

# Walking in the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

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## 04-05 - God's Power

Unrestrained, Unlimited and Endless

### 04 - God's Power: Part One

#### **Acts 1:4-8 (NKJV)**

Just before He was taken up in a cloud, the Lord Jesus Christ promised us power. This power was the fulfillment of God's earlier promise recorded in Joel 2:28-32.

Many Christians (and perhaps most of us) do not walk in God's power, and especially in its fullness. Why is this? Let us unpack Acts 1:4-8 to begin to understand this promise of power.

1. In Verse 5, Jesus announced the coming Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This was to be a door to the fullness of God's power, and it was. Today, we should welcome it as a step in our spiritual growth. Then, we ought to do our best to walk in the fullness we have received.
2. In Verse 8, Jesus revealed that power comes supernaturally when the Holy Spirit is poured out on us. Then, we have the potential to see His power become alive in and through us.

When Jesus announced that the power of the Holy Spirit was to come at Pentecost, He knew having this power would be **conditional**. It would depend upon our willingness to receive the promise and demonstrate it through faith and obedience. Having God's power begins by believing that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do.

**Let us talk about degrees of power.**

#### **Luke 3:16 (NKJV)**

## A “cause and effect” Principle

<b>Power</b>	
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Effect</b>
<b>No Faith</b>	<b>No Power</b> (Faith, obedience and love all work together to produce power.)
<b>Low Levels of Faith</b>	<b>Low Power</b> (Remember the importance of having access to the Holy Spirit. Access is determined by faith and obedience.)
<b>Normal Levels of Faith</b>	<b>Average, Everyday Power</b>
<b>High Levels of Faith</b>	<b>Great Power</b>
<b>Holy Spirit-Filled Faith</b> (Baptized with Fire)	<b>Unrestrained, Unlimited, Endless Power</b> (A condition in which the fullness of our potential to walk in the power of Holy Spirit is reached)

There are many biblical examples, both Old and New Testament, of people who operated in the fullness of their faith and obedience... and saw the fullness of God’s power manifest in their lives. Their examples are very different, but all of them shared the same divine power source. All these people were full of high and even unrestrained, unlimited power. The power manifested to meet the circumstances at the moment of their need or opportunity. It was always the power of the Holy Spirit that moved through them.

### Samuel: Full of Holy Spirit Power

In the previous session, we saw that the Prophet Samuel had access to God’s voice since he was a small child. Because of this, Samuel was able to operate powerfully in his gift of prophecy. Whenever he spoke for God, it was a demonstration of his faith-filled commitment to God. **The Holy Spirit responded to this commitment by putting God’s power-filled message in Samuel’s mouth.** Samuel was God’s powerful covenant enforcer of his day. **When he spoke, people fully expected his words to be followed by God’s actions to confirm what he said.** They respected and feared Samuel’s words because they were powerful.

An example of the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power in Samuel's words occurred following King Saul's disobedience of Samuel's prophetic instructions. Contrary to these instructions, after Saul's victory at the city of Amalek, Saul spared King Agag. He preserved the best of Agag's goods and animals. Then, instead of waiting for Samuel, as he had been told to do, Saul sacrificed to the Lord before Samuel arrived. The Scriptures show us Samuel's response to Saul's disobedience.

### **1 Samuel 15:14-19, 22-23 (NKJV)**

Samuel's prophetic declaration that the Lord had rejected Saul as king had the full weight and power of God. Saul first tried to seek Samuel's pardon and blessing. He could not get it, and Samuel told him why. The power of God was in Samuel's words. Therefore, Saul had no choice. He accepted the prophetic words. He was tormented from that time forward until his death.

**POINT 10: When you have an intimate relationship with God, the words you speak can be infinite in their power for good.**

### **Stephen: Full Faith and Power**

#### **Acts 6:1-6 (NKJV)**

We previously saw Stephen's example as "*a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.*" The power of the Holy Spirit was so strong in him that he could stand, proclaiming the Gospel in the face of the enemies of the Lord. He rebuked them, knowing it would lead him to a violent stoning and death. His power was not only to endure the torture and death, but also to deliver the word of the Lord with authority and truth.

#### **Acts 7:51-53 (NKJV)**

**POINT 11: When you have an intimate, power-filled relationship with God, you will see far beyond the circumstances of the moment. You will not be alone. You will see Jesus.**

## Paul and Silas: Full Faith and Power

We previously saw that, while in Philippi, Paul and Silas had cast a demon out of a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination. We will look at this event again in the next session. For now, **let us take note of the authority in which Paul and Silas walked. They had come to Philippi, walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.** Their ministry reflected the fullness of their spiritual authority. They fulfilled the will of God wherever they went and people were set free in Christ.

When the demon possessed slave girl began to follow Paul and Silas to mock their ministry, they were completely filled with faith and power to overcome the demon. It was there to distract them and stop them from their mission. It had no power to do this against Paul and Silas, because they were full of God's power.

### **Acts 16:16-18a (NKJV)**

The Greek word in Verse 17 that is translated "cried out" is "krazo,"<sup>1</sup> (pronounced krad'-zo.) It implies making a loud croaking sound like a frog or a shriek like a wild animal in the forest. You can imagine how disruptive and distracting the demon in that slave girl must have been. **Whenever Paul and Silas began to preach, the demon in the girl would shriek its mocking message, trying to disrupt their message. It was an assignment from hell and eventually, it had to be broken and Paul did so.** Like Stephen, Paul and Silas were seized and beaten. Then they would be imprisoned in a dark, inner part of the jail. **The fullness of their faith and power in the Holy Spirit would sustain them. God had a plan for them. Their chains were part of it. The plan would be accomplished through their imprisonment, chains and ultimate release.**

**POINT 12: Rely on the fullness of your faith and power. It will take others out of their personal prisons. (It might even deliver you from yours.)**

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<sup>1</sup> Strong's Number 2896

We can learn so much about the full faith and power in the Holy Spirit we see from the examples of these four men of God.

1. Samuel, whose prophetic voice was filled with power
2. Stephen, who displayed fiery zeal for the Lord in the face of imminent death
- 3&4. Paul and Silas, who walked in faith and power through every difficulty and never wavered

### Questions for Discussion

1. What impresses you most about when the Holy Spirit sent divided tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:1-4)
2. Why was Samuel so upset with King Saul when Saul sacrificed to the Lord without Samuel being there?
3. How does Stephen delivering the Word of the Lord to his killers demonstrate unrestricted, unlimited power to you? Explain in detail.
4. Why does God allow us to be persecuted, as Paul and Silas were, so that His will can be fulfilled?

**(As we continue through the lessons, we will add to the twelve points we have already established.)**

## 05 - God's Power: Part Two

Both the Old and New Testaments provide numerous accounts of God's servants demonstrating His power. In this session, we will focus on how God manifests or projects His power by a visible demonstration through his servants. In the previous session, we began to discuss the power available to those who walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Now we will continue this important lesson.

### **Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)**

Fire was a biblical sign of God's divine power. On the Day of Pentecost, God chose to send down a visible demonstration of this power. The events of Pentecost left no doubt that the fire came from heaven. These "tongues of fire" were supernatural in origin. They clearly came from the Holy Spirit. This demonstration

must surely have reminded those present that day (who were familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures) of events such as the provision of the pillar of fire to guide the Israelites through the desert. It was also reminiscent of the Prophet Elijah's call to God for fire to consume the sacrifice on the altar, in his confrontation with the prophets of Baal. In this session, we will look at Elijah's sacrificial altar and the response of fire from God. Then we will continue by looking at the New Testament Saints who received that fire and subsequently, walked in the fullness of it.

### **Elijah - Called Down the Fire**

Elijah's heart was filled with a fiery jealousy and zeal for God. He faithfully nurtured this fire in his heart. It led to an extraordinary anointing for power. Everyone, including his enemies, came to know that Elijah walked so closely to the Holy Spirit that he could not be opposed. The prophets of Baal found this out on an altar of fire. God tried and judged them to be false prophets. Afterward, Elijah destroyed them. This was a demonstration of Elijah's unrestrained, unlimited, constant access to the power of the Holy Spirit. Elijah was not playing a guessing-game with that water-soaked altar. He was not merely hoping for a fiery miracle. He knew that the level of his access to the Holy Spirit's power was so high that he could ask for fire from heaven and God would provide it.

**1 Kings 18:22-24... 36-39 (NKJV)**

The greatest demonstration of your access to the power of the Holy Spirit will be when your prayers cause others to proclaim, "The Lord, He is God!"

**POINT 13: When you demonstrate your faithfulness in God, You will see God's faithfulness to respond to you... with power!**

### **Peter - He demonstrated what he had.**

In Acts, Chapter 2, Peter responded to the tongues of fire at Pentecost by preaching with great boldness. This was the first of many demonstrations of the power in which he now walked.

Chapter 3 records Peter and John walking toward the temple. They encountered a man who had never walked. He was carried every day to the gate of the temple to beg. He asked them for some money. Peter's response was to give a demonstration of a different kind of power than was shown with his bold preaching. Now, Peter would demonstrate the power to call down a healing miracle.

### **Acts 3:1-11 (NKJV)**

This miracle teaches us the following about how we are to demonstrate the power of God.

1. Always demonstrate God's power by calling on the name of Jesus. Do this with fiery faith in His name.
2. Do not let what seem to be impossible circumstances cause you to hesitate or lose faith.
3. Be bold. Do whatever the Holy Spirit tells you to do. Do it immediately. Do it with fiery zeal!
4. It will not be necessary to justify your boldness or explain what God has done. Everyone who sees it will know. Use the miracle to draw people near so you can preach the Gospel.
5. All glory goes to the Healer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Do **not** let your emotions convince you to take any of His glory. Be humble. Be thankful. Be glad someone was healed.

### **Another Look at Stephen**

#### **Acts 6:8 (NKJV)**

This verse describes Stephen as someone whose daily life demonstrated a fullness of faith in Christ and a fullness of power in the Holy Spirit.

Christ's enemies would have feared the amazing miracles and signs done by Stephen, because the miracles would have drawn many to accept Christ and receive **their** salvation. Because of this (as we learned in the previous session), the religious, hard-hearted men of the temple were motivated to stone Stephen to death. This ended Stephen's ministry among them, but could **not** stop the effect of what he had demonstrated. His ministry remains in the record of the Scriptures forever. It still ministers to us today.

**POINT 14: Miracles are demonstrations that challenge people to choose between Christ and the ways doubt and unbelief.**

### **Another Look at Paul: Overflowing with Power**

#### **Acts 19:11-12 (NLT)**

Everything about Saul was anti-Christ until he met Christ, Himself. Saul was traveling on the road to Damascus. His assignment was to persecute Christians. It was authorized by the religious authorities. In an instant, Jesus freed him of this demonic assignment. He gave Saul a new assignment.

Now Saul would destroy the works of the very same demons he used to walk with and serve. His service from that moment forward would be to God. He would do so, walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This was Saul's destiny. It came from the highest Authority in heaven. It came through the power of Christ.

Saul was transformed into the man who would become the Apostle Paul. He would walk in what was arguably the most powerful anointing a man can have. This was the anointing to "do unusual miracles." (I am not sure I can define an unusual miracle, except to say that it was far beyond anyone's expectations or understanding, even for miracles.) Everyday objects like handkerchiefs and napkins carried Paul's anointing for "unusual miracles." These ordinary objects would overflow with the Holy Spirit's power, simply because Paul had touched them. When they came in physical contact with people, or even just came into close proximity, the healing anointing was transferred. Demons were terrorized and fled.

Ordinary objects became extraordinary demonstrations of the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit. Even Paul's shadow carried this fullness of anointing. It too, was overflowing with the Holy Spirit's power.

We can learn from Paul's example. If you want to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit... and if you want to demonstrate His majestic omnipotence through your life and ministry, submit to the following:

1. Make it your constant practice to say, “Not my will, Father, but your will be done.”
2. Believe God without doubt or wavering, regardless of natural circumstances. Behave according to what you believe. Then expect nothing less than a miracle.
3. Learn to love God’s Word and devour it daily. Have a hunger for the Bible that cannot be satisfied by anything else.
4. Learn to love the people who can benefit from your willingness to work “unusual miracles.” God’s love is the power behind the anointing for miracles, especially unusual ones. This is because “God is love.” This means that Jesus is love. The Father is love. The Holy Spirit is love. Their power knows no limits. It cannot be contained.

### **1 John 4:16 (NKJV)**

#### **Paul and Silas: The Full “Faith and Power Team”**

### **Acts 16:16-18 (NKJV)**

In the previous lesson, we studied this narrative, in which Paul and Silas were imprisoned. In this session, we will focus on the actual event that caused their imprisonment. It was clearly a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in Paul. When Paul cast out the demon, it was **not a suggestion. not a plea or an expression of hope.** It was purely an exercise of his authority. He was walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The fullness of God’s power was available for him to demonstrate. The demon in the slave girl had no choice. It could not argue, hesitate or try to remain entrenched within her. It had to bow to the name of Jesus and go. Paul’s words could not be challenged by the demon. The slave girl was freed “*instantly.*”

The original Greek word translated in Verse 18 as, “*that very hour*” by the NKJV or “*instantly*” by the NLT is “*hora.*”<sup>2</sup> This is a prime Greek word. It defines Paul’s deliverance of the slave girl as an instant occurrence. That is how quickly a demon responds when the person exercising God’s authority constantly walks in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>2</sup> Strong’s number G5610

**POINT 15: If you want constant, unlimited power, surrender to all that is necessary to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.**

**Zechariah 4:6-7 (NKJV)**

2500 years ago, spoken to Zechariah by an angel

These words are an appropriate warning and a key encouragement for success in our ministries. We are to give God glory for the miracles. We are not to fall into the trap of thinking the things we demonstrate for the Lord are signs to point toward us. They are signs pointing to Christ alone. It is His power, through the fullness of the Holy Spirit that is at work in us.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How would you define fiery faith?
2. What would you say to people who tell you they do not believe in demons? (This is often a difficult question to answer in a way that these people would accept.)
3. What would you do if someone asked you to pray for a person who seemed to have a demon? (This is also not an easy question to answer.)
4. Zechariah 4:7 speaks of mountain-moving faith. What do you think is the key to anyone having mountain moving faith?

**(As we continue through the lessons, we will add to the fifteen points we have already established.)**