

Authentic POWER

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Sermon Synopsis

The heart of Jerusalem, ancient and sacred, serves as the backdrop for a profound exploration into AUTHENTIC POWER. The sermon, delivered from the rooftop above the pilgrimage site of the Upper Room where the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, examines the transformative journey originating with fulfillment of Jesus' promise – the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is here, where the Apostle Peter once stood, that the sermon unfolds the miracle of Pentecost, igniting the faith of 3,000 souls and altering the course of history.

The sermon delves into the deep longing of this generation for authenticity, for the supernatural that seamlessly integrates into the natural, and for the tangible manifestation of the divine in daily 21st century life. This echoes the disciples' experience of being clothed with 'dunamis' – the dynamic, authentic power of God. This dunamis, which once propelled the Gospel across the earth, is the same power that touches lives today.

A historical journey through the Upper Room's past, from its origins as a synagogue to its transformation across centuries – a basilica, a mosque, and now a pilgrimage site – enriches the narrative. Dr. Wilson weaves this history with the present, emphasizing the continuity of God's power throughout time. As the sermon progresses, it presents universal truths of God's power, warning against self-generated experiences and the futility of attempting to buy divine favor. Instead, it directs believers to authentic encounters, marked by surrender and obedience, which are accessible to all who seek them with a pure heart.

The sermon culminates in practical guidance, offering ten steps to living a life imbued with authentic power. These steps, ranging from seeking the Giver over the gift to staying surrendered on the altar of God, form a blueprint for believers aspiring to lead lives that resonate with divine power. Emphasizing the importance of purity, faith, and the recognition of God's power within,

the preacher encourages believers to be conduits of God's power in meeting human needs, thereby fulfilling the Great Commission.

In conclusion, the Dr. Billy Wilson extends an invitation to embrace the authentic power of God, urging viewers to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's indwelling. He affirms that this power is not only for the apostles of old but is readily available to every believer today, capable of transforming them into world changers. The call to action is clear – to connect, to share testimonies, and to seek the power that equips believers to impact the world for the glory of God.

Sermon Highlights: Authentic Power

- The Holy Spirit's outpouring on Pentecost demonstrates God's promise being fulfilled, empowering believers to witness and transform the cities around them.
- God's authentic power is essential in the lives of believers, meant to be experienced regularly and tangibly, impacting our everyday existence.
- Christianity was never intended to be a mere religion of words, but a faith of divine power, where followers of Christ partake in and manifest the very dynamis—the power—of God.
- Attempts at manufacturing or purchasing divine power are not only futile but dangerous. True power comes from God alone and is a result of His grace and our surrender.
- Living a life of authentic power involves seeking God earnestly, maintaining purity, recognizing God's power within us, and responding to human need with compassion, faith, and prayer.
- Seven Truths about God's Power:
 - Is greater than any other power
 - Is normative in Christian life
 - Manifesting by yourself is deadly
 - Cannot be bought
 - Released by need / Accessed by faith
 - Withheld by unbelief
 - Comes on the surrendered life
- Ten steps to Live filled with Authentic Power
 - Seek the Giver, not the gift
 - Purity and Power are connected
 - Recognize Power of God
 - Activate the Power with Faith and courage to Obey
 - Seek to meet human need
 - Verify Power's effect
 - Never stop seeking God
 - Bathe in God's presence and word
 - Stay on the altar
 - Remember that it is God's power

Scripture Verses

Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Numbers 3:4

Nadab and Abihu, however, died before the LORD when they made an offering with unauthorized fire before him in the Desert of Sinai. They had no sons, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron.

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:20-24

Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you said may happen to me."

Acts 3:1-10

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what happened to him.

Acts 1:8

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.”

Quotes

- The power of the Holy Spirit is that something that this generation is hungry for – something that is real, authentic, and makes a tangible difference in our lives. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- God's power in you and around you transforms the spiritual environment wherever you go. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- Seek the giver and not the gift. Your goal is not just God's power, it's the giver of that power, the Lord Himself and His Son, Jesus Christ. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- When you reach out to minister to people that are hurting, you can depend on it, God's power will come through. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- The surrendered life gets the fire. Stay on the altar, stay surrendered to Christ, so His power can flow in your life. - Dr. Billy that Wilson

Bible Study

Objectives

- To understand the authentic power of the Holy Spirit as demonstrated on the day of Pentecost.
- To recognize the transformative power of God in the lives of believers.
- To identify and apply practical steps for living a life filled with God's authentic power.
- To inspire personal dedication to seeking a deeper experience with the Holy Spirit.

Reading and Reflections

- Read Acts 2:1-4 to reflect on the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Consider Acts 10:38 to meditate on how Jesus operated in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Deliberate on Luke 24:49 and the promise of power from on high.
- Reflect on the need for a pure heart to access God's power by reading Psalm 51:10-12.

Key Observations

- God's power is the greatest power available to us.
- Experiencing the Holy Spirit should be a normative part of the Christian life.
- God's power cannot be manipulated or purchased - it is a gift of grace.
- We see in Acts 3:6 that true Holy Spirit power is focused on meeting human needs.

Personal Reflections

- Have I truly sought the Giver over the gifts? How can I refocus?
- What areas of my life need purification so that I can be a proper vessel for His power?
- Am I actively recognizing and allowing God's power to work through me in my everyday encounters?
- How can I maintain a surrendered life to ensure a continuous flow of the Holy Spirit's power?

Lessons for Daily Life

- Seek deep communion with God beyond seeking His hand; seek His face.
- Live a life of purity and holiness to maintain the flow of God's power.
- Be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance in every aspect of life.
- Serve others as an outlet for God's power to be made manifest in the world.

Practical Applications

- Incorporate a daily time of prayer and Bible study focusing on seeking God's presence.
- Consciously perform acts of kindness and service as a response to human need around you.
- Join a prayer group or find a prayer partner to agree with you in faith for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Fast regularly to draw closer to God and to fine-tune your spiritual sensitivity.

Challenges for the Week

- Dedicate this week to seeking a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- Identify one area where you can demonstrate God's power through service and do so.
- Testify to someone about a personal experience with God's authentic power.
- Commit to a day of fasting and prayer for deeper intimacy with God.

Further Study

- Study the life of Peter post-Pentecost to observe how the power of the Holy Spirit enabled his ministry.
- Examine the life of Paul for insights into how the power of the Holy Spirit can transform and use a life for God's glory.
- Research historical revivals and note how the move of the Holy Spirit impacted communities and societies.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Word which is living and active. We stand in awe of the power of Your Holy Spirit demonstrated throughout history and available to us today. May we, as Your children, be worthy vessels, seeking to know You more and to be continually filled with Your Spirit. Let Your power be evident in our lives, not for our own gain, but to serve and to witness to the world around us. We ask for a deeper understanding and a greater experience of Your authentic power within us. Strengthen us to walk in the boldness and courage of the early church, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to all corners of the earth. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

Daily Devotionals

Day 1

Scripture Verse

Luke 24:49 - 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Reflection

As we stand in the shadow of the Apostles, we are reminded that the same power that descended upon them at Pentecost is available to us today. The promise of the Father is as real now as it was then. Consider the early disciples, ordinary men and women who were transformed into bold witnesses for Christ. Their lives were marked by the authentic power of God, a power that is not reserved for a select few but promised to all who believe and are willing to wait upon the Lord. Reflect upon your own life. Are there areas where you have been trying to operate in your own strength? Have you been rushing ahead without waiting for the power from on high? Just as the disciples gathered together in anticipation, let us also come together, in unity and expectancy, for the outpouring of His Spirit in our lives. For it is not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit, says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6).

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I wait upon You with expectancy. Clothe me with Your power from on high, that I may be a witness for Your glory. Amen.

Day 2

Scripture Verse

Acts 10:38 - 'How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.'

Reflection

In Acts 10:38, we see the model of authentic power at work in Jesus' ministry. This is the same power that is at work within us when we are anointed by the Holy Spirit. It is a power that compels us to do good, to heal, and to liberate those oppressed by darkness. Reflect on how this power is not a force to be wielded for personal gain but a gift to be used in service to others. How might God be calling you to use His power to impact the lives of those around you? Remember, it is not about grand gestures, but often through simple acts of kindness, compassion, and healing words that we demonstrate the reality of God's Kingdom. Let us be conduits of His love and power, reaching out to the broken and bringing light into the darkness.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, anoint me afresh with Your Holy Spirit and power, that I may follow Your example in doing good and serving others. Amen.

Day 3

Scripture Verse

Acts 1:8 - '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.'

Reflection

The charge in Acts 1:8 is as clear today as it was for the first disciples. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses, not just in our immediate surroundings but to the very ends of the earth. This divine empowerment is not for our glory but for the advancement of the Gospel. As you reflect on this scripture, consider how the Holy Spirit has equipped you to be a witness in your unique context. What are the 'Jeruselems' and 'ends of the earth' in your life? The workplace, your family, social circles, or perhaps a calling to cross-cultural missions? The same power that propelled the early church forward is at work in you. Embrace it, and step out in faith to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ, knowing that it is His power working through you that will draw all men unto Him.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, empower me to be a bold witness for Christ in every area of my life. Lead me to those who need to hear Your message of hope. Amen.

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