Bible Study Handout

How Can I Have Spiritual Power, and How Does God Exercise His Power?

Key Scriptures

- **Acts 1:8** — "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."
- **Ephesians 3:20** — God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us.**
- **2 Timothy 1:7** — God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
- **Zechariah 4:6** — "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

1. What Is Spiritual Power?

Spiritual power is **God's ability working through a surrendered believer to accomplish His will.**

It is not simply being loud, emotional, or religious. Spiritual power enables us to:

- Stand against temptation
- Overcome fear
- Witness for Christ
- Pray with confidence
- Walk in obedience
- Love when it is difficult
- Endure trials
- Exercise spiritual authority
- Live a victorious Christian life

Luke 10:19 — Jesus gave His disciples authority over the power of the enemy.

Important Principle:

Spiritual power does not originate in us; it comes from God.

> "For without me ye can do nothing." — **John 15:5**

2. How Can I Receive Spiritual Power?

A. Receive the Holy Spirit

esus connected spiritual power with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

\cts 1:8

> "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."

'he Holy Spirit gives us the ability to do what we cannot accomplish through human strength alone.

:phesians 3:16 — Paul prayed that believers would be strengthened with might by God's Spirit in the nner man.

\sk yourself:

\m I trying to do spiritual work with natural strength?

3. Stay Connected to Jesus

Jesus said:

John 15:4-5

> "Abide in me, and I in you..."

A branch has no independent source of life. It must remain connected to the vine.

Likewise, our spiritual strength comes from remaining connected to Christ.

How do I abide in Christ?

- Prayer
- God's Word
- Worship
- Obedience
- Fellowship with believers
- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit

John 15:7 — When we abide in Christ and His words abide in us, our prayer life becomes powerful.

3. Spiritual Power Is Developed Through Prayer

Prayer is one of the ways God releases His power into our circumstances.

James 5:16

> "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Look at the early church:

Acts 4:31 — After they prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke God's Word with boldness.

Prayer changes things—but prayer also changes us.

When we pray, God gives us:

- Strength
- Wisdom
- Boldness
- Direction
- Peace
- Endurance

Philippians 4:6-7

4. Spiritual Power Comes Through God's Word

God's Word gives us spiritual strength because His Word carries His authority.

Hebrews 4:12

> "For the word of God is quick, and powerful..."

Jesus demonstrated this when Satan tempted Him.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

Jesus answered temptation with:

"It is written..."

.esson:

'ou cannot effectively fight spiritual battles with an empty spiritual vocabulary.

'ou need God's Word stored in your heart.

'salm 119:11

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

5. Spiritual Power Requires Obedience

God's power is not given so that we can do whatever we want.

t is given so that we can accomplish **what God wants**.

Acts 5:32

"And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

The question is not simply:

"Do I have power?"

The greater question is:

"Am I willing to obey God with the power He gives me?"

6. How Does God Exercise His Power?

A. God Exercises His Power Through Creation

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

God spoke, and creation responded.

Psalm 33:9

"For he spake, and it was done..."

God's power is demonstrated by His authority over creation.

B. God Exercises His Power Through His Word

Isaiah 55:11

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void..."

When God speaks, His Word accomplishes His purpose.

This means:

What God says has power behind it.

7. God Exercises His Power Through the Holy Spirit

Zechariah 4:6

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD..."

The Holy Spirit is God's presence and power working in His people.

Romans 8:11 teaches that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in believers.

Think about that:

The Christian life is not supposed to be lived entirely in human strength.

The Spirit of God supplies what human strength cannot provide.

. God Exercises His Power Through Miracles

hroughout Scripture, God demonstrated His power through supernatural acts.

xamples:

:xodus 14:21-22 — God opened the Red Sea.

loshua 6:20 — The walls of Jericho fell.

Kings 18:38 — Fire fell from heaven in response to Elijah's prayer.

)aniel 3:25-27 — God preserved the three Hebrew young men in the fiery furnace.

\cts 3:6-8 — God healed the lame man through the ministry of Peter and John.

\cts 16:25-26 — God sent an earthquake that opened the prison doors.

.esson:

God's power is not limited by circumstances.

9. God Exercises His Power Through Weak People

This is one of the most encouraging truths in Scripture.

2 Corinthians 12:9

> "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Paul learned that God's strength could operate through his weakness.

Therefore:

Your weakness does not disqualify you.

Your weakness can become the place where **God's strength is revealed.**

2 Corinthians 4:7

> "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

10. God Gives Us Power to Overcome the Enemy

Ephesians 6:10-11

> "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Notice Paul did not say, "Be strong in yourself."

He said:

"Be strong in the Lord."

Our spiritual battle requires spiritual strength.

James 4:7

> "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

There are two important actions:

1. **Submit to God.**
2. **Resist the devil.**

11. What Can Block Spiritual Power?

1. Disobedience

Isaiah 59:2

2. Unforgiveness

Mark 11:25

3. Pride

James 4:6

4. Unbelief

Mark 6:5-6

5. Neglecting prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:17

6. Neglecting God's Word

Matthew 4:4

7. Walking in the flesh

Galatians 5:16-17

12. Five Ways to Grow in Spiritual Power

1. Pray consistently

Luke 18:1

2. Study God's Word

2 Timothy 2:15

3. Walk in obedience

James 1:22

4. Depend on the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:25

5. Exercise your faith

Hebrews 11:6

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between human power and spiritual power?
2. According to Acts 1:8, what is the purpose of receiving power?
3. Why is remaining connected to Jesus important to spiritual power?
4. How does God's Word strengthen us spiritually?
5. Why can God use someone who feels weak?
6. What things can interfere with our spiritual effectiveness?
7. Where do you need God's power in your life right now?

Key Thought

Spiritual power is not about how powerful I can become; it is about how completely I surrender myself to the God who is already powerful.

> "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." — Zechariah 4:6

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the power that comes from You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Strengthen me in my inner man. Give me power to overcome temptation, courage to face adversity, wisdom to make the right decisions, and boldness to be a witness for Jesus Christ. Help me to remain connected to You through prayer, Your Word, worship, and obedience. Let Your power work through me—not for my glory, but for Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.