

# CHRISTIANS HAVE LOST THEIR POWER!

**Probably YOU, too, are spiritually powerless! Here is the shocking TRUTH!  
Read WHY your prayers are not directly—miraculously—answered!**

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**HE CHANCES are that even you, if you believe you are a Christian, are today on *mighty dangerous ground!*

You'd better STOP—and *check up!*

Open your Bible! Take a look at the *real Christians* back in the days of Peter, John, and Paul—AND COMPARE! Take a look at the POWER in the original true Church—in the lives of *those* Christians. See how your life stacks up!

... **But Are You SURE?** You *think* you are under God's GRACE? Safe and secure for all eternity?

Well, *listen!* "Let him that *thinketh* he standeth *take heed*, lest he FALL!" So warns God's Word (1 Cor. 10:12). It's time to realize you are going to be finally *judged* by the very WORD OF GOD. You need to see to *what standard* you must measure up.

Jesus told His disciples, just before He ascended to heaven, that they should receive POWER when they were converted. "Ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you," He said (Acts 1:8).

Do you have that same POWER today? Did you ever study closely to see *what that power IS?* Have you ever been concerned about *HOW* you may receive it?

Have you ever checked to see *WHETHER* you need it? It's time you did, for without it YOU ARE NOT TRULY CHRIST'S!

**What We DO See.** Of course many of you professing Christians see that you must accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, to be saved.

You may even see that you must *repent* of transgressing God's Law—His spiritual Law, as summarized in

the Ten Commandments—because *sin is* the transgression of the Law.

Perhaps you've gone far enough to realize WHY you were born—you've learned God's great PURPOSE being worked out here below.

You may see that today ALL NATIONS are spiritually *drunk* on the false pagan doctrines of the modern spiritual "Babylon"—that all nations are *deceived*—that the TRUTH has been turned upside down.

You may see that even the churches are deceived, and have turned away from the truth and embraced fables.

You may realize that *grace* has been turned into *license!*

You may even have progressed so far as to comprehend that God is *molding* our lives until we shall be literally BORN of Him—His character created within us—this *mortal* becoming *immortal*—this human becoming *divine* in the very Kingdom of God.

But haven't you overlooked, or *failed to "see,"* the POWER of the Holy Spirit of God within you?

You may have come to see how evil and paganized this world has become, and to be *disgusted* with its ways.

You may recognize that you must forsake YOUR WAY, and turn to and live GOD'S WAY! Yes, you may fully understand that Isaiah said: "Seek ye the ETERNAL while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake HIS WAY, and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS" (Isa. 55:6-7).

But have you *overlooked*, or neglected verse 1: "Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the WATERS..." Thirsty for *what?*

WHICH "waters"? Why, the very "waters" Jesus spoke of:

"If any man thirst," He said, "let him come unto me and *drink*, he that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall flow RIVERS of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:37-39).

Have you ever fully realized that the Holy Spirit is something that was not born in you? We hear a lot today about tapping your own inner hidden resources—the dormant powers *within* your mind. Modern religions are springing up calling that sleeping, dormant, latent *part* of your mind "GOD"! But the Holy Spirit is something you have *not had*—something you must RECEIVE from GOD! Something infinitely greater and more POWERFUL than any powers *within* you—something from the great God who *created* YOU—who created the entire vast universe and all that exists!

It is the essence—the very *life*—the NATURE of God. But it also is something from God, which He gives you *from* Himself, which is actually a *part* of Himself—and which IMPARTS POWER!

Do you know *what* that power is? Has *that* POWER come into you, so that you can *wield* it?

You, as a professing Christian, may have come to realize, to see, to comprehend, many of these things—to have accepted them—but is this POWER actually being manifested in *your* life? Are you *sure* you know *WHAT* that power is?

## If You'd Like to Know More

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their areas to counsel with them personally and to answer their questions.

The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (most are ordained ministers) in the United States and British Commonwealth and many other areas of the world. These local ministers will visit you, if invited, directly in your own home.

So if you have spiritual matters to discuss or questions to ask about biblical topics such as repentance, baptism, etc., please feel free to write us and request a private appointment. Worldwide mailing addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

• United States: P.O. Box 111, Pas-

adena, California 91123. (Or simply dial this toll-free number in the *continental* U.S.: 1-800-423-4444. In California, Alaska and Hawaii call 213-577-5225 collect.)

- United Kingdom, Europe, India, and Africa: P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England. (Or dial this number in U.K.: Radlett [092 76] 2670.)
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- South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg 2000. (Or dial this number: 011-216406.)

**What IS This Strange POWER?** First, let me tell you what this power is NOT.

It is *not* an emotion physically worked up through the senses. It is *not* something that you can generate, or work up, yourself.

It is *not* a "loosened tongue" which suddenly becomes glib and loud and forward in "spiritual"-sounding phrases. It is *not* a *bragging* tongue.

It is *not* falling over backward "under the power." It is *not* being robbed of all power, as some people who have accepted the counterfeit emotional religion are, while "under the power."

It is *not* something that makes people shout, shriek, jerk, laugh insanely and uncontrollably, or go through ridiculous and childish antics in a meeting where the preacher generates a fake, false "power" and a counterfeit spirit by constantly calling for loud emotional responses of "Hallelujah!" "Praise the Lord!" "Amen!" etc., in response to his oft-repeated: "All who believe it say 'AMEN!'" etc., etc.

To know what it truly is, look into your Bible!

Jesus is our example, and we find this POWER first of all in His life. It was nothing physically inherent

within Him. He said: "I can of *mine own self* do NOTHING" (John 5:30). But, He said, "the Father that *dwell-eth in me*, he doeth the works" (John 14:10).

The Father dwelt IN Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit imparted POWER. What was that power?

The inspired Peter, bringing salvation to the Gentiles for the first time, explained: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with POWER; who went about *doing good, and healing* all that were oppressed of the devil: for *God was with him*" (Acts 10:38).

Notice, that POWER in Jesus did none of those things that are done today by the very ones who most loudly profess to have the power of the Holy Spirit. He used that power, going about quietly, unobtrusively, not shouting, bragging, falling helpless "under the power," or any of those "wild-fire" things—but DOING! Yes, His was a life of DOING—but doing *what?* Doing GOOD! Serving, helping, OTHER PEOPLE! There was *divine* power—with it He performed MIRACLES—He HEALED all that were sick—He cast out demons, and had discernment to *know* when a person was demon-possessed.

His was the POWER of the Creator

GOD! The *very same* POWER that produced all creation—when "He spake"! God is a *miracle-working God!* With that POWER, which came from the Father, and was *in* Jesus. He stilled the storm, He turned water into wine. He fed five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes!

**The POWER of the TRUE Church!** Now notice that POWER in the original Church, before the apostasy set in, and before the degeneracy of our day.

Soon after being filled with that power from God, Peter and John went up together into the temple at Jerusalem, at the 3:00 p.m. hour of prayer. They entered through the gate called "Beautiful." At the gate a beggar, crippled from birth, asked for money.

"Look on us," said Peter. "Silver and gold have I none; but *such as I have* give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!"

Grasping the beggar's right hand in perfect faith, Peter lifted him sharply to his feet. The beggar was healed instantly. He *leaped* up, and then walked with Peter and John into the temple, leaping as he went, shouting out praises to God (Acts 3:1-8).

Jesus, powerless of His own *human self*, was filled with the divine POWER of the Creator. The very supernatural power of God did the WORK OF GOD through His human BODY. Jesus said, "the works that I do in the Father's name, they bear witness of me" (John 10:25). And again, "If I do *not* the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do... believe the works: *that ye may know*, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him" (John 10:37-38).

Today that *same Spirit*—that SAME SUPERNATURAL *power*—utilizes the *collective body* of the true Church of God as God's human instrumentality, through which God accomplishes His WORK here on earth. In that way the true CHURCH is also the BODY OF CHRIST (1 Cor. 12:27).

And Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do *shall he do also*; and greater works than these shall he do" (John 14:12).

That same POWER of God was in Peter and John. It did the WORK OF GOD in proclaiming Christ's Gospel. **God's POWER in Action!** The miraculous healing of the beggar aroused the antagonism of the priests and Sadducees until they seized Peter and John and threw them into prison for the night. The next day, these religious leaders threatened them, commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Then these *true* Christians went immediately to their own group of believers. And here is a point I want you to get. They were human. They had none of this power inherent within themselves. They, themselves, were not the *source* of this dynamic power. It had come from God.

And the important point is this: WE DO NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH OF HIS DIVINE POWER ALL AT ONCE TO LAST FOREVER.

Remember, Jesus said this power of God SHALL FLOW OUT from our innermost being! (John 7:38.) This POWER of God is active—dynamic! It is not static. You cannot get a supply of God's Spirit, and then bottle it up within you. This power comes into you from God *daily!* It *circulates*—from God, into YOU—and then on out *from* you in love, in faith, in joy, in patience—even in performing miracles.

You might have been imbued with this power yesterday and depleted of it today!

**A RE-filling of Power.** The threatenings of these chief priests and elders, after a night in prison, apparently left Peter and John a little depleted of faith and the confident POWER of God. Yes, they were human!

They went to their brethren in Christ. When they reported what had happened, all their brethren were shaken. They, too, being human, must have felt a sudden sense of spiritual inadequacy—a lack of power! But they sensed and knew their NEED. They knew the SOURCE of constant *refilling* of this POWER OF GOD within them! They didn't delay! They went immediately to the SOURCE of their divine power!

"And when they had heard that, they lifted up their voice to GOD with

*one accord*, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them is . . . and now, Lord, behold their threatenings: *and grant unto thy servants*, that with all boldness they may speak thy Word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:24, 29-30).

Yes, suddenly this company realized their own human inadequacy—realized their need of renewed POWER FROM GOD. They didn't run from their difficulty! They didn't cower and tremble in fear. They didn't give up their Great Commission. They went directly to the SOURCE of their power. They yielded themselves into God's hands, as His servants, anew. They urgently, intensively, cried to God to FILL THEM with His power—to give them boldness, faith, power of speech. They asked God fervently and believingly to heal and perform miracles.

Was there any God listening? Was there any response? Listen!

"And when they had prayed, the PLACE WAS SHAKEN where they were assembled together; and they were all FILLED with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness! . . . And with GREAT POWER gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 4:31, 33).

**We Need It Today.** Do *you*, today, have the SAME POWER the original Christians had? They were just as human as YOU! The *real* question, then, is this: Do *you* yield yourself as fully—surrender your will as unconditionally to God—pray as often, as earnestly and intensively, as they? If you *do* you will be filled with as much of the divine POWER as they—for God is no respecter of persons!

This same POWER OF GOD operated actively, continually, in those early original Christians. They actually *did* do greater works than Jesus—until even the shadow of Peter passing over the sick healed them! THEY DID THE VERY WORK OF GOD!

The Work of God, which God *started* in the individual body of Jesus, was carried on through the *collective* body of disciples, now be-

coming the BODY OF CHRIST—the true CHURCH of God!

The same POWER of God's Spirit that worked in the human body of Jesus worked in the *collective* body of God's Church in the days of the original apostles. That same power works in the collective BODY OF CHRIST—His Church—today!

The Great Commission is this: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel!" Not some *other* Gospel, as Paul prophesied would be preached (II Cor. 11). That true first century Church, empowered by God, carried on this true WORK OF GOD!

Then the great apostasy set in. The apostate *false church* (Rev. 17:1-5) rose up in 33 A.D., two years after Christ started His *true* Church. It *professed* to be Christian, taking on Christ's name.

This professing Christian church turned away its ear from the TRUTH, and turned to FABLES (II Tim. 4:4). Pagans flocked in, embracing what they called "Christianity" wholesale—bringing in with them their pagan beliefs and practices! The ancient Babylonian "mysteries" came to be labeled, falsely, "Christianity"! THE WHOLE WORLD, TODAY, IS DECEIVED! (Rev. 17:1, 2, 5; 12:9.)

But there continued, also, God's *true* Church, pictured in Revelation 12—persecuted by Satan and his great false church of Revelation 17. No longer was this persecuted Church able to proclaim the true Gospel to all nations—to the whole world—in great power.

But Jesus had said, prophetically, that just before the END of this world—*right NOW*—"This gospel of the KINGDOM shall be preached in *all the world* for a witness unto ALL NATIONS; and *then* shall the end come"! (Matt. 24:14.)

Today *that* prophecy is being fulfilled, right before your eyes this very second! Today the dynamic broadcast, *The WORLD TOMORROW*, is going out in the POWER OF GOD, reaching *the millions* around the world!

Today God is opening *gigantic DOORS*—the doors of radio, television, and the printing press. Doors of MASS COMMUNICATIONS. The original, true Gospel of Jesus Christ—the *same* Gospel He brought from

GOD and taught—is broadcast into EVERY CONTINENT around the world! It is hitting this world with terrific IMPACT—with tremendous POWER!

This very WORK OF GOD for our day is foretold in the prophecy of Revelation 3:7-13. But there is revealed that we, today, are a people of but *little strength—little power!* (verse 8)—within ourselves—though we have faithfully KEPT GOD'S WORD! The impact of this WORK OF GOD today is going out only through the *power of God!* Are you having *your part* in this very WORK OF GOD?

But—*let's face it!*—WE DO NOT HAVE WITHIN OURSELVES, AS GOD'S

INSTRUMENTS FOR HIS WORK TODAY, ANYWHERE NEAR THE POWER OF GOD THAT ACTIVATED THAT ORIGINAL FIRST CENTURY CHURCH!

For that very reason, the living Christ says (Revelation 3:8), He has opened to us the gigantic door of MASS COMMUNICATION! The magnified power of the microphone and the printing press. Yet that is only physical mechanical power! The REAL POWER that makes God's Work *vital* and *alive* is the Holy Spirit of God!

We need to present our *bodies* a living sacrifice to GOD! (Rom. 12:1.) We need to receive a greater TRANSFORMING—and to be LESS CONFORMED to this present evil world! We

need to REPENT! We need to more earnestly SEEK GOD! We need to put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, as we are admonished in Ephesians 6:10-18! Perhaps some of us need to FAST and PRAY—as Jesus did!

Have YOU enough of the POWER OF GOD flowing dynamically into, and out from you? *YOU* need to seek a much closer contact with your GOD! □

#### Recommended Reading

To find out more about God's power and how you can exercise that power in your life, request our free articles "How You Can Be Imbued with the Power of God" and "You Need God's Holy Spirit."

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