



# Bible Study

# Power!

**Matthew Kneisler**

**October 2005**

# Bible Study – Power!

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## 1.0 Introduction to Power!

Have you ever experienced the intense rush of wind from an on coming storm? Have you ever experienced the brilliant flash of lightning or the deafening sounds of a thunder from a nearby lightning strike? The book of Job, shares these insights helping us to learn more of the capabilities of our incredible Creator:



Tony Gutierrez / AP

Job 26:7 He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. <sup>8</sup> He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight. <sup>9</sup> He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it. <sup>10</sup> He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness. <sup>11</sup> The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke. <sup>12</sup> By his power he churned up the sea; by his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces. <sup>13</sup> By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent. <sup>14</sup> And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! **Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"**

Now consider your life. You claim to be a Christian, but do you realize that the same God who has the power to create the universe, has given you incredible power as well?

How do you receive this power? It is through Jesus Christ!

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Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when **we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.**

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.** [KJV]

If you understand this, you will begin to see that you have power as a Christian. It is this power that will enable you to act, experience, and live in a way that non-Christians will never know.

It has been said that, "Christians are millionaires that never make withdrawals!" We have all the resources of the universe, all the power we could ever want, but rarely use it. It is a free gift from God. You can not purchase this power with money! It is God's gift through baptism.

Acts 8:18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money <sup>19</sup>and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." <sup>20</sup>Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy **the gift of God** with money!



Acts 1:5 For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.** <sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

How can you use the power of Christ in your daily life? Most importantly, you must have a relationship with Christ. Your relationship will include great communication! Your communication will include prayer (speaking to God the Father) and more importantly, listening to the Father through His spirit.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.**

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. **He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.**

It is through this bible study that we will discuss and learn more about His power and what He freely gives to us if we are willing to seek Him!

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We will use the book, God's Power in Your Life by R.A. Torrey. During this study we will see power from:

- The Word of God
- The Blood of Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- Prayer
- Surrender and Humility
- And Other Areas

Another word for power is authority. All authority has been given to Jesus Christ. Since we are his brothers, adopted sons, followers, we have access to all the power of the universe.

Now consider things in your life which you feel hopeless, powerless. Where does this feeling originate?

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

Satan is the father of lies, and he will keep you from receiving the power that is in Christ. Jesus has promised power and authority and He will help you in all things. Satan will keep you under his power. However, you can escape!

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

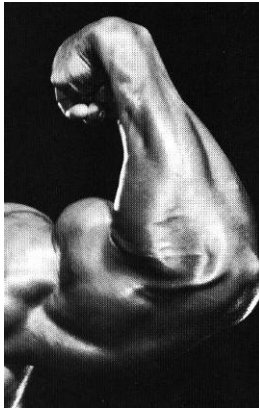
It is the truth of God, His word, which is the beginning of freedom and the start of gaining the power in Christ.

## **1.1 What is Power?**

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## 1.1.1 Dictionary Definition: Power



**pow·er** (pou<sup>1</sup>ər)  
*n.*

1. The capacity to perform or act effectively.
2. Strength or force that is exerted or that is capable of being exerted.
3. The amount of work done per unit time.
4. A measure of the magnification of an optical instrument, such as a microscope or telescope.

Source: *The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary*  
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Houghton Mifflin Company.

Main Entry: **pow·er**

Function: *noun*

**1** : capability of acting or of producing an effect <parties of unequal bargaining *power*>

**2 a** : authority or capacity to act that is delegated by law or constitution — often used in pl.

## 1.1.2 Thesaurus Description: Power

**Main Entry:** power

**Part of Speech:** noun 1

**Definition:** competence

**Synonyms:** ability, aptitude, bent, capability, capacity, competency, dynamism, effectiveness, efficacy, endowment, faculty,

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function, gift, influence, potential, potentiality, qualification, skill, talent, turn, virtue

**Source:** *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*  
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**Main Entry:** power

**Part of Speech:** noun 2

**Definition:** capacity

**Synonyms:** applied force, arm, beef, brawn, dynamism, energy, force, forcefulness, horsepower, intensity, mechanical energy, might, muscle, omnipotence, potency, potential, powder, puissance, sinew, stream, strength, vigor, vim, virtue, voltage, weight

**Source:** *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*  
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**Main Entry:** power

**Part of Speech:** noun 3

**Definition:** control

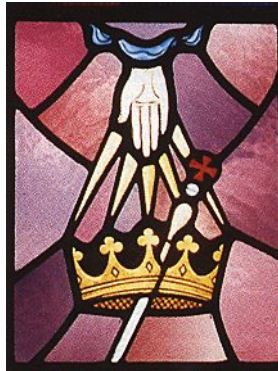
**Synonyms:** ascendancy, authority, authorization, beef, birthright, clout, command, connection, diadem, direction, dominance, domination, dominion, hegemony, imperium, influence, inside track, juice, jurisdiction, last word, law, leadership, license, management, masterdom, mastery, might, moxie, omnipotence, paramountcy, predominance, prerogative, prestige, privilege, regency, right, rule, say-so, scepter, sovereignty, steam, strength, strings, superiority, supremacy, sway, warrant, weight, wire

**Source:** *Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.1.1)*  
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
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## 1.1.3 Dictionary Definition: Authority



Often the word authority is used with or near the word power.

**au·thor·i·ty**   [Pronunciation Key](#) (ə-thô'ī-tē, ə-thŏr', ô-thôr', ô-thŏr'-)  
*n. pl. au·thor·i·ties*

1.
  - a. The power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge.
  - b. One that is invested with this power, especially a government or body of government officials: *land titles issued by the civil authority.*
2. Power assigned to another; authorization: *Deputies were given authority to make arrests.*
3. A public agency or corporation with administrative powers in a specified field: *a city transit authority.*
4.
  - a. An accepted source of expert information or advice: *a noted authority on birds; a reference book often cited as an authority.*
  - b. A quotation or citation from such a source: *biblical authorities for a moral argument.*
5. Justification; grounds: *On what authority do you make such a claim?*
6. A conclusive statement or decision that may be taken as a guide or precedent.
7. Power to influence or persuade resulting from knowledge or experience: *political observers who acquire authority with age.*
8. Confidence derived from experience or practice; firm self-assurance: *played the sonata with authority.*

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[Middle English *auctorite*, from Old French *autorite*, from Latin *auctōritās*, *auctōritāt-*, from *auctor*, *creator*. See **author**.]

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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## 1.2 Survey of the Word of God

The word power, authority and strength are used several times. And the same Hebrew or Greek word is used interchangeably with those three words.

### 1.2.1 Biblical Word Usage

How is the word used in the bible? How was it intended to be used?

Power	272
Authority	37
Strength	242
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>551</b>

Strongs #	Hb/Gk Word	Pronunciation	English Equivalent
<b>Old Testament (Hebrew)</b>			
<a href="#">0410</a>	'el	{ale}	God, god, power, mighty, goodly, great, idols, Immanuel, might, strong
<a href="#">01369</a>	g@buwrah	{gheb-oo-raw'}	might, strength, power, mighty acts, mighty, force, mastery
<a href="#">02220</a>	z@rowa`	{zer-o'-ah}	arm, power, shoulder, holpen, mighty, strength
<a href="#">02428</a>	chayil	{khah'-yil}	army, man of valour, host, forces, valiant, strength, riches, wealth, power, substance, might, strong, misc
<a href="#">02429</a>	chayil (Aramaic)	{khah'-yil}	aloud, army, power, most
<a href="#">02632</a>	checen (Aramaic)	{khay'-sen}	power
<a href="#">03027</a>	yad	{yawd}	hand, by, consecrate, him, power, them, places, tenons, thee, coast, side, misc
<a href="#">03028</a>	yad (Aramaic)	{yad}	hand, power
<a href="#">03581</a>	koach	{ko'-akh}	strength, power, might, force, ability,

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Strongs #	Hb/Gk Word	Pronunciation	English Equivalent
			able, able, chameleon, fruits, powerful, substance, wealth, weary
<a href="#">04475</a>	<i>memshalah</i>	{mem-shaw-law'}	dominion, rule, dominion, government, power
<a href="#">04910</a>	<i>mashal</i>	{maw-shal'}	rule, ruler, reign, dominion, governor, ruled over, power, indeed
<a href="#">05794</a>	<i>`az</i>	{az}	strong, fierce, mighty, power, greedy, roughly, stronger
<a href="#">05797</a>	<i>`oz</i>	{oze}	strength, strong, power, might, boldness, loud, mighty
<a href="#">05808</a>	<i>`izzuwz</i>	{iz-zooz'}	strong, power
<a href="#">06184</a>	<i>`ariyts</i>	{aw-reets'}	terrible, terrible one, oppressor, mighty, power, strong, violent
<a href="#">07786</a>	<i>suwr</i>	{soor}	reign, have power, made prince
<a href="#">07980</a>	<i>shalat</i>	{shaw-lat'}	rule, give power, dominion
<a href="#">07981</a>	<i>sh@let</i> (Aramaic)	{shel-ate'}	...ruler, have power, have mastery, rule
<a href="#">07983</a>	<i>shiltown</i> (Aramaic)	{shil-tone'}	power
<a href="#">07989</a>	<i>shalliyt</i>	{shal-leet'}	governor, mighty, that hath power, ruler
<a href="#">08280</a>	<i>sarah</i>	{saw-raw'}	power
<a href="#">08592</a>	<i>ta`atsumah</i>	{tah-ats-oo-maw'}	power
<a href="#">08633</a>	<i>toqeph</i>	{to'-kef}	power, strength, authority
<b>New Testament (Greek)</b>			
<a href="#">1411</a>	<i>dunamis</i>	{doo'-nam-is}	power, mighty work, strength, miracle, might, virtue, mighty, misc
<a href="#">1415</a>	<i>dunatos</i>	{doo-nat-os'}	possible, able, mighty, strong, could, power, mighty man
<a href="#">1756</a>	<i>energes</i>	{en-er-gace'}	effectual, powerful
<a href="#">1849</a>	<i>exousia</i>	{ex-oo-see'-ah}	power, authority, right, liberty, jurisdiction, strength
<a href="#">1850</a>	<i>exousiazō</i>	{ex-oo-see-ad'-zo}	have power of, exercise authority upon, bring under power
<a href="#">2478</a>	<i>ischuros</i>	{is-khoo-ros'}	mighty, strong, strong man, boisterous, powerful, valiant
<a href="#">2479</a>	<i>ischus</i>	{is-khoos'}	strength, power, might, ability, mightily, mighty
<a href="#">2904</a>	<i>kratos</i>	{krat'-os}	power, dominion, strength, mighty
<a href="#">3168</a>	<i>megaleiotes</i>	{meg-al-i-ot'-ace}	mighty power, magnificence, majesty

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## 1.2.1.1 Detailed Usage

The following is a selected list of most common usage from the Old and New Testaments.

Strong's Number	Original	Pronunciation	Outline of biblical usage	Translation Count
Hebrew 1369	גְּבוּרָה	g@buwrah {gheb-oo-raw'}	1) strength, might a) strength b) might, valour, bravery 2) c) might, mighty deeds (of God)	<a href="#">AV - might</a> 27, <a href="#">strength</a> 17, <a href="#">power</a> 9, <a href="#">mighty acts</a> 4, <a href="#">mighty</a> 2, <a href="#">force</a> 1, <a href="#">mastery</a> 1; 61
Hebrew 3581	כֹּחַ	koach {ko'-akh} or (Dan. 11:6) kowach {ko'- akh}	1) strength, power, might a) human strength b) strength (of angels) c) power (of God) d) strength (of animals) e) strength, produce, wealth (of soil) 2) a small reptile, probably a kind of lizard, which is unclean 3) a) perhaps an extinct animal, exact meaning is unknown	<a href="#">AV - strength</a> 58, <a href="#">power</a> 47, <a href="#">might</a> 7, <a href="#">force</a> 3, <a href="#">ability</a> 2, <a href="#">able</a> 2, <a href="#">able</a> + 06113 1, <a href="#">chameleon</a> 1, <a href="#">fruits</a> 1, <a href="#">powerful</a> 1, <a href="#">substance</a> 1, <a href="#">wealth</a> 1, <a href="#">weary</a> + 03019 1; 126
Greek 1411	δυναμις	dunamis {doo'- nam-is}	1) strength power, ability a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth b) power for performing miracles c) moral power and excellence of soul d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth e) power and resources arising from numbers f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts For Synonyms see entry 5820	<a href="#">AV - power</a> 77, <a href="#">mighty</a> <a href="#">work</a> 11, <a href="#">strength</a> 7, <a href="#">miracle</a> 7, <a href="#">might</a> 4, <a href="#">virtue</a> 3, <a href="#">mighty</a> 2, <a href="#">misc</a> 9; 120
Greek 1849	ἐξουσία	exousia {ex-oo- see'-ah}	1) power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases a) leave or permission 2) physical and mental power a) the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises 3) the power of authority (influence) and of	<a href="#">AV - power</a> 69, <a href="#">authority</a> 29, <a href="#">right</a> 2, <a href="#">liberty</a> 1, <a href="#">jurisdiction</a> 1, <a href="#">strength</a>

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Strong's Number	Original	Pronunciation	Outline of biblical usage	Translation Count
			right (privilege) 4) the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed) a) universally 5) authority over mankind a) specifically 6) the power of judicial decisions 7) of authority to manage domestic affairs a) metonymically 8) a thing subject to authority or rule a) jurisdiction 9) one who possesses authority a) a ruler, a human magistrate b) the leading and more powerful among created beings superior to man, spiritual potentates c) a sign of the husband's authority over his wife 10) the veil with which propriety required a women to cover herself a) the sign of regal authority, a crown For Synonyms see entry 5820	1; 103

## 1.2.2 Biblical Verses

What are your weaknesses, problems, sufferings, difficulties, challenges, heartaches? Do you feel that they are impossible for God to help you? Have you asked Him for help in these areas?

Luke 1:37 For **nothing is impossible** with God.

Psalm 62:11 God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That **power belongs to God**. [NKJV]

Jesus is empowered with all things, the entire universe, and he has promised his followers to ask and receive (John 15:7)! With a proper Christian relationship, we **will receive** according to His timing through faith and belief. In some cases, we must patiently wait on the Lord as he prepares us for His best blessings.

Isaiah 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

From the very beginning of time, God speaks and it happens. God has power. He has awesome power!

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**Spiral Galaxy M64**

Genesis 1:3 And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The voice of God commands power. A CNN article date July 23, 2003 captured this amazing story:

"SYDNEY, Australia (CNN) -- Ever wanted to wish upon a star? Well, you have 70,000 million million million to choose from. That's the total number of stars in the known universe, according to a study by Australian astronomers. It's also about 10 times as many stars as grains of sand on all the world's beaches and deserts. The figure -- 7 followed by 22 zeros or, more accurately, 70 sextillion -- was calculated by a team of stargazers based at the Australian National University."



Psalms 147:4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. <sup>5</sup>  
**Great is our Lord and mighty in power**; his understanding has no limit.

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Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. **Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.**

And God's message and His Kingdom represent power:

1 Corinthians 1:18 For **the message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is **the power of God**.<sup>19</sup> For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."<sup>[c]</sup>

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the **kingdom of God** is not a matter of talk **but of power**.

## 1.3 Indescribable

By the power of God, He created the universe. As His beloved children, we have access to that incredible power!

### Indescribable Chris Tomlin

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea  
Creation's revealing Your majesty  
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring  
Every creature unique in the song that it sings  
All exclaiming

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untameable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go  
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow  
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light  
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night  
None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untameable,  
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Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untameable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God  
Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
Incomparable, unchangeable  
You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same  
You are amazing God  
You are amazing God

## **1.4 Questions**

1. Where is God's power evident in your life? Is this associated with the gifts He has given you?
2. What are your weaknesses in life? Is this where Satan attacks you?
3. What new things did you learn about God's power through this lesson?
4. What are your plans to develop strength, power and authority in your life?
5. Why would someone want the power of God in their life?
6. In what ways can the power of God work through you to benefit others?
7. Can one person's weakness, be another person's power? How can you share your God given power with those who are weaker?

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## 2.0 Power of God's Word

Why do we need power? Have you ever been oppressed, treated unjustly or put down? Have you even been told:

- “You are not good enough?”
- “You can't do that?!”
- “You will fail if you try that?”

As a true Christian, you have a very strong adversary and mean oppressor that not only wants to put you down but ultimately **destroy you!** This oppressor is Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion **looking for someone to devour.**

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan, who leads the whole world astray.** He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Although Satan is very strong, God and His power are superior and supreme in strength and might!

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because **the one who is in you is greater** than the one who is in the world.

Praise the Lord that we have a powerful Savior! So if we want to access the Power of God and get rid of the oppression, where do we start?

God is clear that his Word is the foundation! If we know His word, then we will also know and have access to the power of God!

Matthew 22:29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because **you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**

Also, think about the foundation of the earth and all of creation. If we are at all familiar with the bible, we know the Power of God created EVERYTHING!

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth.**

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John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>**Through him all things were made**; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood<sup>[a]</sup> it.

**How** did God create everything? With his WORDS! His words were the power which created the universe and all that is in it.



Genesis 1:3 And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:6 And **God said**, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."

Genesis 1:9 And **God said**, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

Genesis 1:11 Then **God said**, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

Genesis 1:14 And **God said**, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,

Genesis 1:20 And **God said**, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

Genesis 1:24 And **God said**, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

Genesis 1:26 Then **God said**, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, <sup>[b]</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>1</sup> Samuel 3:19 The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he **let none of his words fall to the ground.** <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized

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that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.<sup>21</sup> The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there **he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.**

## 2.1 Brief History of God's Written Word

What happened to God's verbal Words? Where are they today? The prophets were commanded by God to record them!

Exodus 24:3 When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do."<sup>4</sup> **Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.**

Exodus 34:27 Then **the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words,** for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

Deuteronomy 31:9 **So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests,** the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

Isaiah 8:1 The LORD said to me, "**Take a large scroll and write on it** with an ordinary pen

God's word was written down and past hand to hand throughout the ages.

1 Chronicles 34:14 While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, Hilkiah **the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses.**<sup>15</sup> Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan.

Matthew 22:24"Teacher," they said, "**Moses told us** that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him.

What are we supposed to do with God's Words and how do we get power from them?

2 Timothy 3:14 **But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,<sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

2 Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

2 Peter 1:19 **And we have the word of the prophets** made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.<sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own

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interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but **men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

Revelation 1:1 <sup>1</sup>The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testifies to everything he saw—that is, **the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.** <sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

## 2.2 Correct Use Supplies Power

Proverbs 30:5 "**Every word of God is flawless**; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. <sup>6</sup>Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.



What are the power words of God's powerful Word?

### 2.2.1 Power of Wisdom to Guide and Direct

Psalm 119:98 **Your commands make me wiser** than my enemies, for they are ever with me.

Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; **it gives understanding** to the simple.

Psalm 119:105 **Your word is a lamp** to my feet and a light for my path.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. <sup>21</sup>Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. <sup>22</sup>When you walk, **they will guide you**; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to **make you wise** for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture

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is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

## 2.2.2 Power to Instruct

2 Kings 23:3 The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD -to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

Psalm 19:11 By them is **your servant warned**; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. <sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; **do not let me stray from your commands.** <sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Acts 18:24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor<sup>[b]</sup> and **taught about Jesus accurately**, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was **written to teach us**, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

2 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training** in righteousness,

### 2.2.2.1 Power to Convict

2 Kings 22:8 Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD." He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. <sup>9</sup> Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: "Your officials have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple." <sup>10</sup> Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. <sup>11</sup> When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. <sup>12</sup> He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: <sup>13</sup> "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because **our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book**; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, **they were cut to the heart** and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

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Acts 7:51<sup>11</sup> "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup>Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— <sup>53</sup>**you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.**" <sup>54</sup>When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

Romans 3:19<sup>9</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, **through the law we become conscious of sin.**

Galatians 3:22<sup>22</sup> **But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin,** so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Hebrews 4:12<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living 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.**

## 2.2.2.2 Power to Purify

Psalms 119:9<sup>9</sup> How can a young man **keep his way pure**? By living according to your word.

John 15:3<sup>3</sup> **You are already clean** because of the word I have spoken to you.

John 17:17<sup>17</sup> **Sanctify<sup>[b]</sup> them** by the truth; your word is truth.

Acts 20:32<sup>32</sup> "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all **those who are sanctified.**

Ephesians 5:26<sup>26</sup>, **to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[b]</sup> her** by the washing with water through the word

Hebrews 4:12<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living 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. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

## 2.2.3 Power to Edify or Build-up

### 2.2.3.1 Power to Nourish

Jeremiah 15:16<sup>16</sup> When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

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Job 23:12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Hebrews 5:12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup>Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

## 2.2.3.2 Power to Comfort



Psalm 119:46 I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, <sup>47</sup>for I delight in your commands because I love them.

Psalm 119:50 My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Psalm 119:52 I remember your ancient laws, O LORD, and I find comfort in them.

Psalm 119:81 My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word. <sup>82</sup>My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, "When will you comfort me?"

## 2.2.3.3 Power to Encourage and Hope

Psalm 119:43 Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.

Psalm 119:49 Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope.

Psalm 119:74 May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.

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Psalm 119:81 My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.

Psalm 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

## 2.2.3.4 Power of Peace, Joy and Healing

Psalm 19:8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psalm 85:8 I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints— but let them not return to folly.

Jeremiah 15:16 When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,<sup>[j]</sup> who<sup>[k]</sup> have been called according to his purpose.

## 2.2.4 Power of Truth



Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. [NKJV]

Acts 17:2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures

Galatians 4:30 But what does the Scripture say? ...

### 2.2.4.1 Power of Instruction

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

John 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

### 2.2.4.2 Power to Discern

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Hebrews 4:12<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living 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.** <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

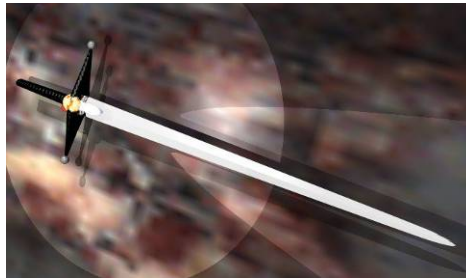
## 2.2.4.3 Power to Learn

Hosea 8:12<sup>12</sup> I write out my revelation for them in detail and **they pretend they can't read it.** [The Message]

Matthew 22:29<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "You are in error because **you do not know the Scriptures** or the power of God.

Mark 12:24<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because **you do not know the Scriptures** or the power of God?"

## 2.2.5 Powerful Weapon



Hebrews 4:12<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living 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. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Ephesians 6:17<sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

## 2.2.6 Powerful Understanding and Light

Psalms 19:7<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. **The commands of the LORD are radiant**, giving light to the eyes.

Psalms 119:11<sup>11</sup> I have hidden **your word in my heart** that I might not sin against you.

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Psalm 119:98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. <sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. <sup>100</sup> **I have more understanding** than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

Psalm 119:104 **I gain understanding** from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; **it gives understanding** to the simple.

2 Peter 1:19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to **a light shining in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

## 2.2.7 Power of Salvation

John 20:31 But these are written that you may<sup>[a]</sup> believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing **you may have life** in his name.

Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the **good news about Jesus**.

Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. <sup>12</sup> **Many of the Jews believed**, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Acts 28:23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup> **Some were convinced** by what he said, but others would not believe.

2 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to **make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which **can save you**.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you **have eternal life**.

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## 2.2.8 Powerful Testimony of Jesus



John 5:39<sup>c</sup> You diligently study<sup>c</sup> the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that **testify about me**,<sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Acts 10:43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins **through his name**."

Acts 17:2<sup>2</sup> As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,<sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Christ<sup>a</sup> had to suffer and rise from the dead. "**This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,**<sup>b</sup>" he said.

Acts 18:28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that **Jesus was the Christ**.

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures **concerning himself**.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may<sup>a</sup> **believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## 2.3 Jesus Used the Word with Power

Jesus quoted and used the scriptures with great power. He used them to teach others and rebuke them when they were malicious in intent.

Matthew 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "**It is written**: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'<sup>1</sup> " <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For **it is written**: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'<sup>2</sup> " <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'<sup>3</sup> " <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you

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will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For **it is written:** 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'<sup>[4]</sup>"

Matthew 22:43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, <sup>44</sup> **'The Lord said** to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." <sup>[e]</sup> <sup>45</sup> If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup> No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled **that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**"

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, "**Is it not written in your Law,** 'I have said you are gods'<sup>[e]</sup>? <sup>35</sup> If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and **the Scripture cannot be broken—**

Every word of God has a powerful purpose. Do we use God's word powerfully and purposefully?

Isaiah 55: 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> **so is my word that goes out from my mouth:** It will not return to me empty, but **will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose** for which I sent it.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: **'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**<sup>1</sup>

## 2.4 We Can Use the Word with Power

It is God's word that gives us power. But our own words, the words we speak also have power. This should not be a surprise to us, because we were made in God's image. The words of God are powerful and so our words are powerful too!

Proverbs 18:21 **The tongue has the power** of life and death,

But with this power comes responsibility. We must be careful because we have the power to build up and tear down with what we say.

### 2.4.1 Our Words Build Up

Proverbs 15:4 **The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life,** but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 12:25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but **a kind word cheers** him up.

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Proverbs 16:24 **Pleasant words are a honeycomb**, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Matthew 1:22 All this took place to fulfill **what the Lord had said through the prophet:**

John 11:43 When he had said this, **Jesus called in a loud voice**, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

## 2.4.2 Our Words Destroy

Proverbs 15:4 The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but **a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.**

James 3:3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it **we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.** 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Mark 11:13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then **he said to the tree**, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

It is good that some people choose to ignore our words; otherwise, our world would be so different!!

Source	Quote
"Popular Mechanics," forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949	"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."
Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943	"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957	"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."
Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip	"But what is it good for?"
Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital	"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in

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Source	Quote
Equipment Corp., 1977	their home."
Western Union internal memo, 1876	"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."
David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s	"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"
A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.	"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible."
Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind"	"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."
Response to Debbi Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' Cookies	"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make."
Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962	"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."
Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895	"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."
Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-It" Notepads	"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this."
Apple Computer Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to get Atari and H-P interested in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer	"So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you. You haven't got through college yet.'"
Response to Arthur Jones, who solved the "unsolvable" problem by inventing Nautilus	"You want to have consistent and uniform muscle development across all of your muscles? It can't be done. It's just a fact of life. You just have to accept inconsistent muscle development as an unalterable condition of weight training."
Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859	"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy."
Admiral William Leahy, US Atomic Bomb Project	"The bomb will never go off. I speak as an expert in explosives."
Harry Guggenheim, millionaire aviation enthusiast	"This fellow Charles Lindbergh will never make it. He's doomed."
Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929	"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau."
Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy,	"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military

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Source	Quote
Ecole Superieure de Guerre	value."
Dr. Lee De Forest, inventor of the vacuum tube and father of television	"Man will never reach the moon regardless of all future scientific advances."
Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899	"Everything that can be invented has been invented."

## 2.4.3 Our Words Judged

Matthew 12:34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the **overflow of the heart the mouth speaks**.<sup>35</sup> The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.<sup>36</sup> But I tell you that men will have to **give account on the day of judgment for every careless word** they have spoken.<sup>37</sup> **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**"

As saints in God Kingdom, we will judge what others and we will judge what they say!

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 6:1 If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? <sup>2</sup>Do you not know that the **saints will judge the world**? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

## 2.5 Questions

1. Did you realize that it was God's word which created the heavens and earth?
2. Regarding the power of God's word, what new revelation did you see in this study?
3. Why is there power in truth and righteousness?
4. Have you ever quoted scripture like Jesus did to combat the devil?
5. What impact do your words have on those that are submissive to you? What is the impact to those who are superior to you?
6. Since all of your words will be judged by God, what impact does this have on what you say? Can your words be more powerful as a result?
7. What would our world be like if the naysayers had power?

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## 3.0 Power of the Blood of Christ

Imagine for a moment, the warmth of your bed early on a cold winter morning. As you escape from your soft, cozy blankets, you peer out the window and see that it snowed heavily through the night. Everything is covered with a thick layer of pure, white snow. Everything is white, clean and lovely! As you move your gaze across the yard, the snow flakes glisten and twinkle from the rays the bright, rising sun. This image gives us a small glimpse of Almighty God: how clean, how pure, how beautiful, how holy and how glorious is His presence!



Daniel 7:9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. **His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.** His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

Matthew 28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **<sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.**

Mark 9:2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. **<sup>3</sup>His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.** <sup>4</sup>And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

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Revelation 1:12<sup>1</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man,"<sup>[b]</sup> dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>**His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow**, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

God is pure. God is clean. God is holy.

Isaiah 6:3<sup>1</sup> And they were calling to one another: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty**; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>1</sup> Peter 1:15<sup>1</sup> but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"<sup>[c]</sup>

## 3.1 Holy Versus Unholy

Today was the big day for Bob and Susan. They were getting married! Both Bob and Susan had spent hours and hours preparing for their big day. They wanted everything to be perfect. Bob looked stunning in his white tuxedo, and Susan looked gorgeous in her white flowing dress. Combined they were the epitome of a wedding couple and they looked perfect! As they were getting ready to take pictures, everyone realized that little Stevie, the ring bearer, had been outside playing. Just then Stevie came busting through the door and headed straight for Bob and Susan. Another boy was chasing Stevie. Everyone could not see it at first, but little Stevie was covered with mud. And to hide from his pursuer, he grabbed both Bob and Susan and tightly hugged them. Before they knew what happened, their beautiful white, clean clothing for their wedding day was now smeared, streaked, and embedded with dirt. Their clothing was ruined. Their wedding day ...



Hebrews 12:14<sup>1</sup> Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; **without holiness no one will see the Lord.**

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Revelation 21:26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> **Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful**, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

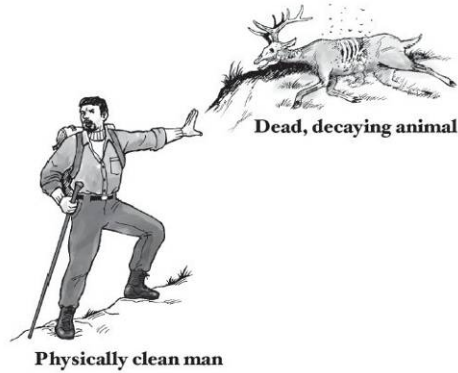


Image courtesy Ron Shea [www.ClearGospel.org](http://www.ClearGospel.org)

Holiness and unholiness [sin] can not coexist! God will **never** allow it. Our Holy Father will not allow sin to be near Him. Just as the wedding couple did not want little Stevie to touch them, God does not want impurity [sin] around His Holy dwelling, His pure Kingdom!

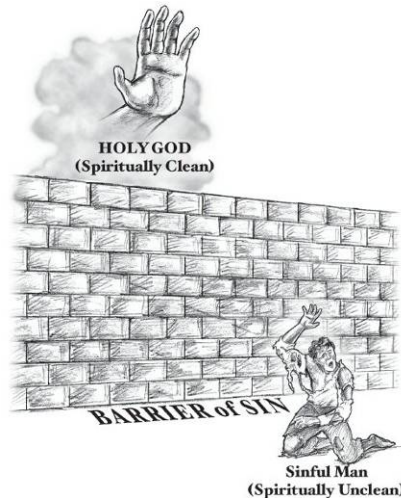


Image courtesy Ron Shea [www.ClearGospel.org](http://www.ClearGospel.org)

Isaiah 52:11 Depart, depart, go out from there! **Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure**, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.

2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. **Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.**"<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>18</sup> "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."<sup>[e]</sup>

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## 3.1.1 Sin and Death

Once sin entered this world, physical death had to follow. Otherwise, sinful Adam and Eve would live for eternity in the sinful state and would have been eternally separated from God like the demons!

Genesis 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it **you will surely die.**"

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. **He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.**"

James 1:15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and **sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but **sent them to hell**,<sup>[a: Greek Tartarus]</sup> putting them into gloomy dungeons<sup>[b]</sup> to be held for judgment;

Revelation 20:10 And **the devil**, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They **will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

Like God, Satan is a spirit and can not die. Satan's perverseness remains with him for all eternity.

## 3.1.2 Sin and Sacrifice

Through God's holy design, the only way to atone for sin or fix the problem of the sin was **by death** through sacrifice. The first recorded death after the first sin was a sacrifice performed by God for Adam and Eve:

Genesis 3:21 The LORD God made **garments of skin** for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

An innocent animal died at the hand of God and was a sacrifice for the sin of the guilty. Its skin was removed for their covering. Therefore its blood was shed as a sacrifice for the guilty. But this was only a foreshadowing of what was to come with Christ. Immediately after the first sin, God knew a superior sacrifice was needed to save mankind.

Revelation 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the **Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.**<sup>[b]</sup>

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; **the punishment that brought us peace was upon him**, and by his wounds we are healed.

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Mark 14:23 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup>"**This is my blood of the<sup>[b]</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many,**" he said to them. <sup>25</sup>"I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "**Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"

John 1:36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "**Look, the Lamb of God!**"

Hebrews 10:9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will, **we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ** once for all.

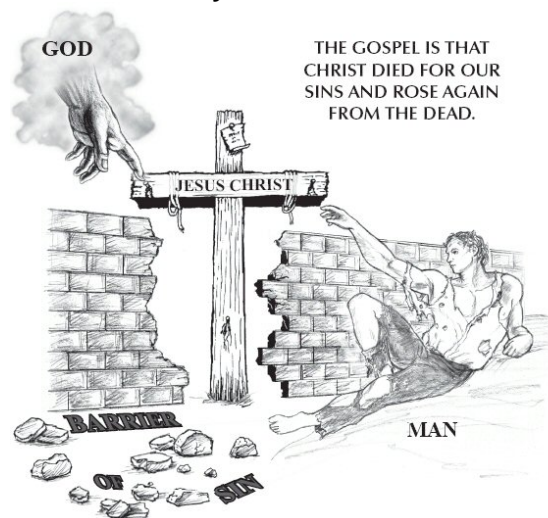


Image courtesy Ron Shea [www.ClearGospel.org](http://www.ClearGospel.org)

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For **he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility**

It is through the blood of Christ that we are able to come before God and be united with Him. It is the power of the blood of Christ that allows this. Without this power, we could never join God and His Glory!

So, Christ's covering for us through His blood provides us a robe of righteousness!


Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me **with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

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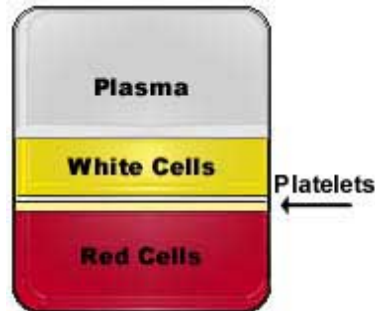
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## 3.2 Meaning of the Blood

The bible uses the word blood many times. Let's look at the Hebrew word and its meaning.

Strong's Number	Original	Pronunciation	Outline of biblical usage	Translation Count
Hebrew 1818		dam {dawm}	1) blood a) of wine (fig.)	<a href="#">AV - blood</a> 342, <a href="#">bloody</a> 15, person + 05315, <a href="#">bloodguiltiness</a> 1, <a href="#">bloodthirsty</a> + 0582 1, <a href="#">vr blood</a> 1; 361

When you think of blood, what comes to mind? Did you know what the physical properties of blood are? Do you know the spiritual properties of blood? Have you ever thought of them before? If not, here are some amazing comparisons!



Physical Components of Blood

Component	Physical Description	Spiritual Description
Blood	Blood has the important job of transporting oxygen, nutrients and heat to the different tissues and organs throughout your body. It also <b>carries waste</b> to the lungs, liver and kidneys for disposal. In addition, it helps your body fight infection and heal wounds. Without blood, we cannot live. Blood can only be obtained from healthy adult people. Therefore, blood donors are incredibly important to our community. Blood, which is made in bone marrow, has four main components: red cells, platelets, plasma and white cells. Each component has a separate and important role.	<sup>1</sup> John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the <b>blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us</b> from all sin.

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Component	Physical Description	Spiritual Description
Red Cells	Red cells are disc-shaped cells containing hemoglobin, which enables the red cells to pick up and <b>deliver oxygen to all parts of the body</b> . Red cells are given to patients when large amounts of blood are lost during surgery or after an accident.	Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the <b>blood that makes atonement for one's life</b> .
Platelets	Platelets are blood cells that help control bleeding. When a blood vessel is damaged, platelets collect at the site of injury and temporarily <b>repair the tear</b> . You can think of platelets like bricks that gather together at a blood vessel tear.	1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; <b>by his wounds you have been healed</b> .
Plasma	Plasma is a pale yellow mixture of water, proteins and salts. One of the functions of plasma is to act as a <b>carrier for blood cells, nutrients, enzymes and hormones</b> . Another function of plasma is to help blood clot by holding the platelets together. You can think of plasma as the cement that stabilizes the platelet bricks. Once a clot is formed, the wound can heal. Severely burned patients often need a plasma transfusion as a result of losing too much of their own plasma through the damaged skin.	John 6:54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and <b>my blood is real drink</b> . 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but <b>he who feeds on this bread will live forever</b> ."
White Cells	White cells are the <b>body's primary defense against infection</b> . They can move out of the blood stream and <b>help tissues being invaded</b> . White cells are sometimes given to patients who are not responding to antibiotic therapy.	Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 <b>They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb</b> and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

Medical description by <http://www.utahblood.org/facts/whatis.htm>

This is quote from Betty Miller at [www.Bible.com](http://www.Bible.com). Here analogy confirms the table above.

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“Early in my Christian walk, the Lord gave me a beautiful analogy of what the blood of Jesus does for us. This was especially meaningful to me coming from a medical background. As a former laboratory technician, one of my primary duties in the lab was to examine and analyze patients’ blood samples. The revelation the Lord gave me makes a comparison between human blood and the blood of Jesus. The function of human blood in the body is to keep it healthy and alive. The same is true of the blood of Jesus. His blood keeps the body of Christ healthy and alive.

Another of the main functions of the blood in the human body is to facilitate cleansing of the system. This is also one of the main purposes the blood of Jesus does for us. As members of the body of Christ, we are in need of cleansing when we come to the Lord. This cleansing process is an ongoing operation, as we walk in the Lord, so that we will remain free from sin.”

## 3.2.1 Charles Spurgeon Description of Blood

Charles Spurgeon spoke on the power of Christ’s blood on August 29, 1858 at the Music Hall in the Royal Surrey Gardens. Here is a selection of what he had to say:

“Of all substances blood is the most mysterious, and in some senses the most sacred. Scripture teacheth us,—and after all there is very much philosophy in Scripture,—that “the blood is the life thereof,”—that the life lieth in the blood. Blood, therefore, is the mysterious link between matter and spirit. How it is that the soul should in any degree have an alliance with matter through blood, we cannot understand; but certain it is that this is the mysterious link which unites these apparently dissimilar things together, so that the soul can inhabit the body, and the life can rest in the blood. God has attached awful sacredness to the shedding of blood. Under the Jewish dispensation, even the blood of animals was considered as sacred. Blood might never be eaten by the Jews; it was too sacred a thing to become the food of man. The Jew was scarcely allowed to kill his own food: certainly he must not kill it except he poured out the blood as a sacred offering to Almighty God. Blood was accepted by God as the symbol of the atonement. “Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin, because, I take it, blood hath such an affinity with life, that inasmuch as God would accept nought but blood, be signified that there must be a life offered to him, and that his great and glorious Son must surrender his life as a sacrifice for his sheep.”

## 3.3 Power of Protection

The power of Christ’s blood is seen in several different ways, namely, the power of protection. Let’s see how Christ’s blood protects us!

### 3.3.1 Protection from God’s Wrath

Christ took the wrath of God on himself. He did this for us. The blood of Christ protects us from the wrath of God.

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Exodus 12:13 The **blood will be a sign** for you on the houses where you are; and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you** when I strike Egypt.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet **it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer**, and though the LORD makes <sup>[c]</sup> his life a guilt offering,

Romans 1:18 The **wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men** who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Romans 4:15 because **law brings wrath**. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, **how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!** <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

## 3.3.2 Protection from Satan

Colossians 2:15 And **having disarmed the powers and authorities**, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. <sup>[d]</sup>

If Satan had understood the power of the Blood of Christ, He would have never had Christ crucified!

1 Corinthians 2:6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup>No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, **they would not have crucified the Lord** of glory.

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. <sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. <sup>11</sup>**They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

## 3.4 Power of Cleansing

How often do we shower or bathe? Why do we need this type of cleaning? We need physical cleaning because we live in a world where dirt and grime adhere to our bodies. Also, our bodies sweat, gather bacteria and produce odors which should cause us to repeat the daily

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cleaning cycle. Have you ever been around someone who has not bathed!! They stink!

Now consider your mind or your spirit! Does it stink before God?!

Leviticus 17:6 The priest is to sprinkle the blood against the altar of the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and burn the fat as **an aroma pleasing to the LORD.**

Numbers 18:17 "But you must not redeem the firstborn of an ox, a sheep or a goat; they are holy. **Sprinkle their blood** on the altar and burn their fat as an offering made by fire, **an aroma pleasing to the LORD.**

Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and live a life of love, just as **Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere **the fragrance of the knowledge of him.** <sup>15</sup>**For we are to God the aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup>To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, **the fragrance of life.** And who is equal to such a task?

How do you clean this part of yourself?

Hebrews 9:21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. <sup>22</sup>In fact, the law requires that nearly **everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

<sup>1</sup> John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all<sup>b1</sup> sin.** <sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us our sins and purify us** from all unrighteousness.

Notice in Hebrews the God says “cleansing” and “forgiveness” are synonymous! Through the blood of Christ we are clean and forgiven! We may now approach God throne in confidence knowing that He hears us. We have power in Christ’s blood because we can now go directly to God for ANYTHING!

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though **your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.**

Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through **the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.**

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Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, **since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,** <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

## 3.5 Power of Atonement

Another word for atonement is reconciliation. Here is the dictionary definition:

**a-tone-ment**   [Pronunciation Key](#) (ə-tōn'ment)  
n.

1. Amends or reparation made for an injury or wrong; expiation.
2.
  - a. Reconciliation or an instance of reconciliation between God and humans.
  - b. **Atonement** *Christianity*. The reconciliation of God and humans brought about by the redemptive life and death of Jesus.
3. *Obsolete*. Reconciliation; concord.

[Source](#): *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*  
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## atonement

n 1: compensation for a wrong; "we were unable to get satisfaction from the local store" [syn: [expiation](#), [satisfaction](#)] 2: the act of atoning for sin or wrongdoing (especially appeasing a deity) [syn: [expiation](#), [propitiation](#)]

[Source](#): *WordNet* ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

Romans 3:25 God presented him as a **sacrifice of atonement**,<sup>[1]</sup> **through faith in his blood**. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished

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Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were God's enemies, **we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son**, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

<sup>1</sup> John 2:2 **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins**, and not only for ours but also for<sup>[a]</sup> the sins of the whole world

<sup>1</sup> John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and **sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for<sup>[c]</sup> our sins.**

## 3.6 Power of Redemption

Through our sinful nature, we were bound and destined for eternal death: eternal separation from God! We earned death because of our sin. We were sold unto death! To change this lethal direction we had to be redeemed, we had to be purchased! Christ did this with His blood!

Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that, though **you used to be slaves to sin**, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. <sup>18</sup>**You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**

Romans 6:23 **For the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in<sup>[b]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, **sold as a slave to sin.**

## redemption

n 1: (Christianity) the act of delivering from sin or saving from evil [syn: [salvation](#)] 2: repayment of the principal amount of a debt or security at or before maturity (as when a corporation repurchases its own stock) 3: the act of purchasing back something previously sold [syn: [repurchase](#), [buyback](#)]

[Source](#): WordNet ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.<sup>[a]</sup> Be shepherds of the church of God,<sup>[b]</sup> which **he bought with his own blood.**

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Romans 3:23<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified freely by his grace through the **redemption that came by Christ Jesus**.

Ephesians 1:7<sup>7</sup> In him **we have redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

1 Corinthians 6:19<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>**you were bought at a price**. Therefore honor God with your body.

Revelation 5:9<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men for God** from every tribe and language and people and nation.

## 3.7 *Agnus Dei*

**Agnus Dei**  
Michael W. Smith

Alleluia  
Alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia  
Alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia  
Holy  
Holy are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb

You are holy  
Holy are you Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb

Amen

## 3.8 *Above All*

**Above All**  
Michael W Smith

Above all powers above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began

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Above all kingdoms above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasure of the earth  
There's no way to measure what You're worth

Crucified laid behind a stone  
You lived to die rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall and thought of me  
Above all

## **3.9 Questions**

1. When you think of God's Holiness and His Purity, what comes to mind?
2. Would you like murders, thieves or rapists living in your home? Why not?
3. Would you like to live forever in this sinful world? Or are your sights set on better things? Why?
4. What new things about blood did you learn in this lesson?
5. What kind of power is in blood? Consider the blood of animals, man, and Christ.
6. Why is the Blood of Christ so important to you and all mankind?

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## 4.0 Power of Holy Spirit

Continually in God's word, we read comparisons of the Holy Spirit to water. Water is powerful! It cuts through the earth to form meandering rivers, water falls and the Grand Canyon. It cuts through solid rock to form depressions, fissures and holes. In the winter it freezes, expands and causes massive boulders on mountains to crumble and tumble down. Water is very powerful.

Water is also gentle and soft. A warm shower or a soothing bath cleans and refreshes our deepest being. A cool, light mist on a hot day energizes us and provides relief from the heavy heat. Water, like God's Spirit, helps us in many, many ways. We need water to live; we need God's Spirit to enjoy life in eternity with Him!

<sup>Titus 3:5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through **the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

<sup>1 Corinthians 2:1</sup> When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit's power**, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.



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John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but **whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.** Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "**If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.**" <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as <sup>[c]</sup>the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup>By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

## 4.1 Our Bodies; His Home

How far do we need to go to gain access to this power? Where does this powerful source reside? The Holy Spirit is a closer than you could ever imagine. He abides, He lives within us!

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?** <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>**Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,** whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.



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Ephesians 3:16<sup>i</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches **he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,** <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Romans 8:5<sup>i</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man<sup>[e]</sup> is death, but **the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;**

Romans 8:9<sup>i</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if **the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if **Christ is in you,** your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Romans 8:14<sup>i</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For **you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,** but you received the Spirit of sonship.<sup>[g]</sup> And by him we cry, "Abba,<sup>[h]</sup> Father." <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

## 4.2 Holy Spirit Works for Us!

Remember the last time you ate at a restaurant? Did someone “wait” on you and get your drink, food, napkins, salt, pepper, chair, or other things? The waiter or waitress helped you so that you did not have to get up and go into the kitchen. You did not have to leave the table. You did not have to use your own power to get your food; someone else used their power and did it for you!



How often have you wanted to use your own power to solve your own problems? How often have you been frustrated because you failed?

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Psalm 55:22 **Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you;** he will never let the righteous fall.

Matthew 11:28<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.** <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

1 Thessalonians 1:4<sup>4</sup> "For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not simply with words, **but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.** You know how we lived among you for your sake.

1 Peter 5:7 **Cast all your anxiety on him** because he cares for you.

## 4.3 Power of Comfort

When was the last time you were hurting? How did it feel? Were you all alone? Our world is a painful world and Satan ensures that Christians will have a difficult time in this life. How do you respond? Do you try to fix your problems with pills or the Power of the Comforter?

1 Thessalonians 3:3<sup>3</sup> that **no one should be shaken by these afflictions;** for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. <sup>4</sup> For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that **we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened,** and you know. [NKJV]

Depression Statistics	Standard Treatments Inadequate	Causes of Depression
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depressive disorders affect approximately 18.8 million American adults or about 9.5% of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year. This includes major depressive disorder, dysthymic disorder, and bipolar disorder. [1]</li> <li>Everyone, will at some time in their life be affected by depression -- their own or someone else's, according to Australian Government statistics. (Depression statistics in Australia are comparable to those of the US and UK.) [2]</li> <li>Pre-schoolers are the fastest-growing market for antidepressants. At</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antidepressants work for 35 to 45% of the depressed population, while more recent figures suggest as low as 30%. [14]</li> <li>Standard antidepressants, SSRIs such as Prozac, Paxil (Aropax) and Zoloft, have recently been revealed to have serious risks, and are linked to suicide, violence, psychosis, abnormal bleeding and brain tumors. [15]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term (exogenous) depression can be caused by loss or extreme trauma.</li> <li>Chronic or life-long (endogenous) depression is caused by trauma in childhood which includes: emotional, physical or sexual abuse; yelling or threats of abuse; neglect (even two parents working); criticism; inappropriate or unclear expectations; maternal separation; conflict in the family; divorce; family addiction; violence in the family, neighborhood or TV; racism and poverty.</li> </ul>

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Depression Statistics	Standard Treatments Inadequate	Causes of Depression
<p>least four percent of preschoolers -- over a million -- are clinically depressed. [3]</p> <p>[<a href="#">Pill-Popping Pre-Schoolers</a>   <a href="#">Even Toddlers Get the Blues</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rate of increase of depression among children is an astounding 23% p.a. [4]</li> <li>• 15% of the population of most developed countries suffers severe depression. [5]</li> <li>• 30% of women are depressed. Men's figures were previously thought to be half that of women, but new estimates are higher. [6]</li> <li>• 54% of people believe depression is a personal weakness. [7]</li> <li>• 41% of depressed women are too embarrassed to seek help. [8]</li> <li>• 80% of depressed people are not currently having any treatment. [9]</li> <li>• 92% of depressed African-American males do not seek treatment. [10]</li> <li>• 15% of depressed people will commit suicide. [11]</li> <li>• Depression will be the second largest killer after heart disease by 2020 -- and studies show depression is a contributory factor to fatal coronary disease. [12]</li> </ul> <p>[<a href="#">Depression Link to Heart Disease</a>   <a href="#">Hostility, Depression May Boost Heart Disease</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depression results in more absenteeism than</li> </ul>	<p>[<a href="#">The Antidepressant Storm Rages On: Ely Lily Knew of Prozac Risk</a>   <a href="#">Antidepressants May Increase Risk of Abnormal Bleeding</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government (FDA) warnings highlight concerns over the efficacy and use of antidepressants in children. Antidepressants with the exception of Prozac have been banned in Britain for children. The <i>BMJ</i> recently reported they found no scientific evidence whatsoever that SSRIs work for preschoolers (or for anyone under eighteen). [16]</li> <li>• Antidepressants (particularly SSRIs) work only as well (or less) than placebos. [17]</li> </ul> <p>[<a href="#">Antidepressants Versus Placebos: Meaningful Advantages Are Lacking</a>   <a href="#">Placebos as Good as Antidepressants</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has an 80% relapse rate in the long term. [18]</li> <li>• Most doctors advise a combination of</li> </ul>	<p>[19]</p> <p>[<a href="#">Stress and Trauma Increase Risk of Depressive Disorders</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be a genetic basis to some depression, but even if there is that genetic propensity must be triggered by some traumatic or stressful event.</li> </ul> <p>[<a href="#">Depression and Genetics Shortens Life-span</a>   <a href="#">Maternal Deprivation Triggers Manic Depression</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The problem is structural more than chemical, although the latter is affected.</li> <li>• Trauma prevents certain parts of the brain (hippocampus and frontal lobe, where decisions are made) from developing properly. [20]</li> </ul> <p>[<a href="#">Smaller Hippocampal Volume Predicts Vulnerability to Psychological Trauma</a>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain neurochemicals are also involved, such as a surplus of noradrenaline, perhaps as a result of the structural problem. Recent studies indicate that serotonin, which is targeted by most antidepressants (SSRIs), is not as much a factor in depression as the long-term presence of stress hormone cortisol. [21]</li> </ul>

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Depression Statistics	Standard Treatments Inadequate	Causes of Depression
<p>almost any other physical disorder and costs employers more than US\$51 billion per year in absenteeism and lost productivity, not including high medical and pharmaceutical bills. <a href="#">[13]</a></p>	<p>therapy and antidepressants.</p>	<p><a href="#">[Myths of Depression Challenged]</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physiological problems, plus learned beliefs and behaviors, make functional decisions difficult, and the results reinforce the depression in a vicious cycle.</li> </ul>

Table data from <http://www.upliftprogram.com/>

Holy Spirit brings us comfort and brings us peace and joy! The world wants us to take pills to solve our problems. God wants us to use the Holy Spirit's power to solve our problems.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.** <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



Romans 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man<sup>[e]</sup> is death, but **the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;**

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, **peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,**

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.**

Romans 15:5 **And hope does not disappoint us,** because God has poured out his love into our hearts **by the Holy Spirit,** whom he has given us.

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<sup>1 Peter 5:7</sup> **Cast all your anxiety on him** because he cares for you.

When we are depressed or disappointed, the Holy Spirit will remind us of His word and refresh us!

<sup>John 14:26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

## 4.4 Power of Guidance

Do we really need guidance from God? Deep down, isn't each one of us good?! Our world is filled with crime and hate. This comes from the spirit of Satan. He is the one who comes to destroy and kill. Although we are Christians, we live in this evil world. We need help because we are affected by the perversions of man. We need a strong power to help us and protect us. Where will this power come from?

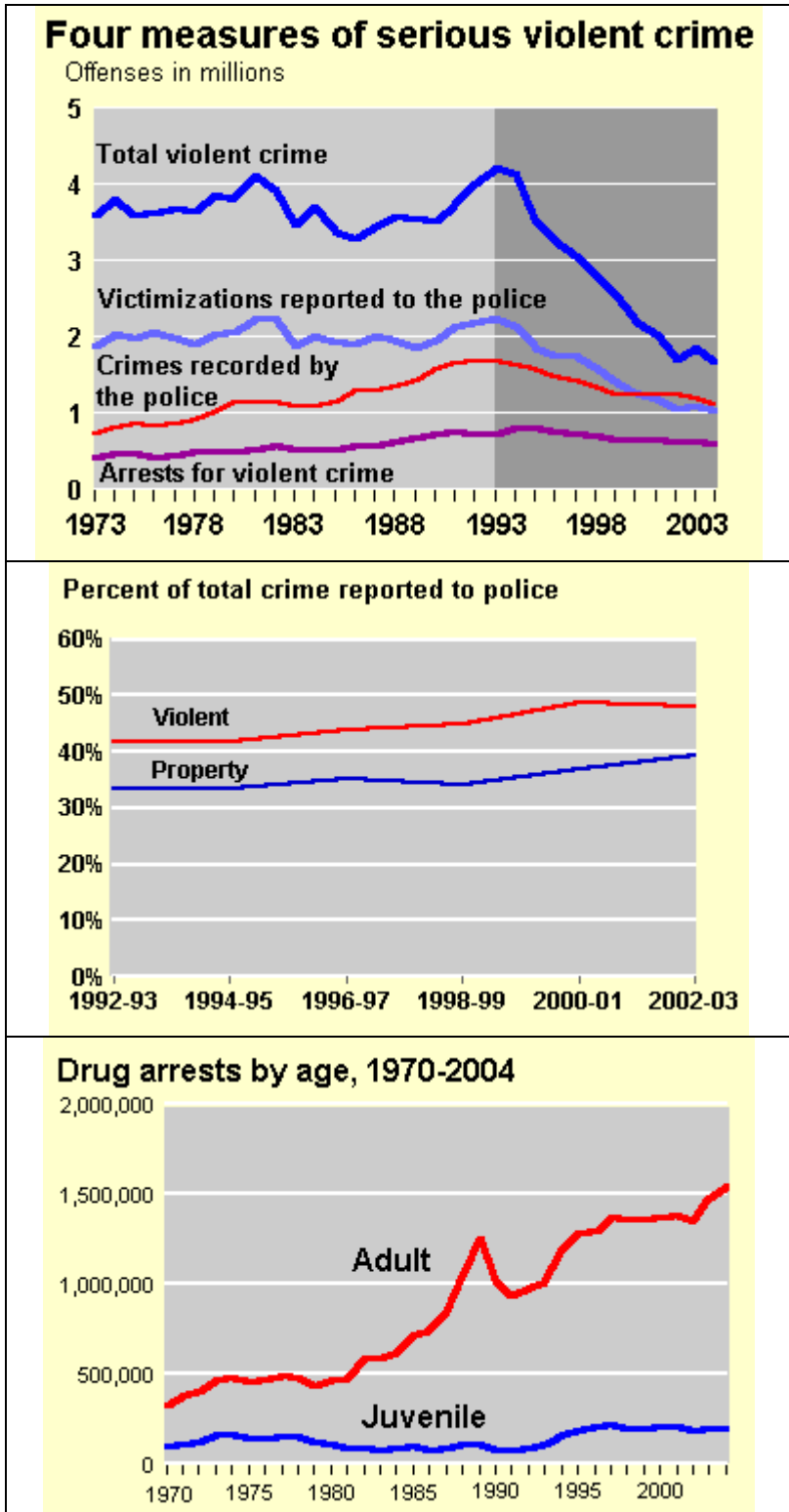
<sup>Jeremiah 17:9</sup> **The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.** Who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

<sup>Proverbs 1:8</sup> **Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.** <sup>9</sup> They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. <sup>10</sup> My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. <sup>11</sup> If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; <sup>12</sup> let's swallow them alive, like the grave, <sup>[b]</sup> and whole, like those who go down to the pit; <sup>13</sup> we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; <sup>14</sup> throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"- <sup>15</sup> **my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;** <sup>16</sup> for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood. <sup>17</sup> How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds! <sup>18</sup> These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! <sup>19</sup> Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.

<sup>Proverbs 16:25</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but **in the end it leads to death.**

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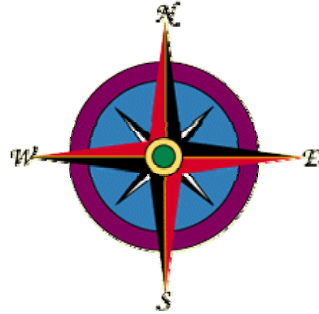
Information provided by U.S. Department of Justice · Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

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Our help comes from the Lord through His Holy Spirit! We need the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives to give us guidance and keep away from the evils of this world!

<sup>John 16:7</sup>But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, **the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.** <sup>8</sup>**When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt<sup>[a]</sup> in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:** <sup>9</sup>in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. <sup>12</sup>I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup>**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup>He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup>All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.



<sup>1 Corinthians 6:18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your **body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you**, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

## 4.5 Power of Intercession

We need help and power in our prayer life. We need God's words; we need God's intercession to speak for us on our behalf. The Holy Spirit will work for us and pray for us with God's words. How powerful is that?!

<sup>Romans 8:26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**

Here is a summary of Praying in the Spirit from Benny Hinn which captures this powerful thought.

"But not only does He make His power available to us when we pray, He also prays for us! Listen to the marvelous truth of Romans 8:26: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as

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we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Let’s break this down phrase by phrase. The Spirit also helps: literally, “keeps on helping” – He doesn’t help us just now and then. He continuously helps us. The things that capture our attention and drive us to our knees are heavy – too heavy to bear alone, and often too complex to express with words alone.

Notice that the Holy Spirit helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought. Actually, that word should be translated weakness. “He helps our entire weakness, but especially as it manifests itself in relation to our prayer life and particularly in relation to knowing what to pray for at the present moment. While we wait for our full redemption (see Romans 8:18-25) we need guidance in the particulars of prayer.”

The Holy Spirit helps us through making intercession for us. Notice actually that the text says, “the Spirit Himself.” No intermediaries, no agents – the Third Person of the Trinity, very God Himself, intervening in our behalf.

The word “intercession” is also a picturesque word depicting “rescue by one who ‘happens upon’ one who is in trouble” and pleads or intercedes on their behalf. Don’t let your circumstances, no matter how distressing, keep you from prayer. The Holy Spirit is waiting to plead your case before the Father.

The Holy Spirit intercedes with groaning which cannot be uttered. And what is the result? Now He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit takes our tangled thoughts and emotions, what we’re praying for and what we should pray for, and with deep emotion brings the right sentiments to the Throne.

Hallelujah for the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit! “

**in-ter-ces-sion**   [Pronunciation Key](#) (In-ter-sesh'ən)  
*n.*

1. Entreaty in favor of another, especially a prayer or petition to God in behalf of another.
2. Mediation in a dispute.

Romans 8: 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints** in accordance with God's will.

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

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## 4.6 Power of Gifts

So you want powerful gifts? God has a great one for you: His Holy Spirit! To receive this gift, all you have to do is ask.

Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"

Hebrews 2:4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and **gifts of the Holy Spirit** distributed according to his will.

1 Corinthians 2:10 **but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.** <sup>11</sup>For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that **we may understand what God has freely given us.** <sup>13</sup>This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>14</sup>The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.



1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.** <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>**To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,** <sup>9</sup>**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,** <sup>10</sup>**to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,**<sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the

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interpretation of tongues.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup>**All these are the work of one and the same Spirit**, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. <sup>12</sup>The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by<sup>[c]</sup> one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

<sup>Galatians 5:16</sup> So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. <sup>17</sup>For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. <sup>19</sup>The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

## 4.7 Song

## 4.8 Questions

1. What physical characteristic of water makes you think of God's Holy Spirit?
2. Have you ever thought of Holy Spirit as your "waiter"? How about your "counselor"? Do you let Him wait on you and counsel you?
3. How has the Holy Spirit comforted you in the past? Can he comfort you **now** with any of your burdens or problems?
4. Can you share how the Holy Spirit has guided you? How did you know it was the Holy Spirit?
5. Have you seen the power of intercession in your life? Have you seen it with the Holy Spirit?
6. What are the gifts that God has given you?
7. How can you use these gifts for God's glory?

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## 5.0 Power of Prayer

How many times does a parent warn a child, “Don’t touch that!”, “Be careful!”, “Stay away from that person!”, and “Watch where you are going!” Yet, the inquisitive and sometimes disobedient child ventures blindly into danger and becomes hurt, trapped and is now in trouble. Although clear direction is given, the child chooses to go their own way.

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, **each of us has turned to his own way**; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

In His word, God has clearly shown us word how we should behave, what we should do and how we should act. As the hurt or trapped child reaches out for the parent, so are we when we present our needs and requests before God. How deep is God’s desire to help His children when they are hurting, in need or wanting direction! God has the power to rescue us from ANYTHING!

Luke 1:37 "For nothing is impossible with God."



We need a close intimate relationship with God. He alone will help us and heal us through prayer!

## 5.1 Power of Relationship

God our Father has a very strong desire to help us because we are His children. As Christians, we are His **beloved** children. His plan of redemption is clear with His deep love is shown by allowing His only son to be sacrificed for us.

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John 3:16<sup>n</sup> "For **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,**<sup>[f]</sup> that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Have you ever loved someone with a passion? Have you been a relationship to experience this passion: a husband, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, mother, father, or a good friend? With this kind of love, you would do just about anything for them. God loves us and will do ANYTHING for us! All we have to do is ask according to His will and believe!

Jeremiah 29:12 "Then you will call upon me and come and **pray to me, and I will listen to you.** <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Matthew 7:7<sup>n</sup> "**Ask and it will be given to you;** seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 21:22<sup>n</sup> "**If you believe, you will receive** whatever you ask for in prayer."



Mark 11:24<sup>n</sup> "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.**

<sup>1</sup> John 5:14<sup>n</sup> "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that **if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.** <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

What is God's will? When was the last time you read the bible? His will is His word!

Luke 22:42<sup>n</sup> "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet **not my will, but yours be done.**"

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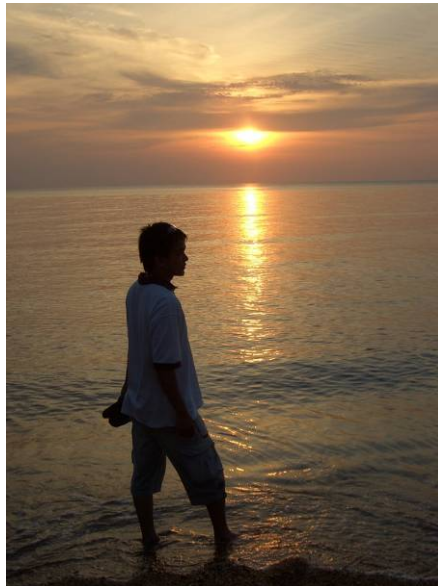
## 5.1.1 Power of Friendship

It is important to have a good, friendly relationship with God. A good relationship exists because of consistent talking (prayer) and listening (quiet time). How many friendships would you have if you did not talk to each other? How long would the friendship last if you did all the talking?

Genesis 5:22 And after he became the father of Methuselah, **Enoch walked with God** 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. <sup>24</sup> **Enoch walked with God**; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and **he walked with God**. <sup>10</sup> Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Exodus 33:11 **The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend**. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.



Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. **As I was with Moses, so I will be with you**; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Psalms 16:11 You have made <sup>[e]</sup> known to me the path of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence**, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalms 25:14 **God--friendship** is for God--worshippers; They are the ones he confides in. [Message]

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," <sup>[e]</sup> and **he was called God's friend**. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

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## 5.1.2 Power of Obedience

When we are lead by the Spirit, we will also want to obey. Do you want a friend who is rebellious, mean, and does not listen to what you say? Also, obedient children receive more blessings and quicker answers to their needs than the disobedient! Likewise for Christians, our obedience to the Lord allows Him to bless us and help us more quickly! Who would you help first: the obedient or the disobedient?

Genesis 22:18 and through your offspring <sup>[b]</sup> all nations on earth will **be blessed, because you have obeyed me.**"

John 14:15<sup>n</sup> **If you love me, you will obey what I command.** <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

John 14:21<sup>n</sup> **Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.** He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Acts 5:32<sup>n</sup> **We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.**"

<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 5:16 **Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup>pray continually; <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup>Do not put out the Spirit's fire; <sup>20</sup>do not treat prophecies with contempt. <sup>21</sup>Test everything. Hold on to the good. <sup>22</sup>Avoid every kind of evil.**

Ephesians 4:30<sup>n</sup> **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

James 2:23<sup>n</sup> **And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,"<sup>[e]</sup> and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.**

<sup>1</sup> Peter 1:2<sup>n</sup> **who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.**

## 5.1.3 Power of God's Love

God loves us so much that He knows our needs and wants to help us. He will answer us before we speak! Only our Holy Father could ever answer prayer before it leaves the lips of our mouth! Oh, what love the Father has for us!

Isaiah 65:24 **Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.**

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Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for **your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

## 5.2 Power of Communication

Communication is a two-way street: We need to present our needs to God through prayer and we need to stop and listen to His answer. If we are too busy, and do not have time for God, the wonderful answer might elude us!

Job 22:27 **You will pray to him, and he will hear you**, and you will fulfill your vows.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.**

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.**

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and **pray to your Father, who is unseen**. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, **will reward you.**

God is also clear on how He does not want us to pray:

Matthew 6:5 And when you pray, **do not be like the hypocrites**, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, **do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.** <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

## 5.3 Power of Sharing

When we come before God and reveal the deepest secrets of our heart, it touches the deepest part of His. God is moved, He remembers our frailness, and desperately wants to help! You will see, as you share your deepest thoughts and needs with God, He will respond!

### 5.3.1 Power of Crying Out

There are things in this life that are out of our control. We absolutely cannot fix the problem. We must totally rely on a high power to help us. There are times when the frustration is so high that we break down and cry before our Lord. Our broken spirit, our sadness touches His heart.

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God hears the prayers of the humble and righteous. He desperately wants to help his children. All we have to do is ask!

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are **on the righteous** and his ears are **attentive to their cry**;

Psalm 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, **to all who call on him in truth**.<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; **he hears their cry and saves them**.

1 John 3:22 **and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands** and do what pleases him.

God confirms His commitment to us with verse after verse of His promise to help us when we cry to Him!

1 Samuel 1:15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman **who is deeply troubled**. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD.<sup>16</sup> Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of **my great anguish and grief**."<sup>17</sup> Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."<sup>18</sup> She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was **no longer downcast**.<sup>19</sup> Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and **the LORD remembered her**.<sup>20</sup> So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel,<sup>[c]</sup> saying, "**Because I asked the LORD for him**."



1 Kings 8:28 Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. **Hear the cry and the prayer** that your servant is praying in your presence this day.

2 Chronicles 6:19 Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. **Hear the cry and the prayer** that your servant is praying in your presence.

Psalm 5:2 **Listen to my cry for help**, my King and my God, **for to you I pray**.

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Psalm 39:12 **"Hear my prayer, O LORD, listen to my cry for help;** be not deaf to my weeping. For I dwell with you as an alien, a stranger, as all my fathers were.  
<sup>13</sup> **Look away from me, that I may rejoice again before I depart and am no more."**

Psalm 50:15 **and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."**

Psalm 102:1 **Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you.**

Isaiah 58:9 **Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.** "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

## 5.3.2 Power of Rejoicing

The answers to our prayers should bring us much joy and we should rejoice in the Lord! Celebrate because God has answered your prayers.

Job 33:26 **He prays to God and finds favor with him, he sees God's face and shouts for joy;** he is restored by God to his righteous state.



Isaiah 56:7 **these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Romans 12:2 **Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.**

Philippians 1:4 **In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy**

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## 5.3.3 Power of Thanksgiving

Once you receive a blessing from God, do you thank Him? Why? How do you know when God has answered the smallest of your prayers? If you kept a journal you would be able to read old entries and see how God answered prayer in your life.

Nehemiah 11:17 Mattaniah son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, the director **who led in thanksgiving and prayer**; Bakbukiah, second among his associates; and Abda son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day **he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God**, just as he had done before.

2 Corinthians 1:11 as you help us by your prayers. Then **many will give thanks on our<sup>[a]</sup> behalf** for the gracious favor granted us **in answer to the prayers** of many.

Ephesians 1:16 I have not stopped giving **thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.**

Philippians 1:3 I **thank my God every time I remember you.** <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy



Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, **by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

Colossians 1:3 We always **thank God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when we pray for you,**

Colossians 4:2 **Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.**

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We always **thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.**

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## 5.4 Power of Listening

Have you ever talked with someone whose gaze was far off? Remember the empty feeling because they were not listening to you? You were not connecting to that person but you really wanted them to hear you. You wanted them to actively listen to you and respond!



God desires for us to listen to Him! But like little children, our interests and our desires are elsewhere. It is hard to sit still and hear His voice, so many things scream for our attention. We are preoccupied with the many things of this world. What is first priority in your life? What are your interests? We need to set our priorities correctly!

<sup>33</sup>But **seek first his kingdom** and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

When we ask God for something, for direction, for help, for ANYTHING, we need to find time to hear His voice and hear His answer. According to God's word, we will find our greatest moments of listening in the morning.

Psalm 5:3 **In the morning, O LORD**, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and **wait in expectation**.

Psalm 143:8 **Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love**, for I have put my trust in you. **Show me the way I should go**, for to you I lift up my soul.

Lamentations 3:22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> **They are new every morning**; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Mark 1:35 **Very early in the morning**, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place, where he prayed**.

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Like Jesus, once we find that quiet, solitary place we need to listen for His voice!

Psalm 46:10 "**Be still, and know that I am God**; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalm 119:18 **Open my eyes** that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Matthew 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; <sup>30</sup>and **their sight was restored**. ...

Matthew 13:16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and **your ears because they hear**.

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, **the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing**, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup>For the Father loves the Son and **shows him all he does**. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.

Jesus had spiritual eyes to see the Father and spiritual ears to hear His voice. Jesus did NOTHING without first hearing from His father. This is how Jesus operated every day of His life. If we are Christians and He is our example, then we should take time to listen to our Creator God and receive power from answered prayer!

## 5.5 Sweeter

### Sweeter

Israel Houghton & Cindy Cruse-Ratcliff

Everyday with you Lord  
Is sweeter than the day before  
Everyday with you Lord  
Sweeter than the day before

Every morning I will worship  
Every evening I'll adore  
Cause everyday with you is sweeter, sweeter than the day before

What a privilege to know you, like I know you  
To be loved like you love me  
What an honor to worship, truly worship  
For this heart you have freed  
From the raising of the sun  
To the setting of the same

Everyday with you Lord  
Is sweeter than the day before  
Everyday with you Lord

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Sweeter than the day before  
Every morning I will worship  
Every evening I'll adore  
Cause everyday with you is sweeter, sweeter than the day before

What a wonder to live like, really live like  
Overcoming anything  
What reason to lift, really lift up  
Everyday my everything  
From the raising of the sun  
To the setting of the same

Everyday with you Lord  
Is sweeter than the day before  
Everyday with you Lord  
Sweeter than the day before  
Every morning I will worship  
Every evening I'll adore  
Cause everyday with you is sweeter, sweeter than the day before

Everyday, Everyday with you Lord  
Everyday, Everyday with you Lord  
Everyday, Sweeter than the day before  
Everyday, Sweeter than the day before

## 5.6 Questions

1. What do you mostly pray to God about? Why?
2. What kind of relationship do you have with God? Is it strong or weak?
3. Is God your friend? Why or why not?
4. Are you obedient to Him? How can you prove it?
5. Do you have any feeling in your prayers? Are you sharing your true heart or deepest emotions with God?
6. Have you ever rejoiced or celebrated with thanksgiving in prayer? What caused this response in you?
7. What makes you a good listener? What has God been telling you lately?
8. Do you make time to listen to God each day? Is it in the morning?
9. Where is your quiet place? When was the last time you were there?
10. Since Christ did nothing on His own, how often does God tell you what to do? Are you listening to Him?

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## 6.0 Power of Surrender

The moment Lisa came out of the womb, she was upset. She squirmed in the nurse's arms as a warmed blanket was wrapped around her moist body. But even this feeble attempt at comfort did not satisfy Lisa. As the nurse placed her on the cool baby scale, she let out a strong new-born cry. The quickly breathed "whea-whea" announced that this child was not happy with the surroundings. This was not the warmth and comfort of the previous home. From the very beginning, Lisa was oblivious of all the people who were trying to comfort her and she demanded immediate happiness! From the very beginning, Lisa was consumed with satisfying herself!



Consider this quote from the University of Illinois:

"All babies cry. They cry because they are hungry, cold, wet, tired, bored, warm, or just uncomfortable. Doctors have found that during the first 7 weeks of life, a baby may cry 2 ½ hours a day. Babies usually cry less as they grow older and **they find other ways to calm themselves**, like sucking on pacifiers or fingers or playing with their hands. While crying is normal, some babies seem to cry for no reason. They are not easily calmed, and they cry for long periods of time. These babies are often referred to as having colic." <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/baby/>

How often do we feel uncomfortable like the new born? How often do we want things our way? Consider rush hour traffic, missed appointments, failed relationships or long lines at the store, how often are other people in

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our way? Self-centeredness, self-seeking, selfishness will bring us to destruction rather than life. If we obey God and give Him our problems, if we truly surrender our lives to Him, we will have true Power.

Romans 8:6 **Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end**; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. <sup>7</sup>Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. <sup>8</sup>And God isn't pleased at being ignored. [The Message]

How many marriages could be saved? How many wars could be stopped? How many deaths or abortions could be avoided if people surrendered, obeyed God and let Him solve their problems?

Psalm 84:11 **For the LORD God is a sun and shield**; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Isaiah 30:15 **GOD, the Master, The Holy of Israel, has this solemn counsel**: "Your salvation requires you to turn back to me and stop your silly efforts to save yourselves. **Your strength will come from settling down in complete dependence on me-- The very thing you've been unwilling to do.** [The Message]

John 7:17 **If anyone chooses to do God's will**, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup>He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, **but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth**;

Romans 6:13 **Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. [KJV]

## 6.1 Power of Trust

Trusting God sounds easy, but in this world, it is very difficult. Satanic attacks on our mind weaken the foundation of faith and trust in God. We tend to believe the doctors, our friends and the newspapers all of which affirm what we knew from the beginning: we are in control and can fix the problem ourselves!

If on the contrary, we surrender, fully depend and rely on God, then we are placing our trust in Him. When we do this, our burden is removed and our spirit is lifted because we trust that God now controls the problem and He alone will find the solution. If we have a relationship with Him, we will hear His voice, follow His leading and receive the solution!

John 14:1 <sup>11</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God<sup>[a]</sup>; trust also in me.

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Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



Noah totally trusted God. Think on this verse and these questions:

Genesis 6:13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress <sup>[c]</sup> wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

- Do you have a relationship with God to hear His voice?
- If God told you he was going to destroy the earth, would you believe it?
- It is suggested that it took Noah 120 years to build the ark (Genesis 6:3). Would you have trusted God for 120 years or given up before that time?
- Would you build the ark or wave your arms in crazy disbelief?

Consider the ark that he built, he had no control of the big ship with all the animals. Noah had to totally trust God's providence, God's control and His protection during the flood. Noah had to TRUST God!

- No Rudder
- No Steering Wheel
- No Sail
- No Motor
- No Oars

To have the trusting faith of Noah, one must ask God and He will help!

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Proverbs 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

## 6.2 Power of Faith

By trusting in the Lord so fully, so blindly, we completely believe in His power. Faith is the ultimate surrender because we look outside of ourselves. We blindly proceed; we take a leap into the unknown; we deeply trust God will help us. When we surrender our fears, our doubts and use faith, God richly blesses us.

Matthew 14:28<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."  
<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said. **Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.** <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **"You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"**



Peter had more faith than most of us and it allowed him to walk on water. However, Jesus commented that Peter's doubt caused him to sink and that he actually had little faith. Jesus reiterates that the apostle's faith is little with the parable of the mustard seed.

Matthew 17:20<sup>20</sup> He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."<sup>[a]</sup>

The author of Hebrews said it best:

Hebrews 11:1<sup>1</sup> **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.** <sup>2</sup>This is what the ancients were commended for.:

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Hebrews 11:1<sup>1</sup>The fundamental fact of existence is that this **trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living.** It's our handle on what we can't see. <sup>2</sup>The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. [The Message]

<sup>1</sup> Peter 1:7<sup>1</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>**Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,** <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## 6.3 Power of Hope

Have you ever wished for or desired something? Have you ever seen it so clearly in your mind that you confidently expected you would have it? Then you have experienced hope!

If you look to yourself for hope, you will literally be hopeless. However, if you surrender and you look to God for your hope, He alone will strengthen you; He alone will provide salvation.

Psalms 31:24<sup>1</sup> Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

Isaiah 40:31<sup>1</sup> but **those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.** They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Lamentations 3:25<sup>1</sup> **The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,** to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

## 6.4 Power of Humility

Only when we understand our total lack of power, will we then see the total power of God. To be in this state, we need to surrender our pride; we need humility. Consider the ancient Israelites:

Deuteronomy 9:4<sup>1</sup>But when GOD pushes them out ahead of you, don't start thinking to yourselves, "**It's because of all the good I've done** that GOD has brought me in here to dispossess these nations." Actually it's because of all the evil these nations have done. <sup>5</sup>No, it's nothing good that you've done, no record for decency that you've built up, that got you here; it's because of the vile wickedness of these nations that GOD, your God, is dispossessing them before you so that he can keep his promised word to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>6</sup>Know this and don't ever forget it: **It's not because of any good that you've done that GOD is giving you this good land to own. Anything but! You're stubborn as mules.** <sup>7</sup>Keep in mind and don't ever forget how angry you made GOD, your God, in the wilderness. You've kicked and screamed against GOD

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from the day you left Egypt until you got to this place, rebels all the way. [The Message]

Psalm 131:1 My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. <sup>2</sup> **But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.**

Isaiah 40:29 **He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

Proverbs 3:34 He mocks proud mockers but **gives grace to the humble.**

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that **Christ's power may rest on me.** <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Understand that humility or yielding to God should not be confused with intimidation or fear of man:

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but **a spirit of power**, of love and of self-discipline. <sup>8</sup> So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

Abraham was a humble man and trusted the Lord in many ways. Here is one account of his trust in the Lord when he humbly allowed his nephew, Lot, first pick of the choicest location. As the older, wiser uncle he had the right to the best location, but through humility he allowed Lot to possess it instead!

Genesis 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. <sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. **If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.**" <sup>10</sup> Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) <sup>11</sup> So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: <sup>12</sup> Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

Abraham was blessed because Lot chose the location near Sodom which was later destroyed by God.

## 6.4.1 Humbly Allowing God to Shape Us

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If we are truly humble, then we will yield to His law, His ways, His desires. We need to have the humility and surrender of Christ by following His words:

Matthew 26:39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**"

God's word shows an example of being malleable or changeable to God's ways through the hands of a potter: one who shapes clay into solid pots. It is the potter who decides what will be made and what its purpose should be.

Isaiah 29:16 You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? **Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?**

Isaiah 45:9 "Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. **Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?'** Does your work say, 'He has no hands'?"

Isaiah 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; **we are all the work of your hand.**



Jeremiah 18:1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD : <sup>2</sup> "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." <sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup> But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into

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another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. <sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>6</sup> "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. **"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand,** O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, <sup>8</sup> and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. <sup>9</sup> And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, <sup>10</sup> and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. <sup>11</sup> "Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.' <sup>12</sup> But they will reply, **'It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; each of us will follow the stubbornness of his evil heart.'** "

## 6.4.2 Humbly Denying Self through Fasting

Because our natural tendency is to rely on our fleshly power and physical might, it is important to surrender our physical bodies, deny ourselves and listen to the Holy Spirit through our spiritual being. This is accomplished by removing pride, increasing in humility and through fasting. But God is clear on how we should fast and what is acceptable to Him.

Do NOT humble yourself this way:

<sup>Isaiah 58:3</sup> "Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. <sup>4</sup> Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

<sup>Matthew 6:16</sup> "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

Here is the way to be humble through fasting:

<sup>Isaiah 58:6</sup> "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? <sup>8</sup> Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness <sup>[a]</sup> will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, <sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

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Matthew 6:17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

## 6.5 Power of Patience

One of the hardest things for humans to do is to wait. Our flesh wants everything now! But we know from God's word that patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. If we wait and are patient, we will be blessed with the very best from God. He knows what we want and need, and He desires to give it to us.

Psalm 21:1 O LORD, the king rejoices in your strength. How great is his joy in the victories you give! <sup>2</sup> **You have granted him the desire of his heart and have not withheld the request of his lips.** Selah

Most of the time, we are not ready for God's blessings. Would you give a three year old child a sports car? Would you give a thief your check book? We are not ready because we are either immature, in a sinful state, or God has yet to show us a prerequisite to a blessing. If we rush God and overtake Him with our impatience, we could loose out on an incredible blessing! If we wait, if we surrender and God's time is right, we will be blessed!



Psalm 37:7 **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;** do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalm 37:34 **Wait for the LORD and keep his way.** He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Lamentations 3:24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore **I will wait for him.**" <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup> **it is good to wait quietly** for the salvation of the LORD.

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Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, **patient in affliction**, faithful in prayer.

## 6.6 *Disappear*

**Disappear**  
**Bebo Norman**

On a day like this  
I want to crawl beneath a rock  
A million miles from the world  
The commotion that never seems to stop

And on a day like this  
I want to run from the routine  
Run away from the daily grind  
That can suck the life right out of me

I only know of one place I can run to...

CHORUS:  
I want to hide in You  
The way, the life, the truth  
So I can disappear  
And love is all there is to see  
Coming out of me  
And you become clear  
As I disappear

I don't want to care about earthly things  
Be caught up in all the lies  
That trick my eyes  
They say it's all about me

I'm so tired of it being about me

CHORUS

I would rather be cast away  
Separated from the human race  
If I don't bring you glory  
If I don't bring you glory  
If I don't bring you glory

## 6.7 *Here with Me*

**Here with Me**  
**Mercy Me**

I long for your embrace  
Every single day

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To meet you in this place  
And see you face to face

Will you show me?  
Reveal yourself to me  
Because of your mercy  
I fall down on my knees

And I can feel your presence here with me  
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty  
Caught up in the wonder of your touch  
Here in this moment I surrender to your love

You're everywhere I go  
I am not alone  
You call me as your own  
To know you and be known

You are holy  
And I fall down on my knees

I can feel your presence here with me  
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty  
Caught up in the wonder of your touch  
Here in this moment I surrender to your love

I surrender to your grace  
I surrender to the one who took my place

I can feel your presence here with me  
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty  
Caught up in the wonder of your touch  
Here in this moment I surrender:

I can feel your presence here with me  
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty  
Caught up in the wonder of your touch  
Here in this moment I surrender to your love

## **6.8 Questions**

1. Like the crying baby, how are you comforted?
2. What do you need to surrender to God to enjoy this life?
3. Name one way that you totally trust God? Name one in which you do not trust God. How can you change this?
4. Consider your life. How have you stepped out in faith?
5. Consider today. Where do you need to step out in faith right now?
6. Describe your hope. Is it from God? How do you know?
7. In what ways are you humble? In what ways are you proud?

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8. Have you ever fasted? What was the result?
9. How can your patience improve? In what part of your life are you most impatient?
10. What are you waiting on God for right now? Have you surrendered it to Him?