

POWER

By Dr. Randy C. Brodhagen

..... THE POWER OF THE LORD WAS PRESENT.....
Luke 5:17

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Introduction

For many years I have sought the Lord to provide an atmosphere or climate for His presence, power, and glory to be manifested. We have seen and know the results of what the Lord has revealed.

If you are seeking the move of God for your life, family, or ministry, please consider the ten power principles in this booklet. I am certain that they will set a climate for the Holy Spirit to manifest and reveal Himself in your midst. He will have the liberty to do whatever He desires, to the glory of the Father in Jesus' name. And the people will know that the Lord has been in their midst.

God's Kingdom, Power, and Glory

We say in the Lord's Prayer, "*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.*" Therefore, when the kingdom of God is established in a person's life, the power and the glory of God will be the result.

Jesus said,

- "*But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*" (Matthew 12:28)
- "*I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" (John 3:3)
- "*The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent (turn from your ways and understanding) and believe the good news.*" (Mark 1:15)
- "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:1,7-8)
- "*And I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.*" (Mark 9:1)

- *“Do not worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear. Seek first His kingdom and righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Do not worry about your future.”* (Matthew 6:33-34)
- *“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10)

In God’s kingdom there is no more pain, abuse, sorrow, sickness, sin, depression or death. (Revelation 21:3-5) Why not? God’s kingdom has come in power and glory.

The word of God says through the apostle Paul, *“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.”* (1 Corinthians 4:20) *“My message and preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”* (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

The kingdom of God comes with God’s power and glory. (Revelation 11:17) A loud voice from heaven proclaimed, *“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ.”* (Revelation 12:10)

When people believe God, the advancement of His kingdom into their lives brings the wisdom, power, authority, and dominion of Christ Jesus. They become transformed into new creations, sons of God. (John 1:12-13) When the believers in Acts were filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in new tongues, the empowerment from on high came upon them to do the works of the kingdom of God, not just to speak the words. (Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-4) Jesus began to confirm His word through His disciples with signs and wonders of power.

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will

not hurt them; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.’ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it.” (Mark 16:15-20)

Apparently, the Lord wants to do more than just have people talking about Him (or His love and works). He wants us to *do* what we talk about through Him. He wants to display His power and glory so that His presence and kingdom will be established in and among His people who believe and trust in Him. Praise the Lord! God’s power will change our lives and situations.

As a child I was raised in a Christian community. I was taught that the bible is God’s truth and holy word to His people, written by men but inspired by the Holy Spirit. I was taught that the Lord loves everyone, but people must receive His love and be born again. Man is separated from Him and needs a Savior. Jesus Christ is God come in human form to live, die, and be resurrected from the dead to save us. Whoever believes that and turns from their own ways (repents) to God’s ways will be saved, not by their works but by their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The blood of Jesus is the sacrifice that gives us life with God.

I was taught that the Lord has given me commandments written on my heart (Hebrews 8:10) to show me how to love Him and the people of my world so that I can know how to live in His kingdom as His blessed child. I was taught the promises of God to show me how to grow up into the fullness of the image of Jesus Christ.

Through the reading of God’s word, I learned how God loves and cares for His people and has good plans for everyone’s life, if they would just obey His directions and follow His instructions. The Lord’s presence, blessing, and salvation was very real and near to me. I loved Jesus more than myself or anything else in my life.

Yet, I had many questions which I sought the Lord about. (James 1:5-8, Jeremiah 33:2-3) He taught me how the kingdom of God (life) revolves around God, not man. When man enters into the kingdom of God through receiving and believing God's love through Jesus Christ, God's true life in man begins.

Believe God

All the Lord wants of us is to believe Him, which demonstrates our love for Him. When we believe Him, it gives Him the opportunity to do all the things His love nature wants to do. Nothing is impossible or too difficult for the Lord. Therefore, when I believe Him and am obedient to His directions, I open up the limitless presence and power of His love, wisdom, provision, protection, care, and ability. Then His power and presence take place on this earth to destroy the works of the devil, who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. Belief and obedience establish God's kingdom within the believer now. When Jesus returns, He will establish His kingdom everywhere, forever.

Man responds to God's love and power by giving the Lord praise, thanks, and glory. Truly the Lord has, is, and will do great things for them that believe Him and give Him opportunity to show Himself mightily.

For this to occur, people must put all their trust in God for everything (Proverbs 3:5-6), seeking His direction and doing what He says. When the Lord was teaching me about healing (during a five year period), He told me, "Son, if I can't do it, nobody can!" I had to know when I prayed that the Lord would do what He said He would do.

The Lord showed me how His people have not only perished (Hosea 4:6), but have also limited His power in their behalf because they have not believed Him. As a result, they have run to many sources other than Him for love, wisdom, protection, provision, counsel, healing, and even salvation. Some have said that God told them to do that when God said no such thing! Friends, don't allow someone else's unbelief to steal your faith in

God's word and the ways of His Holy Spirit. Don't trust in man and man's ways more than God.

Man's "church" is afraid of the power of the Lord. The Lord told me, "My people want to be like me, but to be like me they must desire not only the fruit of my Spirit (character [Galatians 5]), but also the manifestation of my Spirit." (I Corinthians 12)

The Lord is looking for someone through whom and to whom He can show His power and glory. (II Chronicles 16:9) He told Asa the king that when he relied on God, he would be delivered. When King Asa fought the King of Aram and his armies without relying on the Lord, he lost. Later, he died of a foot disease because he didn't seek the Lord's help, only the physicians. (II Chronicles 16:7-12)

The word says, "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders (pastors) of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayers offered in faith will make the sick person well: the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 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." (James 5:13-16)

It is questionable that many people in the Christian community, including pastors, actually believe this Word. That is why people don't get God's results. Note: It is the prayer offered in faith and righteousness (obedience) that makes the person whole.

If we as God's people are to see His power and receive His results, we must believe and obey His word as well as the leading of His Holy Spirit for each situation. If the Lord who made the universe by speaking forth His word cannot do it, who can - the doctor, the attorney, the armies, yourself?

"God is not a man that He should lie nor the son of man that He should repent (change His mind). Has He not said it, and will He not do it? Has He not promised, and will He not fulfill?" (Numbers 23:19)

For years the word of the Lord Jesus has burned inside me, *“To those who believe in Me, the works which I do you will do.”*

“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. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:12-15)

If you do not believe that Jesus will do what He says, then you will never see Jesus do those greater works through you.

Jesus said, *“Be it done to you according to your faith.”* The disciples asked Jesus, *“Why couldn’t we drive out the demon?”* (Matthew 17:19) Jesus 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.”* (Matthew 17:20-21)

Is Jesus lying? If not, why then do we not see these things happen in many places? Remember: *“To them that believe in me (Jesus), whatever you ask in my name I will do to the glory of the Father. (John 14:12-14) The Lord will do whatever is to His glory. It is to God’s glory when we believe and obey Him.*

“Now to Him who is able to do far exceeding abundantly more than we are able to ask or think according to the power that works in you, to Him be the glory in the church.” (Ephesians 3:20)

The only thing that limits God’s power and desire towards us is our thinking. The Lord wants to love, care for, protect, provide, and defend us. The Lord wants to save, deliver, strengthen, encourage, and empower us. He wants to guide, give wisdom, prosper, and direct us into all that He has for us in His good plans.

If we would believe Him - if we would allow Him - if we would obey Him - we would see it all happening. At Nazareth, Jesus could not do the things the Lord wanted to do because of the unbelief of the people.

Over the years, in Jesus’ name, we have seen the same things that Jesus did: The blind see. The deaf hear. The cripple walk.

The dumb speak. The retarded are restored. The depressed rejoice. The barren are anew with child. The hopeless make plans. The storms calm. Peace comes to the troubled. The dead come alive. The demonized are delivered. The unloved are loved. Tumors disappear. Broken hearts mend. The proud are humbled. The humbled are exalted. Relationships are restored. The unsaved are saved. The disobedient become obedient. People filled with God's Spirit speak in new tongues.

Changed lives are what the kingdom and power of God are all about. In addition, the kingdom of God is not about words but actions. In Jesus' name people repent, are saved, healed, and delivered into God's kingdom. New beginnings are the result of a touch of the Spirit of God. Excitement in and for the Lord floods into people's empty lives, filling them with hope, faith, peace, joy, and love in the Holy Spirit. What a joy and blessing it is to participate – believing, praising, and obeying the Lord Jesus as He sets people free today! Yes, *“Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*(Hebrews 13:8)

There is nothing more adventurous, exciting, thrilling, and spectacular in life than to participate in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus. To watch people's laughter, the tears of joy, the anticipation and expectation of even greater changes and opportunities for the future. *“Truly, he or she whom the son has set free is free indeed.”* (John 8:36)

Yes, the Lord will do what He promises. Do you believe it? Expect it?

“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall not be ashamed or go away empty!” (Romans 10:11)

While reading Luke 5:17, the Lord ministered to me that as Jesus was teaching, “the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick.” He revealed to me that there is a climate in which the Holy Spirit will move in power.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CLIMATE

Power Principle #1:

KNOW AND BELIEVE THAT THE LORD IS ALL LOVING,
PRESENT, COMPASSIONATE, AND POWERFUL

The Lord is willing and able to love the people who believe in Him. He has good plans to prosper them spiritually, mentally, physically, financially, and in relationships. The Lord is a God of faith, hope, and love. He gives these qualities to His people so they can have a blessed life now and forever with Him. He wants and is able to do miracles for His people, to glorify His name and bless His people today. Jesus came, and through His life and resurrection from the dead, He destroyed death and the works of the devil. Nothing is impossible to God or His people in Jesus' name.

Power Principle #2:

PEOPLE HAVE NEEDS TO BE MET

Needs do not move God to action. The Lord knows what our needs are. Just because there are needs does not mean the Lord will meet them. The Lord wants to meet them, but He is waiting for someone to ask Him and believe Him. Everything has already been provided for us through Jesus Christ. We must receive by faith in Jesus, knowing that what was intended for evil in the world, God will turn around to our good and His glory. People need to know that the Lord will help them if they ask Him in faith. The poor in spirit who are blessed are those who recognize their need for God in their lives and situations. They will be filled. (Matthew 5:3) The Lord showed me that there were many sick people in Jesus' day, but only those who came to Jesus for healing were healed.

Power Principle #3:

FAITH IN GOD MOVES GOD TO MEET NEEDS

Faith is trust and obedience to God in action, not mere words. (I Corinthians 2:2-5) Faith involves an anticipation and an expectation based on God's word and promise (and who He is). (Numbers 23:19) For the Holy Spirit to move in demonstration, people must come together with more than words, songs, and prayers. (Matthew 15:8-9) Faith, anticipation, and expectation towards the Lord to do what He says must be present. Faith also involves thanksgiving, praise, and rehearsing God's mighty deeds (past, present, and future), promises, and attributes (love, wisdom, power, etc.). Obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading and direction is vital to allow the Holy Spirit to do what He wants to do. When belief and action come together, God's presence and power will manifest.

A man was brought to our service from a rehabilitation nursing home. He had been in an accident where he was thrown fifty feet from his car, and he had thirteen broken bones. It was a miracle that he was alive. He came expecting to receive from God. In the prayer line the Lord touched him, and instantly his pain went away. The thirteen broken bones were healed. He was touching his toes for the first time in his life. Then he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in a new tongue, giving thanks to God.

Another young man had been watching our television program "The Love of God," and God sparked hope and faith in him. He had been in a football accident in which his leg was twisted so badly that he couldn't walk straight. One foot pointed sideways. After many surgeries, he was told that nothing more could be done with the leg. He came to church expecting a miracle from God. When asked what he came for, he answered, "I came to be healed." The power of God went into his body, and he fell to the floor. His legs and feet began to flip around, locking into position with both feet facing in the same direction. He leaped to

his feet and began to run around the auditorium, thanking and praising God.

A woman who had been diagnosed with dead optic nerves, being completely blind for five years, came to church to pray for her friend's continued healing. After many surgeries her friend had been able to be taken off her back brace because God healed her. In the prayer line the power of God came on the blind woman, and she fell to the floor. When she stood up, she exclaimed, "Something evil has left my body!" Looking around, she began to see light, shapes, patterns, colors, objects, and people again. She was elated as was everyone who watched her during the discovery process. When asked about what brought on this condition of blindness, she shared that five years prior she had become involved in a bitter and stressful lawsuit with a friend. One morning she woke up and was not only blind, but she had lost everything. The day of her healing, we had been teaching on new beginnings. The Lord confirmed His word with signs and wonders following. The woman said, "God has given me a new beginning!"

In Acts 3, Peter and John were asked about the healing of the crippled beggar. Their response was, *"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see."*

Power Principle #4:

THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST BE WELCOMED, HONORED, AND OBEYED

For the presence and power of God to be present, man must desire, honor, and permit the Holy Spirit to be and do whatever God wants. As we minister to the Holy Spirit and by the Holy Spirit, He will minister to us.

The focus of our time, talents, and treasures should be to give honor and attention to the Holy Spirit of our God. (The

manifestation of God's Spirit will come into such a person and place as the Lord decides when and what He will do.) We must wait upon the Lord, and then do what He directs.

People focusing on their own needs or who have willful, knowing, unconfessed sin in their lives grieve the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:17-6:9) As we worship the Lord through obedient lives (as His temples), the Spirit of the Lord is honored. (I Corinthians 6:9-20, Romans 12:1-2, and Colossians 3) Open your heart and mind to God, and He will show Himself to you.

When we have willful disobedience in our lives, the Lord is not free to move in power. Rebellious, greedy, independent, selfish, disobedient people will not see the move of God until they humble themselves and ask God's forgiveness. Prepare your heart and mind to be in the presence of God. Hunger and thirst for Him to do whatever He wills. The result will be the move of God in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

We must develop the hearing ear and the instructed tongue. (Isaiah 50:4-5) Jesus didn't do or say anything that His Father in heaven hadn't given Him to say or do. He was obedient to the Holy Spirit as He ministered to the people, which allowed God's will and presence to bless them, and their needs were met in power.

Today, as in Thessalonica, people often quench the Holy Spirit's fire by not welcoming or permitting the manifestations of God in their lives or churches. (I Thessalonians 5:16-24) It is almost as if people go through the motions of worshipping God, but either do not believe in Him or do not permit the Lord to confirm their worship, words, and actions with His presence and power. Notice how the Lord continued manifesting His presence throughout the bible. (Numbers 17, Exodus 34, 40, II Chronicles 5-7, I Kings 8, 18:16-46, II Chronicles 20, Acts 16:25-40, Acts 2, Acts 4 & 5, Mark 16:15-20.)

Many churches do not give time for God to display His presence and power. People sing some songs, hear some scripture (or whatever), maybe pray; and they must be out in an hour

because they have other things to do, people to see and places to go. This is honoring God? If God thought so, He would reveal His presence and power.

They give no time for a move of God because it would interrupt their schedules. But of course, they are not expecting God to do anything anyway because He is not scheduled or expected to do anything. Many churches have no altar call, no healing line, and no time for God to do what He does in the bible.

I tell people, "We are here to honor Jesus. We will be here until the Lord is finished with all that He is going to do." (Two minutes, two hours, two days, two weeks, etc.)

If you want to see the manifestation of God's presence and power, you must be willing and obedient to wait for Him, and then permit Him to do what He will. You must become as serious and disciplined as Daniel who waited, fasting and praying, for 21 days until he received an answer. (Daniel 10)

What if someone dropped dead in church? Would we conclude the service or do what Paul did: raise him from the dead in the name of Jesus and go on preaching? (Acts 20:7-12) Be it done to you according to your faith. Is God honored and welcomed or not? Is He present or not?

Speaking in the spirit (tongues) energizes your faith according to God's word. (I Corinthians 14:14-15, Jude 20) No wonder people's faith is not energized; many churches don't believe in tongues or forbid their use. This quenches the fire of the Holy Spirit. God's word says, "*Desire to prophesy; do not forbid speaking in tongues, but let everything be done in order.*" (I Corinthians 14:37-40)

Man likes to control rather than letting God control life and worship. God's order, not man's order, is the rule. (I Corinthians 14 gives the order).

Who determines the order? It had better be people who believe in and are sensitive to the Lord, and permit the manifestation of the Spirit of God. (I Corinthians 12-14; Romans 8:5-15) They are the only ones who are qualified by God to test

the spirits as to what is of God and what is not. Unbelief and disobedience quench the fire of God, disqualifying a person to test the spirits.

The manifestations of the Holy Spirit cannot be tested by the intellect or the emotions of man, but by the spirit of man (by the Holy Spirit) and the fruit (results). The working of the Holy Spirit will result in righteousness, peace, and joy. (Romans 14:17) Some of the results of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit are:

- repentance
- healing in mind, body, or relationships
- deliverance from satanic oppression
- salvation
- infilling of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues
- exposing and resisting temptation
- changed lives
- people drawing closer to God

A greater love for and reliance upon God will result. Love for others will increase.

If the word of God is true that in the presence of God is fullness of joy (Psalms 16:11), why then do many Christians look so sad in and outside of church? Maybe they are not in God's presence. God's presence and power cause people to rejoice.

The Lord's presence brings God's love, power, wisdom, peace, and joy, destroying the work of the devil and producing God's kingdom. Jesus said, "*Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.*" (Matthew 18:19-20)

Power Principle #5:

WHERE PEOPLE ARE PRAYING, GOD'S POWER WILL COME

Prayer is communication with God. It precedes every great move of God. *“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”* (II Chronicles 7:14)

Jesus commanded the disciples to wait and pray for the Holy Spirit’s manifestation of power. (Acts 1:8) The result was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost when the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues. Three thousand people were saved on the church’s first day, as the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Following a display of God’s power, the first persecution in the church occurred. The people prayed corporately for even greater boldness to preach. They prayed that in the name of Jesus even greater signs and wonders of God’s power would occur to confirm His word. They actively prayed and desired a greater move of God’s signs, wonders, and healings in their midst to glorify Him. The result was that the walls shook where they were meeting. (Acts 4:27-37) In Acts 5, the signs and power increased.

Jesus frequently went off by himself to pray. (Luke 4:42, 6:12) It was during such times that he received direction and instruction from His Father in heaven about what to do and how to do it. The results of such solitary time with God was demonstrated in God’s power, accomplishing His will. Jesus’ obedience to His Father’s direction resulted in the manifestation of God’s power.

“Call unto Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Throughout God’s word there are examples of the manifestation of His power that occurred as a result of His people, individually or corporately, calling upon the Lord for help or just setting time with Him as a priority.

People who see the results of God’s power have spent time in His presence, listening and talking with Him.

Prayer is not one-way communication. When we pray to God, we should listen for His answer and do what He says,

working His works. Expect His power to be released in the name of Jesus when you pray, and you will see it.

Set aside quality time to be with God. Listen to Him more than you speak. Some people are so busy running around doing religious activities that they don't stop to check in with God to find out if He even wants them doing what they are doing! Jesus prayed for hours. The disciples could not last one hour. Many church people today cannot pray for ten minutes, and then they wonder why they don't get God's results.

A fasted lifestyle of prayer allows a person to acknowledge and rely upon God for everything (Proverbs 3:5-6), and self is denied. The person's desire is to solely know and do what God wants (Isaiah 58), resulting in God's glory displayed in power.

Power Principle #6:

COMPASSION, NOT SYMPATHY, BIRTHS MIRACLES

In the bible compassion precedes the power of God. Seeing the heart of the people to want God's truth and the hunger of the people spiritually and physically, Jesus had compassion on them. (Matthew 14:14, 15:24-32, John 6:29) Compassion comes from the heart of God to love and care for His people who call upon His name and seek His face. (Jonah 4:2) The Lord shows compassion to whomever He will. (Exodus 33:19)

Compassion is not sympathy. Sympathy keeps people in their situation. Jesus sympathizes with our weakness and pain in that He went through what we go through. He knows our need. (Hebrews 4:14-16) However, his life, death, and resurrection were an act of God's compassion to enable us to approach His throne of grace with confidence (faith), so that we may receive mercy and find grace (ability) to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Sympathy understands and identifies with pain (pathos). Compassion moves a person to believe God and change his

situation by God's grace and power. Compassion is God's loving intervention into the situation, enabling faith in God, not the problem, to control a person's life. (Luke 7:13-17)

People don't need sympathy when they are going through problems. "Oh, you poor thing!" They need to hear, "God is greater than what you're going through. Believe God and He will see you through!" That is compassion. Compassion results from and produces humility (reliance on God) and truth.

Sympathy keeps people in the problem by identifying and rehearsing the problem. People who want sympathy do not want solutions or help. Pride keeps them in their problems because they do not believe God for help. Self feels sorry for self.

Unlike sympathy, God's compassion moves people out of the problem by focusing them on God's provision (solution) for their need. Compassion moves a person into faith in God and releases the power of God to work miracles.

Compassion when demonstrated changes the focus of a person from "poor me" to "bless God!" The person is not looking at his problem, but rather at God's solution or praise report "in the happening." God's compassion precedes, expects, and demands His power to arise and come forth. God's love never fails. His faith works by His love which produces His power and results.

Power Principle #7:

PEOPLE MUST WANT A CHANGE OF LIFE OR SITUATION

To set an environment for the Holy Spirit's power, people must want what God has for them. They must want the abundant life Jesus has promised, and they must rely on and believe God to make it happen.

In the gospels, Jesus did not heal everyone who was sick. He only healed those who came to him for healing. He healed everyone who came to him. (Matthew 8:16-17, 9:35-36, Luke

6:17-19) God's power went out to those who wanted and needed a change in their lives and circumstances.

Just because people are sick doesn't mean they want to be well. Just because people aren't saved does not mean that they want to be saved. Just because people are in bondage does not mean they want deliverance. On the other hand, they may want these things, but they are not believing for them. (Mark 9:20-24)

For God's power to manifest, people must humble themselves, seek the Lord diligently with all their hearts, recognize their need and believe God to meet their need.

As stated earlier, King Asa refused to seek God and relied only on the physicians. He died of a foot disease because no power came from God.

The woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:42-48, Mark 5:24-34) had been sick for twelve years. She sought the physicians and had spent all her money, yet grew worse. She thought, *If I can just touch his clothes, I'll be healed.* Jesus realized at the moment she touched him that power had gone out from him.

Jesus responded to her, *"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."* Her faith released the power of God through Jesus. She wanted a change, so she sought out and believed God to make it happen. God's power did it.

In 1975 when the Lord was teaching me about His power, a man contacted me concerning his wife who had cancer. He had heard about the wonderful things God's power was doing. We went to pray with her. I felt the power of God go out to her and then return to me. I asked her to get out of bed and wash her face as an act of faith. She replied, "I can't do that. I'm too sick." We went into the other room. Her husband received Jesus into his heart as Lord and Savior and was filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in new tongues.

A few days later I read in the paper that she had died. Some sickness had come on me too, and I was questioning God's power

and my faith. A voice came to my thoughts, “Physician, you have healed others. Why can’t you heal yourself?”

The devil’s discouragement provoked me, and God’s faith rose up in me. “In the name of Jesus, get off my mind and my body! By Jesus’ stripes I am healed. God’s word is true whether I see it or feel it.”

The Lord proceeded to direct me in my thoughts to go back to the man whose wife had died. The Lord told me to “get all the facts.”

The man invited me in and shared with me how on the day after our visit, his wife gathered the entire family together, preparing them for her death (which happened the next day). She was not believing to live but to die. I had the facts about what she was believing. Our faith and prayer had been good, but she had not received God’s power to heal because she believed to die.

The Lord encouraged me to get all the facts about what people are believing. It will be done according to people’s faith. I then understood what Jesus was telling the man who came to him about his son. (Mark 9:17-29) The man said to Jesus, “*If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.*” Jesus replied, “*If you can?*” *Everything is possible for him who believes.*”

It was not a question of God’s power being present to heal, but rather faith being present to release God’s power. The man responded, “*I do believe; help me to overcome my unbelief!*” The power of God set the boy free as Jesus commanded it to come out. (See Luke 10:19-20)

Some people don’t believe in marriage restoration, healing, or deliverance. Others don’t want to lose insurance benefits. If you don’t want your marriage to work, or you want to live on the streets, don’t expect God’s power to violate your will and choice. You can’t say God’s power doesn’t work when you don’t want to change.

A woman who was chronically sick would be healed by God’s power every time we prayed for her. However, after a week or two she would be sick again.

As I began to pray over her, the Lord spoke to my thoughts, “Don’t pray over her! She wants to be sick.” I thought, *Who would want to be sick?* Apparently, she did. When she was sick, her husband would have to stay home to help her – she wanted attention. . . and control. He died before she did.

Do you want, and will you let, God’s power change and bless your life?

Power Principle #8:

GOD’S WORD AND TRUTH IS PRESENT TO RELEASE HIS POWER

Note these examples from God’s word:

- The Lord calls things that be not as though they are, and they happen. (Romans 4:17)
- The Lord said, “Let there be...” and the creation occurred. (Genesis 1)
- He sends forth His word and heals. (Psalm 107:20)
- He confirms His word with signs and wonders following. (Mark 16:19-20; Acts 14:3)
- Those who continue in God’s word are His disciples who know the truth and are set free. (John 8:31-32)
- God will do what He says (Numbers 23:19)
- His word is spirit and life. (John 6:63)

God’s power will manifest in a place where people are asking the Holy Spirit for the word of the Lord to come forth. We must ask the Holy Spirit to give us what God, not man, wants to say. Many sermons, even taken from the bible, are not God’s word for His people.

The Lord showed me that you can be speaking out of the bible but it not be God’s word because it is not motivated, directed, and ordered by the Holy Spirit. The Lord will display His power

when His word for that moment is spoken under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Power Principle #9:

THE WORD OF THE LORD THROUGH HIS PROPHETS MUST BE HONORED

An environment where God will show His power is where the Lord's word is being spoken through His ministers. The word of God is powerful and true; however, it must be believed, honored, respected, and obeyed by the people in order to have power in their lives. The Lord's word and His messengers must be honored for His power to be displayed.

The Word says, *“Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in His prophets and you will be successful.”* (II Chronicles 20:20; Exodus 33:8; Acts 28:10) Paul thanked God continually that the people received and accepted the word of God through him. They heard the words, not as the words of mere man, but as it actually was – the word of God. It is at work in those who believe. (I Thessalonians 2:13; 4:8; 5:12-13)

The devil wants to discredit God's message and messengers. He convinces people not to trust them or gets them to believe they are not of God. (Matthew 12, 10:24-25) The Lord has set, anointed, empowered and given authority to the ministers of God in the body of Christ to equip and train the people for the work of the ministry, to do good, and to destroy the work of the devil. (Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 10:38)

People must trust and honor God's servants if they are to see God's results and power in their lives. At Nazareth, Jesus could not display the power of God because the people didn't believe in God, in Him, or that God worked through Him. (Mark 6:1-6)

If you seek out the word of a psychic, you will be blessed by the devil and damned by God. (Deuteronomy 18) If you seek out the word of the Lord through His ministers, you will see God's

power revealed. By honoring and believing God's servant, you honor Him and bring His best through the minister to you. (I Thessalonians 5:12-13)

Power Principle #10:

UNITY BRINGS GOD'S POWER

When people come together in one heart, mind, and purpose, an environment is permitted for God's power to manifest. On the other hand, division hinders the flow of God's Spirit.

Jesus said, *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them."* (Matthew 18:20) *"If two of you agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 18:19)

When people come together in Jesus, only desiring to honor and worship Him, the Lord will draw near. Forget about yourself and your needs, feelings, or opinions. Desire to love Jesus and the people. Believe God to touch everyone in a special way as the Lord desires. Expect the Lord to do whatever He wants. Joyfully and thankfully approach the Lord side by side with your brothers and sisters in Christ from all nations.

We are one in Jesus. We share each others sorrows, expecting God to turn our tears into joyful praise reports. We believe God together for victory. God will be there in wisdom and power. (Acts 2:42-47; 4:23-37; 5:1-17; 10:34-48; and Philippians 2:1-16)

When people deny self and follow Christ Jesus, they become one with God and with others who have done the same. The message of the cross is the power of God to those who are being saved. (I Corinthians 1:18) The message of the cross is also the message of unity in Christ Jesus who is the wisdom and power of God. (I Corinthians 1:23-24) When Jesus is preached, the wisdom and power of God will manifest. When Jesus is lifted up, he will draw all people to Himself. We who have denied self and received

Jesus as Lord are all one in Him. (John 17) This unity in love is a demonstration to the world of our God's power in the name of Jesus.

Summary of a Climate for the Holy Spirit

1. Know and believe that the Lord is all loving, present, compassionate, and powerful.
2. People have needs to be met.
3. Faith in God moves God to meet needs.
4. The presence of the Holy Spirit must be welcomed, honored, and obeyed.
5. Where people are praying, God's power will come.
6. Compassion, not sympathy, births miracles.
7. People must want a change of life.
8. God's word and truth is present to release His power.
9. The Word of the Lord through His prophets must be honored.
10. Unity brings God's power.