

Study 17

# The Spiritual Power JESUS commanded

Christianity is not about merely being “religious” or even being “good”. One of the hallmarks of authentic Christianity is spiritual power. The Scriptures warn against only having an outward form of appearing to follow God while simultaneously denying the power of God *necessary* to follow God (2Tim. 3:5) Jesus Christ doesn’t merely command us to follow Him – He commands and *empowers*, those He calls, to follow Him. No one is a Christians until they are born of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3). When Christ was with His disciples He gave them power to minister, before He left them He commanded them not to begin ministering until they received the power of the Holy Spirit to do so.

1. How is the Gospel described in Romans 1:16?

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2. When Christ began His ministry shortly after His baptism, how is His return described? (Luke 4:14)

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Christ wasn't just an interesting person to listen to – He was far more than just a great teacher – He was a *powerful* teacher. Christ didn't just teach the Gospel, He *demonstrated* the Gospel.

3. As Christ began His ministry, what did His audience immediately notice?  
(Luke 4:36, note also Luke 5:17; 6:19)
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4. What did Christ give His original disciples (Luke 9:1) and why did He give it (Luke 9:2)?
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But what the original disciples experienced from Christ was only temporary – it lasted only for the time Christ was with them. But Christ made a *promise* to these disciples that this power would *abide* with them after He had returned to His Father in heaven (Luke 24:49).

5. According to Acts 2:39, who was this promise of spiritual power also promised to?
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6. What did Jesus say this spiritual power was for? (Acts 1:8)
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Sharing Christ with another person is not merely an intellectual exercise. We can not just “argue” someone into accepting Christ (1Cor. 2:4).

7. According to Acts 4:33, what made the apostles’ preaching so compelling?
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8. What happened when Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit’s power? (Acts 6:38)
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When the apostles demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit in Samaria, the local sorcerer was envious of their great power.

9. What was wrong with his request to these apostles as recorded in Acts 8:19? (Note the context)
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When tend to think of the Holy Spirit’s power being only for the spectacular.

10. Note how these Scriptures describe what the power of the Holy Spirit does-

- a) Romans 15:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 2Timothy 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) 1Peter 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_



You can't get the power of the Holy Spirit from a book. You can't get the power of the Holy Spirit from a 'magic' prayer. You can't get the power of the Holy Spirit from a seminar. The power of the Holy Spirit can only come from the Holy Spirit! Christ taught His disciples that this required "waiting and praying". While some churches are keen to be politically powerful, it is my prayer that we will be *spiritually* powerful. I pray that we will be led by the Holy Spirit; empowered by the Holy Spirit; filled with the Holy Spirit; and baptised in the Holy Spirit. May our power be truly spiritual. We have for too long underestimated what this kind of power could achieve for Christ in this generation and for generations to come!

*Amen.*