

May Development Guide

SUBJECT: THE POWER WITHIN US



Key Verse: Ephesians 3:20 (ASV) - “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask, think or imagine according to the power that is in us.”

There are many verses in the Bible to describe that God does things in abundance. Here are just two other verses that talk about the abundance He provides:

2 Corinthians 9:8 - “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

Romans 15:13 - “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Other verses talk about His abundant love and rich mercy. He is abundant, and He’s a God of multiplication.

One of our values is to expect multiplication—more than enough.

Expect multiplication!

*Where people spend eternity matters,
So, we dream big, plan big, and give big
to multiply the Kingdom.*

He’s an abundant God who has deposited His power in us.

That word “according” in our key verse, speaks to a measure of distribution. He deposited His power in us and wants us to distribute it. God wants to partner with us. He chose to partner with us.

Three thoughts regarding God’s power and releasing that power through you:

1. The power within and on you

- a. When you got saved and made Jesus your Lord and Savior, your spirit became alive and the Holy Spirit came to live on the inside of you like water inside of a bottle. You received supernatural power in that moment.

- i. Romans 8:11 - “And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.”

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1. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you.
2. God's presence through the Holy Spirit lives . . . in . . . you.
3. That's His power in you.
 - a. How about His power on you?
- ii. Luke 24:49 describes the last words of Jesus before He ascended. He was talking to the disciples and said,
 1. *"Listen carefully: I am sending the Promise of My Father (the Holy Spirit) upon you; but you are to remain in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed (fully equipped) with power from on high."*
 2. Notice the specific language here. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to come upon them. You also see the Bible says they would be clothed or fully equipped with POWER from on high with this subsequent experience after salvation.
 3. All throughout the Bible, there is a described experience after salvation where we can be baptized with the Holy Spirit, so we are fully equipped, clothed, or fully immersed with God's power. It's like when a superhero puts on the cape—there is extra power that comes with it.
 4. So, this subsequent experience and baptism is where we are immersed with the presence of God through the Holy Spirit. This would be like if I took a water bottle that is full on the inside with water and then threw that water bottle in a pool of water, it would be immersed on the inside and out.
- iii. We need to surrender to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
- iv. As a church, we have a value that connects to this; we say this:
Surrender to the Holy Spirit.

For our lives and leadership to reflect the life and mission of Jesus, we surrender to the person, baptism, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We seek the Kingdom first by living in an ongoing personal relationship with the Holy Spirit and rely on his voice to teach, lead, and edify us.

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- v. Remember, the Holy Spirit is God's presence in us.
- vi. To rely on and surrender to the Holy Spirit, His voice needs to be louder than any other. We need to be charged by Him, which brings me to my second point.

2. Being charged by the power source

- a. Our power source is God, and we connect to Him in a number of ways. We are connected and charged by God through spending daily time with Him through worship, prayer, and God's Word, and through going to church and being in a small group. We know Him more intimately through these spiritual disciplines. As a church, we talk a lot about knowing God. This is how you know Him and are charged up by Him. The Bible says as we draw near to God, He draws near to us.

3. We release the power through faith

- a. Everything we receive from God or do for God is done by faith.
- b. Faith is believing in your heart and saying it with your mouth.
- c. Faith is having a governing belief in your heart and a corresponding action as a result of that belief.
- d. John 7:38 (Amp) - *"He who believes in Me (who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Me), as the scripture has said, 'From his innermost being will flow continually rivers of living water.'"*
- e. How big is the river that is flowing out of you?
- f. You have your hand on the faucet of God's power in you. You decide when it gets turned on.
- g. We aren't waiting on God to move, He is waiting on us to move through faith. He wants us to release the power within us.

Three practical action steps on how we release the power within us through faith:

1. Prayer

- a. We release power through prayer.
 - i. James 5:16 - *"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."*

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- ii. That word power in the Greek is *dynamis* which is where we get the word dynamite. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful like dynamite. When you pray, picture an explosion of power toward what you are praying and releasing.
 - iii. Pray out things in faith according to His will, which is His Word.
 - iv. Lay hands on others and pray for them. This is biblical. In fact, the laying on of hands through prayer is one of the six elementary doctrines of our faith in Christ.
 - v. Pray in the Spirit as well. Praying out a supply of God's Spirit for the future.
- b. We are not waiting on God to move, He is waiting on us to pray and distribute His power.

2. Serving

- a. In light of this teaching, realize when you serve what you're bringing to the table. The power within you and on you.
- b. We also have a unique opportunity before us this summer.
- c. A big part of the vision that God has put in Pastor John's heart this year is our Encounter Conference for middle school and high school students. It's going to be life-changing and incredible.
- d. The Encounter Conference is an opportunity for you to release the power of God in you, into the next generation. God is going to impact our students more than we could ask, think, or imagine at this conference.
- e. And you get to be a part of it. Sign up to serve. There are all kinds of ways and many areas for you to serve at the conference. Go to myvfc.info, click on the Encounter Conference card, and sign up to serve.

3. Share your faith/share your story

- a. Look and pray for opportunities to be used of God in everyday life, so that His love and power can be shown on this earth.
- b. Be a witness for Him in your circles of influence. Share Jesus with others by how you talk, act, and love. Another one of our values as a church is to **Let Love Lead**.

God's unconditional love transforms everyone it touches. It energizes our lives, directs our culture, and sets our strategy.

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We don't lead people into the Kingdom — we love them into the Kingdom.

- c. Pray that God gives you opportunities to influence others for Him. Look for opportunities to bring people to church. A good goal is to bring a lost person to church four times a year—each quarter, essentially. It will be one of the most fulfilling things you do.
- d. Share your story and your faith with others. Release the power of God in you onto others.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What were your biggest takeaways from this teaching?
2. What VFC value stood out to you the most from this teaching?
3. What are your next steps or action steps as a result of listening to this teaching?