

## Unleashing God's Power Within Our Lives

Please note the use of the preposition within to locate one source of God's power. Because the Holy Spirit lives within us God's power is inherently within us. Other sources also exist and are readily available to us.

There is a familiar saying: "It's not what you know but who(whom) you know that makes the difference." Nothing could be more true when it comes to knowing God versus knowing about God. The more intimately we know God, the more Divine Power is unleashed within our lives.

Assuming that unleashing God's power within our lives is a positive enactment, what might it look like, what might it accomplish and how do we go about letting it happen?

First, what might it look like? It would unquestionably change our values dramatically, even turning them completely upside down. It would be as radical as changing the name on our credit cards or driver's license from our name to God.

In essence, unleashing God's power within our lives is a matter of allowing God's Holy Spirit to direct and redirect our lives which includes inspiring us to take a new look at the many decisions we make every day.

Unleashing God's power within our lives would include listening carefully when the Holy Spirit says to us: "Move over, I am driving now and I will teach you how you are supposed to drive. So, fasten your seat belt, we are going for a ride unlike any you have ever had, and you will learn what life is all about and how you should live it."

Contrary to what we might think until now, life is not about getting up in the morning and going to work or school, coming home eating, watching TV, and going to bed. Rather, it is about living with a larger than life size agenda. For example: it might be finding yourself deeply involved in making a crucial difference in someone else's life—only then coming to the shocking realization that that is what life is really about after all.

The bottom line is that it is not about our stuff—it is about God's stuff, or about using our stuff for God's stuff because that is why we are here in the first place.

Making choices that put us in these positions to make a difference in someone else's life is what you will find yourself doing, not as a tithe or 10% so to speak, but as a major investment of your entire life. It ultimately becomes your reason for being.

So, how does all of this sound to you? Is it disturbing, frightening, promising, exciting?

If you are still on board at this juncture, it is time to ask how to have this glorious phenomenon develop within you. Unleashing God's power within our lives is accomplished by moving over and letting the Holy Spirit drive.

Guaranteed, you will go to places you never ever knew existed and find yourself doing things you never dreamed of doing, but which will excite and satisfy you so completely that you cannot believe you never thought of doing before.

We can call this inspired living because the Holy Spirit sets it up, gives us a new agenda for living, moves us in the right direction, inspires us with new vision and empowers us with new energy. We are given a radically new perspective of life. We become increasingly aware that we are not here to do the best we can for ourselves, but to be used by God. That is a radical shift of life's agenda.

Therein lies the pearl of great price, the answer to life's greatest riddle, the discovery of why we are here. We are here to "ride shotgun with God's Holy Spirit".

This is a totally new way to view life. Our perspective is totally transformed. Not only are our values turned upside down, enabling us to see the folly in some things we have considered so important in our life style, but our whole inner being undergoes a gradual and sometimes imperceptible shift and we start becoming new creatures in Christ. We begin shedding some of our old ways as we grow just as a snake sheds its skin as it grows.

We do not consciously change our own behavior, rather our behavior changes because we are changed by God's Holy Spirit who lives and dwells within us. We are changed from inside out. Like coming out of a tunnel we didn't even know we were in, we are Surprised by Joy to use the title of one of C. S. Lewis' books.

There is a universal yearning for this joy that is missing in the lives of many if not most people. Not happiness, which is inherently short lived, but joy that stems from and is lastingly connected to the eternal. Like many other negative things in our lives, we tend to accommodate them, becoming accustomed to their presence. We learn to live with them even allowing ourselves to believe they are supposed to be there. Both sadly and gladly that is not the case. Life can be better, much better.

There is a source of power that God has put into us in the form of the Holy Spirit. It is this Holy Spirit who both creates this yearning for that which is better and is the source of power that is set and ready to make it happen.

Thus we have available to us all that is necessary to turn our lives into fountains of joy and grace, bestowing upon us and those around us that peace that passes all human understanding. That is one of the great gifts of spiritual discernment—peace. This can become a reality for us in spite of all trials, tribulations and fears that may lace our lives and haunt our minds.

Where and how do we begin to make this happen?

It begins and continues with the desire and willingness to open ourselves to the power of God's Holy Spirit in prayer and meditation—that is, learning new and more effective ways to both speak and listen to God.

Spirituality is our intimate connection to God, while prayer and meditation are our ways of nursing that relationship. Like any other function, prayer, and meditation (listening to God) take practice,

practice, practice and accepting failure along the way. We may stumble and bumble as we begin, but by persisting we finally begin to have it happen. When it does, we are truly surprised by joy and experience amazing peace.

It is then that God's inordinate power is unleashed within our lives!