

## Plug Into God's Power

Acts 1:4-8, 4:29-33 NIV

### A. Plug Into God's Power

1. Every generation longs for power & look to gain it in whatever way they can.
2. But the church has never advanced by human strength.
3. Jesus never told His disciples to *go* until He first told them to *wait*. (Acts 1:8)
4. The church does not need new methods—it needs fresh power.
5. God's Power is not something we can produce.
6. But it is something we all desperately need:
  - a. To live the Christian life.
  - b. To overcome the enemy of our souls.
  - c. To reach a lost world.
7. All the power we need is available to us.
8. Jesus promised power in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20).
9. Paul longed to know resurrection power (Phil. 3:10).
10. The early church had power to change the world (Acts 17:6).

### B. Power Was Promised by Jesus

1. This was not a suggestion; it was a command. “*Wait for the promise of the Father.*”
2. The disciples already had truth, but lacked power, which comes from the Spirit.
3. The Christian life cannot be lived in human strength.
4. What God commands, the Spirit empowers.

### C. The Spirit Came When Believers Were United

1. The Spirit binds believers together in Christ, & we see a church in Acts.
2. They prayed together (Acts 2:1); & were “*one in heart and mind*” (Acts 4:32).
3. Unity was not accidental—it was spiritual, intentional, and visible.
4. Division grieves the Spirit; unity prepares the way for power, producing love.

### D. Plug into the Power of Prayer (Acts 4:31)

1. The Spirit came when believers were praying. Power always follows prayer.
2. The disciples asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).
3. We train in organization, doctrine, & methods, but remain beginners in prayer.
4. We learn to pray by asking boldly and expecting God to answer.
5. Prayer releases the Spirit's power, & produces boldness in witness.
6. Prayer does not create power; it releases power.

### E. Plug into the Power of Love (Acts 4:32)

1. True Christian fellowship is built on love.
2. Without love, all ministry effort fails (1 Cor. 13).
3. Love fuels a passion for the lost, valuing people more than possessions.
4. The church had real potential for conflict.
5. Yet love enabled forgiveness, which fuelled unity.

6. Their unity was not based on perfection, but on grace.
7. Scripture gives us three clear calls to forgiveness.
8. Forgive to restore a brother (Matthew 18:15–17)
  - a. When your brother sins against you, go to him alone & quickly.
  - b. Lovingly explain what has caused the division, with restoration as the goal.
9. Forgive so your prayers are not hindered (Mark 11:25)
  - a. Prayer is essential to church life; the first meeting was a prayer meeting.
  - b. God moves when we agree in prayer. Unforgiveness blocks effective prayer.
  - c. A lack of forgiveness may explain unanswered prayer.
  - d. We cannot stay close to God while holding others at a distance.
10. Forgive so you do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30–32)
  - a. Unforgiveness grieves the Holy Spirit, power flows when we forgive.
  - b. Spirit-filled believers are not ruled by bitterness, anger, or malice.
  - c. Who is waiting for your forgiveness?

**F. Plug into the Power of Witnessing (Acts 4:33)**

1. Evangelism remains the church's greatest need.
2. The Spirit empowers believers to proclaim Christ.
3. The purpose of Spirit-filled power is witness (Acts 1:8).
4. Churches decline when witnessing disappears.
5. When the Spirit moves, ordinary people become extraordinary witnesses.
6. Pentecost was not about tongues—it was about testimony.
7. When the Spirit fills the church, Christ is magnified, not the believer.
8. The Spirit's power is always Christ-centred.

**G. The Continuing Power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31–33)**

1. Being filled is not a one-time event, we leak—God refills.
2. Fresh power comes from fresh dependence.
3. Conditions for experiencing the Spirit's Power
  - a. **Surrender** - The Spirit fills yielded lives, not resistant ones.
  - b. **Obedience** - Power flows through obedient believers.
  - c. **Cleansing** - Unconfessed sin grieves the Spirit and blocks power.
  - d. **Faith** - We receive the Spirit's power by trusting God's promise.

**H. Conclusion: Back to the Basics**

1. The early church accomplished much without modern advantages.
2. The early church had no buildings, political influence, or technology.
3. Yet they turned the world upside down—because they had the Holy Spirit.
4. They focused on the essentials—and God did the extraordinary.
5. The same Spirit still empowers the church today.
6. God is not asking us to do more—He is calling us to depend more.
7. Prayer. Love. Witnessing. These will still shake the world for Christ.
8. Are you relying on your strength—or His power?
9. **“Be filled with the Spirit.”** (Ephesians 5:18) & Change the world.