.

Day Four

I'm examining how to turn the power switch on. Suppose you knew everything about your computer there is to know—a real computer whiz—but you didn't have any idea how to turn it on. What good would it do you to have all that computer know-how if you couldn't turn on the computer?

Well, as silly as that sounds, many of us Christians have never learned how to turn on the switch that allows us to be powerful for God. We have this incredible source of power within us—the Holy Spirit of God. Yet we don't know how to turn on the switch. Or could it be we don't want to?

You see, the switch that turns on God's power in our lives is prayer and God's Word. You probably know that but are you willing to use those power tools? Maybe you're looking for easier answers. Or something different—or something that gives a quicker fix.

Let me explain. In order to have electricity in your house, you have to pay your bill. Have you noticed—the power company is very insistent about regular payments. But we do it because we want the power; our lives are much better with electricity in our homes. So, we pay the price.

There's a price to pay if you want to be a powerful Christian. The power is there, but you must be willing to pay the price.

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly (1 Timothy 4:7).

You must purify yourself and train yourself. That's your job, and until you're willing to pay that price, the power just doesn't come on in your life. There are no shortcuts here. What is contaminating your body and spirit? Television? Wrong reading material? A judgmental attitude? A loose tongue that speaks in anger and haste? Those are some of the more common things that can contaminate our bodies and spirits. We must clean them out if we want to have power.

Then we have to have a training program for ourselves: A disciplined life that makes time for prayer and Bible study and fellowship with God's people. That's how we train to be godly, and when we are willing to pay the price, then the power comes on in our lives. It's just that simple. I didn't say easy, but it is

simple. You want to be powerful for God; pay the price and you'll discover how incredible it is to have his power flowing through you to others day in and day out.

Day Five

I've been trying to help us see afresh how to be powerhouse Christians and really impact our worlds for Jesus Christ. And, my friends, there is only one way to turn on the power of God in our lives, and it's not new, it's not gimmicky, it's not overnight, and it's not tantalizing. But it works!

The power switch is prayer and God's Word. And we must pay the price for this power, just like we pay for electrical power in order to turn on the lights in our houses. The price is discipline, pure lives, and significant time in our schedules to get to know God through prayer and his Word.

Are you in bondage to your own powerless life? Are you frustrated because you never see any evidence that Christ lives in you and gives you power to live victoriously? If you're truly a believer, you've got to get back to basics and ask yourself if you've been willing to pay the price for power. And believe me, I have to do the same thing.

There's a price to pay, but wow, you get more than you pay for when you turn on God's power in your life. For example, have you been in bondage to your tongue? Well, with God's power you can have victory over that damaging tongue of yours. Or maybe there is some impurity in your life holding you prisoner.

A friend told me how she had been in bondage to trashy novels, reading as many as one a day for years. This had done a great deal of damage to her thought life and her marriage, but by memorizing scripture and praying it into her life, she has broken that bondage and gotten rid of those lousy novels. You think you can read or watch the world's trash and it won't do you any harm? Think again. It will keep your life impure, but thankfully my friend found freedom from the trash. Truth—the truth of God's Word—set her free! She paid the price for God's power, and now she is free.

If you're struggling in some area, I urge you to pay the price for God's power to be released in your life.

Galatians 5:16 says: *So, I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* Walking by the Spirit is the way to know freedom, to have the power to live a godly life. Make it a matter of daily prayer and a commitment each day—I will by God's grace walk by the Spirit today. You will begin to know power in your life that will amaze you!