

# Living in the Power of God

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## Notes

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### Ephesians 1:15-23

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe in Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

The power of God resides in His people. It's available to all who are a part of His family. But how do we live in the power of God in our everyday lives?

### **1) Believe**

First, you have to believe that Jesus is your Savior and your Lord. This is foundational to living in the power of God and seeing Him work through us.

### **2) Get your life together**

God wants your all. He is an all-or-nothing God. We shouldn't expect God to fix our immediate problems but then turn and live however we want. He wants everything in our lives to revolve around Him, so we should work on growing in how we live.

### **3) Exercise your talents**

## Matthew 25:14-30

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Each servant had a different skillset, but what was important was how they used those skills. God gives us different talents, different gifts, and when we use them for His Kingdom, we will experience passion like nothing else. God’s power wants to draw people to Himself. Living in that power means we’re using what He has given us to grow the Kingdom. God knows what you’re capable of even when you don’t, and He wants to see you succeed with the talents He has given you. Exercising your talents leads to celebration, to sharing in God’s happiness!

## Group Questions

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- What is the power of God?
- How do we know if we’re living in the power of God?
- What are some of the gifts and talents you see God has given you?
- What are some of the gifts and talents you see in each other?

## Prayer

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Sometimes in our world we feel powerless, but with you we can live in power and victory. Show us how you’d have us use our talents to grow your Kingdom.