

## PRAYING FOR POWER

By Steve Chupp  
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### The Big Idea

When God gave us the assignment to live for him and bring his Kingdom message of love and hope to those around us, he didn't leave us on our own. He promised to never leave us or forsake us. And he gave us his immense and limitless power for every day and every circumstance. But we need to pray for and depend on his power in order to experience it. Got power? God's voice is a source of great power. Learn to hear his voice and receive his power.

“Let every heart prepare him room.”

God's two most basic attributes are his **power** and his **love**.

- **Psalms 62:11-12** *One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving. NIV*
  - God is powerful.
  - God is loving.
  - Without his power his love would have little impact. (Cp. Baby)
  - Without his love we would fear his power. (Cp. Tyrant)
- “Selah” – stop and think about it!
  - When we encounter God we encounter his power and his love.
- Today we will talk about God's power in the context of his love.

### 1. Pray for God's power to **redeem** you and others.

- **Psalms 68:28** *Summon your power, O God; show us your strength, O God, as you have done before. NIV*
- God uses his power and love to create and restore. (For his mission, as church should)
  - He created us in love.
  - He restores us out of his love.
- It's the same power God used to raise his Son from the dead.
  - That's the power he wants us experience today.
  - **Ephesians 1:19-21** *I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. NLT*
  - **Philippians 3:10** *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. NIV*
- This is the power God gives us to **perform miracles**, heal the sick, and communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ.
  - **Matthew 10:7-8** *As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. NIV*
  - These things are still happening all over the world today.

- God's power transforms individuals, marriages, families, churches, communities, and nations.
  - God's power is what makes it possible for us to follow and obey him.
  - God loves to take impossible situations and show his glory in them.
  - What impossible situation are you facing?
- Trust in his love and power to transform them.
  - It will require your faith and obedience.
  - And it will depend on his love and power.
- Pray to receive his love and see his power.
  - **Psalms 145:6** *They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.* NIV
- The primary vehicles of God's power are his **Word**, his **Spirit**, and his **Name**. (Cross?)
  - His Word is first of all the Bible, then what he speaks today.

## 2. Pray to **hear** the voice of the Lord.

- God's voice is a source of great power.
  - **Psalms 29:4** *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.* NIV
- The voice of the Lord created all we see in our world.
  - **2 Peter 3:5** *...Long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.* NIV
  - **Hebrews 11:3** *It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.* TEV.
- God's voice is **personal** and **powerful**.
  - **Daniel 10:19** *When he spoke to me, I was strengthened.* NIV
- Prophecy is a typical way we hear the voice of God.

## 3. Understand what the Bible says about prophecy.

- Prophecy is based on the fact that God still **speaks** today.
  - **Ephesians 1:23** *The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.* Msg
  - **1 Corinthians 12:1-3** *Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.* NIV
  - God gives someone a message for someone else.
- Prophecy is to be the most prominent of spiritual gifts.
  - **1 Corinthians 14:1** *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.* NIV
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  - **1 Corinthians 14:24-25** *But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin, and they will be condemned by what you say. As they listen, their secret thoughts will be laid bare, and they will fall down on their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is really here among you." NLT*
  - Note: in our presbytery, we won't expose all past and secret sins!
- Prophets are given special ability to prophesy.
- Every Christ follower can **hear** God and speak for him.
  - **John 10:27** *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. NKJV*
  - **1 Corinthians 14:31** *For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. NIV*
- Prophecy is given to encourage us, give direction, and impart spiritual gifts.
  - **1 Corinthians 14:3** *Everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. NIV*
- All prophecy needs to be **tested**.
  - Does it agree with the Bible?
  - **1 John 4:1** *Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. NLT*
  - **1 Corinthians 12:3** *So I want you to know how to discern what is truly from God: No one speaking by the Spirit of God can curse Jesus, and no one is able to say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. NLT*
  - What are the source, content, spirit, and fruit?
- The timing and context of prophecies' fulfillment are often the most difficult to determine.

### What is prophetic presbytery?

- Personal prophecy in a public setting by proven ministries through the laying on of hands.
  - **1 Timothy 4:14** *Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. NASU*
  - "Presbytery" = Elders, overseers
- It is ideal if the prophets are unfamiliar with the people
- Prophetic presbytery is normally for pre-selected people – the committed, the obedient, and the faithful.
  - **Luke 16:10-12** *Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? NIV*
- More info in discussion guide.

### Pray for power.

- Ask God for his power for your life.
- Ask God to empower you to transform others.
- Ask God to speak clearly next weekend – to you and us.

“Let every heart prepare him room.”

**Praying for Purity, Passion, and Power**  
**This Week's Discussion Guide – January 24-30, 2010**

This week we conclude our month of praying for purity, passion, and power. Prophecy is one of the most consistent ways God demonstrates his power. “The voice of the LORD is powerful.” (Psalms 29:4) The following is a discussion guide for personal or group study to help you understand prophecy and prepare for presbytery. Pray that God will give us grace to hear and obey his voice.

**General Principles of Prophecy**

1. The Bible teaches that prophecy is for today. Acts 2:17-21; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3
2. Prophecy is to be the most prominent of spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:1
3. Primary purposes of prophecy: strengthen, encourage, comfort. 1 Corinthians 14:3
4. Prophecy is given to believers on three levels.
  - Those who prophesy. 1 Corinthians 14:31
  - Those with the gift of prophecy. 1 Corinthians 14:1
  - Those with the office of prophet. Ephesians 4:11
5. There are major differences between Old Testament and New Testament prophets.
  - Setting, role, spirit. John 1:17
6. All prophecy is to be tested. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
  - The Bible is the objective standard by which we judge all prophecy.
  - Prophecy should be judged by its source, content, spirit, and fruit. 1 John 4:1
7. Prophecy is directed to individuals as well as groups. Acts 21:11; 1 Timothy 1:18

**What is Prophetic Presbytery?**

1. Personal prophecy in a public setting by proven ministries through the laying on of hands. 1 Timothy 4:14
2. “Presbytery” = Elders, overseers
3. It is ideal if the prophets are unfamiliar with the people
4. Prophetic presbytery is normally for pre-selected people – the committed, the obedient, and the faithful. Luke 16:10-12

**Why Public Presbytery?**

1. Cause our faith in God and His gifts to grow. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25
2. Publicly acknowledge ministries, callings, and gifts. Acts 13:1-3
3. Impart and release spiritual gifts. 1 Timothy 4:14
4. Provide examples of prophetic ministry. Hebrews 13:7

**What to Expect:**

1. God's love, power, knowledge, and grace displayed. Psalm 29; John 10:1-5
2. The secrets of the heart sensitively revealed. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25
3. Impartation of gifts, direction, timing, and understanding. 1 Timothy 4:14

**How to Prepare:**

1. Set aside preconceived ideas of what God will say. 1 Samuel 9
2. Pray, fast, repent, and offer God all of your life. Acts 13:1-3

**How to Process Prophecies:**

1. Record prophecies and write them down. Test words with your church leaders.
2. Differentiate God's work from yours. You can't do His; He won't do yours.
3. Allow time before implementing any words. Seek other confirmation. 2 Corinthians 13:1