



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Focus on the Spiritual

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THEME Spiritual Authority & Power

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

CALLED TO HAVE POWER AND AUTHORITY

The call to discipleship is a call to be with God – to grow in our relationship with Him, to preach the Gospel, to have *power* to heal the sick and *power* to cast out demons (Mark 3:14-15). It is a call to be love-empowered believers who manifest the mighty power of the Most High God. In the first sermon of a two-part series, SP unpacked the meaning and application of *power* and its role in our lives as believers and disciples of Christ.

UNDERSTANDING 'POWER'

The early church in the New Testament understood power – their lives exemplified the indisputable outworking of it in all that they did. SP introduced five Greek nouns that are translated simply as “*power*” in the New Testament and he explained that there are two different sources of this “*power*”: The Word of God and the Holy Spirit. In his epistles, apostle Paul extensively exhorted us to be both Word-empowered and Spirit-empowered believers, to let Word dwell in us (Col 3:16) and to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18).

SOURCE 1: THE POWER OF THE WORD – *Kratos* and *Exousia*

The word “*power*”, which is translated from ***kratos*** and ***exousia***, has its source rooted in the Word of God. When the believer is filled with the Word and grows in faith by the Word of God (Rom 10:17), he becomes a Word-empowered believer.

Kratos is the working of the power of the Word of God in the believer (Acts 19:20). *Kratos* is essentially the power of the spoken word and it becomes authoritative to the person who believes in it (Prov 18:21; Heb 2:14). This is where SP reminds us of the Word-Hand: To *hear, read, study, meditate and memorise* the Word of God so that our hearts and minds are constantly engaged with the Word and we experience the *kratos* of the Word in our lives.

Exousia is the authority of the power of the Word of God **coming out from the believer** (Mark 3:14-15, John 1:12, Acts 26:18). Experiencing the power of the Word of God in our lives and coming out of our lives is limited only by the extent we believe in it. And this is where the devil lays his snares. The power of the devil’s words come in the form of lies and deceit which aim to distort and malign the character of God by changing what we believe about Him.

As Word-empowered believers, we are thus called to believe and speak forth the Word of God (2 Cor 4:13) such that the *kratos* and *exousia* of the Word of God are powerful realities that we understand and exercise.

SOURCE 2: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – *Ischus* and *Dunamis*

The apostle Paul also encouraged us to be Spirit-empowered believers by being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18) and to be strengthened in our spirit-man (Eph 3:16). When the Greek words *ischus* and *dynamis/dunamis* are used in the original translation of “power”, the source of that power is the Holy Spirit.

Ischus is the working of the power of the Holy Spirit **within the believer** (Acts 4:24, 29-31; 16:25-26; 1Pet 4:11).

Dunamis is the working of the power of the Holy Spirit **coming out from the believer** (Acts 1:8, Luk 5:17).

The power of the Holy Spirit is present when the believer is connected to the Holy Spirit in prayer. The believer’s prayer life is the primary determinant of the *dunamis* that is evidenced externally – e.g. renewal of the mind, transformation and the changing of lives, healing and deliverance.

THE COMBINED POWER OF SPIRIT AND WORD – *Energes*

A Love-empowered believer is one who is both Word- and Spirit-empowered. He is a person who experiences and exercises the authority and power of God. However, this is not a static, unchanging state. The degree to which we are currently both Word- and Spirit-empowered determines how Love-empowered we are (Eph 1:19-20; Eph 6:10). Moreover, we only hold as much power as we are submitted to the authority structures in place. Giving authority figures in our lives their due honour in the Lord is paramount to being Love-empowered (Matt 10:40-41).

This Love-empowerment is the authority and power that is available for us to function effectively as priests and kings of God to whom His authority is delegated to. This is an integral part of being disciples, because we are called to exercise this power as kings – to cast out demons (Luke 4:36), rebuke sicknesses and diseases (Luke 4:39) and take authority over our situations (Matt 21:19). And also, as priests where we are to speak to God in prayer, interceding for others for their salvation (2 Cor 4:3-4, 6) for healing, favour, provision etc.

CONCLUSION

By the grace of God through Christ, this *energes* is made available to all His saints. We might be witnesses to the *kratos*, *exousias*, *ischus*, *dunamis* and even *energes* in the lives of spiritual giants in our lives, but there is a question that must be answered by each person who calls himself a disciple of the Christ: Is this true in my life? Do I manifest the *energes* of God as a Love-empowered believer who dwells in the Word and is filled with the Spirit? But do we truly understand what it means to have *power*?

The challenge has been set. As Christians, disciples of Christ, we are called to work out our faith through love, exercising and experiencing the spiritual authority and power in the Kingdom of the Almighty God. So, is this true in your life?

QUESTIONS

What does a Spirit- and Word-empowered believer mean/look like to you? Share an instance where you experienced or witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit/the Word.

Between being Word-empowered and Spirit-empowered, which comes easier to you? Why do you think is this your natural inclination and what can you do to move beyond your comfort zone in this?

Considering that there are conditions to us being able to exercise these powers, what are some things you intend to do differently?