

Energy of God

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Sermon Synopsis

In this sermon from Krakow, Poland, Dr. Billy Wilson examines the New Testament word *energeia*, often translated as “energy,” and how it describes the Spirit’s work in the life of the believer. Beginning with a personal reflection on managing energy instead of time, he points to Colossians 1:29, where Paul speaks of laboring with the energy Christ provides. This, Dr. Wilson explains, is a source that goes beyond human strength and makes it possible to carry out God’s work in the church and the world.

The message traces biblical moments that display this energy. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus promised that his church would endure against every opposition (Matthew 16:18). That promise is seen in Acts 2, when the Spirit came with wind and fire, equipping the disciples to carry the gospel outward. Alongside these examples, Dr. Wilson highlights how opposition often takes the form of division, distraction, dilution, and discouragement—patterns that can weaken both individuals and the church’s mission.

Through stories from Acts, he shows how the early church faced each of these challenges, and how prayer, unity, and integrity helped them remain strong. The sermon also emphasizes the importance of rest. Drawing on the teaching of theology educator Kerry Loscher, Dr. Wilson notes that Sabbath is not only a command but also a provision, protecting God’s people from exhaustion. He connects this to his own experiences of physical and emotional weariness on the mission field, underscoring that God’s strength renews those who grow tired.

The call of the sermon is for believers to stay attentive to the Spirit’s work—through prayer, repentance, unity, and trust in God’s provision—so that they may live with a steady source of spiritual energy. In this way, the church can continue its mission with resilience and hope, carrying light into difficult places.

Sermon Highlights

- God's energy, the *energeia*, is a supernatural power brought into our lives by the Holy Spirit, empowering us to live victoriously and carry out God's work with strength and renewal.
- Unity among believers is vital; Satan uses division to drain God's energy from the church, but God's power increases exponentially when His people stand together in harmony.
- Distraction and dilution are enemy tactics to draw believers away from their God-given priorities and cause hypocrisy, which ultimately depletes the spiritual energy and effectiveness of the church.
- Discouragement aims to sap courage and weaken the church, but through united prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit, believers receive boldness and divine energy to overcome opposition.
- No matter how exhausted we may feel, God does not grow weary; those who hope in Him will have their strength renewed, enabling them to soar like eagles and continue faithfully in His calling.

Scripture Verses

Colossians 1:29

To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Matthew 16:18 (The Message)

And now I'm going to tell you who you are, who you really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 6:7

The word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 5:1-11

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. Then, after an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out too." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 5:14, 16

More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Acts 4:18-20

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:23-31

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.'" ... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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.

Quotes

- "God's energy is the ultimate renewable, sustainable source." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "A church so expansive with God's energy that the gates of hell will not be able to stop it." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Sabbath is proof that we are no longer slaves." - Kerry Loscher
- "When God's people are united, they are mighty, they are powerful, I call it supernatural synergy." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "When it feels like you're exhausted and can't go on, you're not. God's energy source is never depleted and never exhausted." - Dr. Billy Wilson

Bible Study

Objectives

- Understand the concept of God's energy (energeia) as described in Colossians 1:29 and its supernatural source through the Holy Spirit.
- Identify and recognize the enemy's tactics—division, distraction, dilution, and discouragement—that seek to drain God's energy from believers and the church.
- Appreciate the importance of unity, focus on God's priorities, sincerity in faith, and perseverance through discouragement.
- Learn practical ways to tap into and maintain the renewable, sustainable energy of the Holy Spirit for personal strength and effective ministry.
- Encourage personal reflection on the state of one's spiritual energy and propose an action plan to renew and strengthen it.

Reading and Reflections

- Colossians 1:29 – Paul 'strenuously contends with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me,' illustrating reliance on divine strength.
- Matthew 16:18 – Jesus' promise that the church, energized by Him, will overcome the gates of hell and not be stopped by fear or panic.
- Acts 2:1-4 – The Day of Pentecost showcases God's supernatural energy filling the church, empowering speech, healing, and bold witness.
- Acts 6 – Handling distraction: apostles prioritize prayer and the ministry of the Word over administrative duties.
- Acts 5:1-16 – Illustrates danger of dilution and hypocrisy draining energy, balanced by God's power through honesty and integrity.
- Isaiah 40:28-31 – God as the everlasting source who renews strength to the weary and gives power to the weak.

Key Observations

- God's energy is not mere physical or mental ability but a supernatural strength from the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is the person of God who renews, empowers, and sustains believers indefinitely.
- Satan's primary tactics attack the flow of God's energy by fostering division (friction), distraction, dilution (hypocrisy), and discouragement.
- Unity among believers multiplies strength; division depletes God's energy, much like friction in a machine.
- Focus on God's priorities releases divine energy to expand the gospel and church growth.
- Integrity and authenticity in living prevent energy loss and invite God's blessing.

- God's power can renew even the most exhausted individuals—He never grows tired or weary.
- Rejoicing in God's sustainable energy keeps believers running the race with endurance, energized by hope.

Personal Reflections

- Where am I experiencing God's supernatural energy in my life currently, and where am I feeling drained?
- How have division or distraction affected my spiritual vitality or relationships within the church?
- Am I living with integrity in private and public, or am I allowing dilution of my spiritual energy through hypocrisy?
- When discouraged, do I cry out for God's renewing power or rely on my own strength alone?
- In what ways can I cultivate unity and focus on God's priorities to preserve and increase His energy in me?
- Who are the trusted individuals with whom I can share honestly about my spiritual walk and need for rest or renewal?
- How does the truth that God never tires and renews strength encourage me today?

Lessons for Daily Life

- Spiritual energy must be managed and renewed by reliance on God through prayer and the ministry of the Word.
- Unity among believers is crucial—avoid divisive behavior that saps the strength of the body of Christ.
- Stay focused on the God-ordained mission; avoid distractions that pull energy away from important ministry.
- Live an authentic Christian life to keep God's power active, avoiding hypocrisy or double-mindedness.
- Rest is biblical and necessary; emulate Jesus' rhythm by embracing Sabbath and trusting God's timing.
- Discouragement is an enemy tactic—combat it by communal prayer and trusting God's promises.
- Be aware that God's energy is infinitely renewable; when fatigued, cry out to Him for supernatural revival.

Practical Applications

- Evaluate and identify areas in life and ministry where division or friction is present; commit to reconciliation and unity.

- Prioritize prayer and scripture over busy work to focus efforts on what God has called you to do.
- Invite accountability partners who are spiritually 'nosy'—people who can encourage rest and spiritual health.
- Practice transparency with God and trusted believers about struggles to prevent dilution of spiritual vitality.
- Incorporate regular Sabbath or rest times into your week to avoid burnout, following Jesus' example.
- Develop the habit of communal prayer when discouraged as a source of encouragement and divine energy refreshment.
- Meditate on Isaiah 40:28-31 daily to remind yourself that hope in the Lord renews strength.

Challenges for the Week

- Identify one area of division within your community or church and seek to bring healing and unity this week.
- Commit to removing a distraction that pulls your energy away from God's mission—say 'no' to a good thing to focus on a better thing.
- Examine your public and private life for any inconsistencies; confess and repent where needed to restore integrity.
- Set aside a specific time for Sabbath rest, focusing on God's presence rather than productivity.
- Pray daily for God's supernatural energy to fill you and your community to overcome discouragement.
- Reach out to someone who may be spiritually drained and offer encouragement or prayer support.
- Reflect on the story of Peter's perseverance during discouragement and ask God for similar endurance.

Further Study

- Study the Greek word 'energeia' throughout the New Testament—especially in Colossians and Acts—for broader understanding.
- Examine the role and person of the Holy Spirit as the source of God's energy in John 14-16 and Acts 1-2.
- Reflect on Jesus' teachings about rest and dependence on God in the Gospels, particularly Mark 6:30-32 and Matthew 11:28-30.
- Dig deeper into the historical and spiritual significance of Pentecost in Acts 2.
- Explore biblical accounts of overcoming discouragement in the lives of early church leaders (e.g., Peter, Paul).
- Review the dangers of hypocrisy and duplicity from biblical examples and its effects on spiritual vitality (e.g., Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5).

- Consider the biblical principles of unity and synergy in the body of Christ, including 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for being the everlasting God who never grows tired or weary. Lord, today I ask for Your supernatural energy to fill my spirit and renew my strength like the eagle's wings. Holy Spirit, come and empower me to overcome all tactics of the enemy that seek to divide, distract, dilute, or discourage me. Teach me to walk in unity with my brothers and sisters, to stay focused on Your mission, and to live with integrity before You and others. Help me find rest in Your presence and recharge in Your grace daily. I trust in Your boundless power to sustain me through every trial and task. May Your energy flow through me to bring glory to Your name, expand Your kingdom, and bring hope to the weary. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, I pray, Amen.

Daily Devotionals

Day 1

Scripture Verse

Colossians 1:29 (NIV): "To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."

Reflection

Today, we focus on the supernatural energy God provides us through His Holy Spirit—the "energeia" as Paul speaks about in Colossians. Much like a machine needing energy to function properly, our spirit and body require the divine fuel that only God can supply. Without this energy, we often feel burnt out, uninspired, or disconnected, much like a lamp whose light dims when unplugged. But the encouraging truth is that God's energy never runs dry; it is renewable and sustainable, a holy power that reshapes us from within. Consider the story of the early church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The mighty wind and tongues of fire symbolized God's powerful outpouring of energy—an energy that ignited the apostles to boldly proclaim the Gospel despite opposition. Similarly, each of us is invited to tap into this never-ending source. But beware: Satan seeks to drain and disrupt this divine energy through tactics like division, distraction, dilution of faith, and discouragement. For example, division saps our strength when believers are divided rather than united. Satan aims to create friction where there should be harmony. Yet, where there is unity in Christ, God's power multiplies. Remember the fusion of atoms creating immensely more energy—the church, united in spirit, wields unmatched power. Reflect on your life today. Are you managing your energy or just your time? Are you feeling drained because you're trying to do everything alone? God's Spirit can renew your strength if you let Him. As Dr. Billy Wilson shared, God's energy enables us to "run and not grow weary" (Isaiah 40:31). Connect deeply with God today, surrender your weariness, and watch His power energize your spirit and life.

Prayer

Lord, renew my strength today. Infuse me with Your Holy Spirit's energy so I can serve You with vigor and joy. Help me to stay united with Your church and focused on Your will. Amen.

Day 2

Scripture Verse

Acts 6:7 (NIV): "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."

Reflection

Distraction is a clever tactic that can rob us of God's energy. In Acts 6, the early church faced conflict between the Hellenistic and Hebrew widows. The apostles wisely recognized that their calling was to prayer and ministry of the Word, so they appointed deacons to handle the practical concerns, thus avoiding the trap of distraction from their God-ordained mission. In our fast-paced world, distractions abound: endless tasks, social media, commitments, and good but non-essential activities drain our energy. Sometimes, we spread ourselves so thin that we lose sight of our divine purpose. Like the apostles, we must discern God's priorities—what we are called to do and what we can delegate or let go. Think of a runner attempting a marathon with heavy unnecessary baggage; success becomes elusive. Likewise, in spiritual life, when we let distractions pull us away from focused prayer, worship, and service, our energy dissipates. Who or what distracts you from your divine purpose? Is there a way you can simplify to reclaim God's supernatural energy? When the church focused on prayer and the Word, God multiplied their impact—even priests came to faith! Today, keeping your spiritual priorities aligned with God's will opens the floodgates of His energy in your life and your sphere of influence.

Prayer

Father, help me to prioritize Your Word and prayer above distractions. May Your energy fill me as I focus on Your calling for this season of my life. Amen.

Day 3

Scripture Verse

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV): "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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."

Reflection

Have you ever felt utterly exhausted? Like Dr. Billy Wilson's experience in Malaysia—leading a mission trip, physically drained and ready to give up? Perhaps you identify with his story: spiritual fatigue, mental weariness, and physical tiredness all at once. Yet in moments like these, God's promise resounds: He never grows tired. When our strength fails, His does not. The woman who touched Jesus in humility and faith was able to tap into His healing energy, and Jesus felt that power flow out of Him. This reminds us that God's energy is not only sustainable but contagious—it flows to and from us as we connect intimately with Him. It's vital to remember that rest is not idleness but a spiritual rhythm God designed (as Kerry Loscher pointed out). God Himself rested on the seventh day—He invites you to enter His Sabbath rest to restore your soul. Rest grounds you in His peace and refuels your spiritual batteries. So, when weariness threatens to overwhelm you, instead of despairing or pushing harder in your own power, pause and draw close to the Everlasting God. Place your hope in Him; trust that He will renew your strength. Like an eagle soaring on thermals, you will rise above challenges. When you walk with God daily, even trials won't wear you down. God's boundless energy is your supply for every race you run.

Prayer

Everlasting God, renew my weary soul. Lift me on eagle's wings and help me to run with perseverance. I put my hope in You, my unfailing source of strength. Amen.

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