

Lesson 7

POWER THEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the conflict between The Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of evil
- To discover the authority and power given to us
- To study how to use our powerful weapons of warfare

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. HISTORY OF THE POWER STRUGGLE
 - A. In the beginning – By creation all belonged to God
 - B. God’s authority is challenged
 - C. Man deceived – He and His Kingdom fall to the enemy
 - D. God declares war
 - E. Saves or delivers his people by power
 - F. The magnificent victory
 - G. The situation today
- II. POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS
- III. THE PURPOSE OF DIVINE HEALING
- IV. POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
- V. THE POWER OF THE CROSS
- VI. DIVINELY POWERFUL WEAPONS
 - A. Power of the spoken word
 - B. Power in the name of Jesus
 - C. The power of praise
 - D. The power of preaching
 - E. The power of testimony
 - F. The power of fasting

I. HISTORY OF THE POWER STRUGGLE

A. *In the beginning.*

By Creation All Belonged to God

Genesis 1:1
John 1:1-3
Colossians 1:16
Psalm 24:1

B. *God's authority is challenged.*

Rebellion

Satan's creation.

Ezekiel 28:11-16

Satan's downfall. Becomes the prince or the power of the air.

Isaiah 14:12-17
Ephesians 2:2

C. *Man deceived and gives himself and the authority God gave him to the enemy.*

Man comes under the enemy's authority and the power of sin:

Man disobeys God, obeys satan.

Genesis 3

By one man sin entered the world.

Romans 5:12

- For all have sinned.

v. 3:23

- Slaves of satan and sin.

v. 6:16

- The result is death.

v. 6:23

Kingdoms of this world given to satan.

Luke 4:6

The whole world lies in the power of the evil one. Demons rejoiced - had won a great battle.

1 John 5:19

D. God declares war.

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."*

**Genesis 3:15
Revelation 12:17**

E. Saves or delivers his people many times by His power.

Example:

**Exodus 3:8,20; 9:16
Exodus 15:1-6, 34:10**

F. The magnificent victory.

1. Emptied Himself of: glory - rights - position. **Philippians 2:6-7**
2. Removed sin. **Hebrews 9:26
Matthew 26:28**
3. Defeated the power of death in The Resurrection. **Acts 2:24**
4. Left satan powerless. **Hebrews 2:14**
5. Disarmed ... victorious over. **Colossians 2:13-15**
6. Attacks - overpowers - takes his armor and possessions. **Luke 11:20-22**
7. Captives taken from him. **Isaiah 49:24-25**
8. Led captive a host of captives. **Ephesians 4:8-9**
9. Took what was His from the authority of darkness. **Colossians 1:13**
10. Jesus' gift to the father. **Revelation 5:9
Colossians 1:22**

Jesus' death on the cross **defeated** the power of:

a)	Satan	Above verses
b)	Sin Put away Justified, Redeemed God is satisfied Forgiveness, reconciled, Peace	Hebrews 9:26 Romans 3:24-25 Colossians 1:14, 20
c)	Sickness	1 Peter 2:24 Matthew 8:16-17
d)	The sinner	Romans 6:2, 6 Galatians 2:20
e)	Death	Hebrews 2:14 Acts 2:24 Revelation 1:18

G. *The situation today*

1. "Sit Until" and "Waiting...."

"Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool?"

Hebrews 1:3, 8, 13

"... waiting till His enemies are made His footstool"

Hebrews 10:12-13

2. The kingdoms are still in conflict – at war.

But now . . . today . . . we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

Hebrews 2:8

3. A battle for: power – authority – people

- a) Cast out of what?

John 12:31

- b) Heaven to earth.

Revelation 12:7-12

- c) Satan's daily activity.

1 Peter 5:8

The battle of the ages is fought over man. Men are the spoil.

His victory over the powers of evil and it's application in the world, is now in the hands of the church. His aggression against satan must now be expressed through us!

1 Corinthians 15:57

II. POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Acts 2:22; 10:38

A. *His example*

Walk as He walked.
Follow in His steps.

1 John 2:6
1 Peter 2:21

1. From the very beginning of His ministry, our Lord Jesus went forward with a steady, aggressive warfare against the powers of darkness.

Mark 1:14-15, 30-39

- a) Preaching
- b) Healing
- c) Casting out demons

2. The Lord refused to deal with "*flesh and blood*," the secular powers of His time and disappointed many who would have accepted Him as the Messiah, had He done so.

John 18:36

For now, it is a spiritual kingdom and not secular, or to rule over governments of this earth.

3. His one objective, from the time of his baptism to his finished work on Calvary, was the conquest of the "*prince of this world*" so that He might redeem His captives and put satan to an open shame.

Colossians 2:14-15,
1 John 3:8

4. His Use of Power

During a storm He arose and rebuked the winds and the waves. He rebuked the fever in Peter's wife's mother. When ministering to the sick and needy, again and again he dealt with the evil powers causing the problem. Upon seeing a woman bent double for eighteen years by a spirit, set her free. When questioned He said: ". . . *this woman . . . whom satan hath bound . . .*" He taught the people truth about God but His warfare was with the demonic forces causing the evils around Him.

Luke 13:11

5. Lessons we can learn:
 - a. Jesus does nothing in the realm of redemption except through PRAYER. **Luke 3:21; 5:16; 9:18**
 - b. Do not attempt any ministry without being FILLED with the SPIRIT. **Luke 4:1-12,18**
 - c. We must have knowledge of our **spiritual weapons** and how to use them.
 - d. We must know and recognize the **tactics of the enemy** and our authority in Christ.
 - e. Our ministry and warfare are ineffective without the power of the Holy Spirit. **Luke 4:18**
 - f. It is our responsibility to teach and instruct others. **Matthew 4:23**

III. THE PURPOSE OF DIVINE HEALING

A. Healing was a major part of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

1. Demonstrating that the Kingdom of God has arrived. **Matthew 4:23**
2. Authenticating the Gospel. **Matthew 4:23; Hebrews 2:3-4**
3. Establishing the Church **Matthew 4:23, 24-25**
4. Bearing witness to the truth of Christ's claims about Himself. **Matthew 8:14-17; Luke 5:4-9; 5:18-26**
5. Showing that Jesus is the one who was promised by the Father. **Matthew 11:1-6; Acts 2:22**

6. Demonstrating Christ's compassion and mercy.
Matthew 9:13, 36;
Matthew 14:14; 20:34
7. Bringing people to repentance.
Luke 10:8-12;
Matthew 11:20-24
8. Showing that the Gospel is also for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.
Luke 7:1-10

IV. POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Without the supernatural power of God moving among us, Christianity could be considered by some as just an ideology (human ideas and theories).

A. There are 35 recorded signs or miracles in the book of Acts.

Most producing evangelistic growth in the church.

1. **Speaking Gifts:** Tongues and Prophecy. **2:4, 41; 10:46; 11:28; 19:2**
2. **Four Visions.** Two result in evangelism. **9:10; 10:3,10; 16:9; 18:9**
3. **Dead Raised twice** – many believe. **9:40-42; 20:7-12**
4. **Healing** - Seven times: Two towns saved. **3:6; 8:6; 9:32; 14:8-10;**
19:11-12; 28:3,8
5. **Assorted Miracles:**
 - a. Signs and Wonders. **5:12; 14-16**
Multitudes added to Church
 - b. Miracles. **8:6**
Multitudes gave attention
 - c. Signs and Wonders. **14:3-4**
City divided, some believe
 - d. Earthquake. **16:25-34**
Paul freed, jailer and family saved.

- e. Miracles. **19:11**
City revival
- 6. **Angelic Visitations:**
 - a) Angel opened prison gate, chief priest perplexed **5:19, 24**
 - b) Chains fall off, gate opens, walks by guards **12:7, 16**
 - c) Angel appeared with message - whole boat saved. **27:23-44**

V. THE POWER OF THE CROSS

A. Victory comes with the cross.

Luke 9:23-25; 14:27

- 1. **My power over:** **1 Corinthians 1:18**
 - a) The **world** **Galatians 6:14**
 - b) The **flesh** **Galatians 5:19-21, 24**
 - c) The **devil** **Galatians 2:20**

He comes and finds nothing in me.

The cross was the focal point of Jesus' mission. **Luke 9:51, 53**

The cross must be the focus of attention of every believer.

Hebrews 12:1-2

VI. POWER UNDER AUTHORITY

- A. *A soldier for Jesus Christ, "Who appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."*
2 Timothy 2:3-4
1 John 3:8

So has He sent US to plunder the kingdom of darkness, by enforcing the victory of the cross and bringing His enemies under His feet.

John 17:18
Hebrews 10:13

"All authority has been given unto Me in heaven and earth, Go ..."

Matthew 28:18

I have won the authority. You go and exercise it. Demonstrate my victory, my power to the whole world.

"...according to the power that works in us."

Ephesians 1:19-23;
Ephesians 3:16-20

1. Jesus was given authority. **Luke 4:18, 36**
2. He used his authority. **Luke 5:12**

65 recorded miracles. Several times He healed all who came to Him. His life is an example of the use of Kingdom authority and the invasion of the Kingdom of Darkness.

3. The principle of authority used.

It is given and received:

You must be:

Luke 7:2-10

- a) Under Authority to - **Obedient**
- b) Have Authority to - **Believe**
- c) Use Authority - **Receive**

Example: Seven sons of Sceva

Acts 19:13-17

Authority is not a matter of struggle. It is a matter of faith.

You must believe and know you have it.

Example: Moses

Exodus 14:15

Keys = Authority

Matthew 16:16-19

Isaiah 22:21-22

4. The delegation of authority.

a) To the **twelve**

Matthew 10:1, 7-8

Luke 9:1-2, 6;

Mark 6:12

The disciples followed the Lord's specific instructions.

Obedience = Under authority

And the results were also specific.

b) To the **seventy**

Luke 10:1-3, 9, 17-20

c) To all **believers**

Mark 16:15-18

My prayer for the students:

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

VII. RECEIVING HIS POWER

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might." Ephesians 6:10

A. The example of His disciples.

1. Before the Cross

"... with you, shall be in you"

John 14:15-17

2. After the Cross

The Holy Spirit *"in"*

Luke 24:45; John 20:22

3. But this is not enough.

" . . . until you are endued with power . . . " **Luke 24:49**

" . . . power after . . . the Holy Spirit has come upon you "
Acts 1:3-8

4. Now the disciples were changed men. **Acts 2:1-4**

a. Elijah's mantle fell on Elisha - double portion of his spirit.

b. So Jesus gave the Holy Spirit from Himself to His disciples and said:

"My works that I do he will also do; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father."

John 14:12
Acts 5:15; 1 John 4:4

c. Power is given to obedient soldiers.
Power is given to weak soldiers.

"Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."
Acts 5:32

"My strength is made perfect in weakness."
2 Corinthians 12:9; 13:4

d. Be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit.
Ephesians 5:18
2 Timothy 1:5-9

Power is the key to our victory - power comes in the person of the Holy Spirit - who comes in response to prayer.

VIII. DIVINELY POWERFUL WEAPONS

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

A. *Their purpose*

1. Destroying **strongholds** and **fortresses** where evil spirits control.
2. Destroying speculations and every **proud** and lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.
3. Taking every **thought** captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ.
4. Ready to punish all **disobedience**.

B. *How Used?*

But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. "Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Matthew 12:25-29

- Satan has a Kingdom
- Not divided but highly organized
- It still stands

vs. 25-27

The advancement of the Kingdom of God follows the casting out of demons.

vs. 28

In other words: As demons are cast out the Kingdom of God comes or expands.

vs. 29

1. Recognize who the "**strong man**" is.
 - a) **Rulers of Authorities** – Evil spirits assigned to influence or control authority structures such as: governments, courts, down to local governments, schools, businesses, churches and families.
 - b) **Principalities or Territorial spirits** assigned with a specific agenda against people groups. Example: Daniel 10 Prince of Persia, Greece, etc.
 - c) **Powers** assigned to specific kinds of evil i.e. greed, homosexuality, pornography, witchcraft, etc.
 - d) **Forces of Darkness** – They lie and hinder the truth to keep men's minds in darkness. From simple lies to complicated ones.
2 Corinthians 4:4.

Hide themselves in religions, philosophies and ideologies. i.e. evolution, communism and humanism. Hinder the truth by standing against the preaching of the Gospel.

"Siritual Forces of Wickedness" - Aimed at individuals to influence behaviour to sin.

Needed: the gift of the Holy Spirit – discerning of spirits

2. "**House**" – The place where one or more of the above evil spirits has gained legal access to exert his influence.
 - a) a person's body **vs. 43-44**
 - b) Nation, city, people group, etc. **1 Corinthians 12:10**
3. "**His property**" – People he has legal right to who yielded to his influence, lies, and deception.
 - a) *"Lest Satan take advantage of us."* **2 Corinthians 2:10-11;**
"... mind the gods of this age has blinded." **4:3-4;**
"Minds may be corrupted ." **11:3,**
"Satan ... transforms ... an angel of light." **13-15**
 - b) **Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:26-27**

4. **“First bind the strong man”** – We have tried to take his goods, take away his captives, without first binding his power.
- a) **Matthew 16:18-19** Keys = Authority

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 18:18-20

*“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

Bind (to tie)	to forbid to declare unlawful to stop or lock up
Loose (to free)	to allow, to permit to untie and to open up to declare lawful

I will give you the authority of the government of God; and whatever you forbid on earth shall have been forbidden in heaven. That is: The government and authority of God will back our action. It will take place as we declare it.

The authority to “*permit*” means that through declaration as led by the Holy Spirit, God wants us to untie and open up situations where there are closed doors etc. This can be applied in all of life’s situations.

We must persevere in all of the principles of the Kingdom.
We must continue to do them until we see the answer.

Example: **Prayer** **Matthew 7:1-11;
Luke 11:1-10; 18:1-7**

Successful evangelism for the growth of the church and advancement of the Kingdom of God is dependent upon SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

C. *Power of the Spoken Word*

1. *"The sword of the Spiritthe word of god through prayer."*
Ephesians 6:17-18
Hebrews 4:12
Isaiah 55:11
Jeremiah 23:29

The Authority of the WORD was never questioned.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

The enemy always brings doubt, "if" satan quoted but misapplied the scriptures.

"The Word of God which performs its work in you who believe."
1 Thessalonians 2:13

"He sent His Word and healed them." **Psalms 107:20**

"Lord, . . . just say the Word, and my servant will be healed."
Matthew 8:8

2. The militant use of the spoken word:

- a) *You will also declare a thing,
And it will be established for you;
So light will shine on your ways.* **Job 22:28**
- b) *And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.* **Exodus 14:15**
- c) **Exodus 3:18**
- d) **Mark 11:12-14, 20-25**
- e) **Isaiah 42:22; 49:9**

This is not necessarily preaching but the use of His Word as in **2 Timothy 3:16** "for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training.."

D. Power in the Name of Jesus

1. *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:9-11

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:17

2. **Acts 3:6, 15-16; 4:8-12; 16:16-18** **Romans 10:13**
3. **1 Samuel 17:45** **2 Chronicles 14:11**
4. **Psalm 44:5**
5. Why Power? **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

E. The Power of Praise

1. *Awesome in praises
God inhabits praises* **Exodus 15:10-11**
Psalm 22:3
2. **Psalm 149** **2 Chronicles 20:22**
3. **Isaiah 42:10-13** **Acts 16:22**

F. The Power of Preaching

1. *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at^{1a} His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

2 Timothy 4:1-4

- a) A most solemn charge
- b) Accountable for what he preaches

- c) Will be urged to preach something else
- 2. **Romans 1:15-16**
- 3. The power of the preaching of the cross **1 Corinthians 1:17-24**
- 4. **1 Corinthians 2:1-7**

Paul was intense, persevering

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. 9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:8-10

- a) Result: All Asia heard **vs. 10**
- b) The Lord confirmed the Word preached. **vs. 11-12**
 - (i) Healing
 - (ii) Evil spirits brought out into the light
- d) Occult domination over the city was broken. **vs. 17-19**
- d) Reason: Paul preached the Word for over two years with dramatically powerful results. **vs. 20**
- e) Paul accounts his ministry in Ephesus. **Acts 20:20, 26, 27**
- 5. Three major elements in preaching the kingdom of god
 - a) **WORD** = HEARING (1/3)
 - b) **DEED** = SEEING

Human Confirmation

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matt. 5:16**

c) **POWER** = SEEING } 2/3's

Divine Confirmation

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance,

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38

For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient – 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God,

Romans 15:15-21

- The Messenger **vs. 16**
- The Message **vs. 18-19**
- The Mission **vs. 20-21**

d. **OBSERVATIONS:**

- i) Traditional evangelism communicates in “WORD” only.
- ii) Miracles are often necessary as a forerunner to revelation but not a substitute for it.
 - Parables - verbal / mental pictures
 - Miracles - visible / physical pictures.
- iii) We are only “fully” preaching when there is: WORD, DEED and POWER.
- iv) When Jesus sent His disciples out two by two He told them to communicate the Gospel to the “EYE” before the “EAR.”

And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

Luke 10:1, 9

Many Churches have been planted this way.

G. The Power of Testimony

Being a Witness

Revelation 6:9
Acts 1:8

1. We need supernatural power.
2. Did not say, you will witness, but *"will be a witness."*
3. Begin where you are. It will spread by others believing and being.

*"The word of our testimony"***Revelation 12:11**

4. As a believer in Jesus Christ, I overcome satan when I testify to what the Word of God says that the BLOOD of Jesus does for me. When I do so, I release the POWER that is in the WORD and the BLOOD.

One way is partaking of the Lord's Supper. **1 Corinthians 11:26**

I must be familiar with what the BLOOD has done for me:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| a) <u>Redeemed</u> | Ephesians 1:7 |
| b) <u>Forgiven</u> | 1 John 1: 9 |
| c) <u>Cleansed</u> | 1 John 1:7 |
| d) <u>Justified</u> | Romans 5:9 |
| j) <u>Sanctified</u> | Hebrews 13:12 |

H. The Power of Fasting

1. The danger of food

- a) Satan's temptation - *"saw that it was good for food"*
Genesis 3:6

The growl of the appetite helped drown the voice of God in the garden.

- b) Isaac loved Esau for his food. **Genesis 25:28**
- c) Esau sold his birthright for a single meal. **Genesis 25:30**

- d) murmuring for the food of Egypt. **Exodus 16:3;**
Numbers 11:4-5,
Numbers 11:10; 21:5
- e) The sins of Sodom: Pride - A Full Stomach - Pleasures.
Ezekiel 16:49
- f) *"When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery."*
Jeremiah 5:7

2. The benefits of fasting

- a) Personal **sanctification** / cleansing - Strikes a powerful blow against pride and the lusts of the flesh. **Galatians 5:17**
Luke 9:23

- b) Fasting and Repentance go together **to obtain mercy**.

Moses fasted because of Israel's sin. Fast for others.

Deuteronomy 9:18-19

Israel removed gods, fasted, prayed and defeated their enemy.

1 Samuel 7:3-10

Personal repentance. Ahab tore clothes, sackcloth, fasted.

"Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring evil in his day."

1 Kings 21:27-29

To save a nation.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Israel fasted, sackcloth, dirt upon them, confessed...were spared

Nehemiah 9:1-3

To save a nation.

Joel 1:13,14; 2:12

Nineveh - to save a nation.

Jonah 3:5, 10

- c) **To obtain grace**

David humbled his soul with fasting. **Psalms 35:13**

"God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble"

James 4:6

d) **Consecration to God**

To spiritual power. Jesus, 40 day fast, returned in the power...
Luke 4:14

To HEAR the Lord **Acts 13:2; 1 Kings 19:8**

ANOINTING for ministry. **Acts 9:10-18; 14:23**

e) **For a safe journey** **Ezra 8:23**

f) **To free captives** from evil pressure and oppression.
Isaiah 58:6;
Matthew 17:21

g) **To minister** to the needy. **Isaiah 58:7**

h) **For revelation** **Isaiah 58:8;**
Daniel 9:2,3,21,22;
Daniel 10:1-3;
Exodus 34:28

i) **For health**

j) **Open doors**

k) **Protection**

l) **Hear** Answers Quickly

m) **Honor**

n) **Joy**

o) **Direction**

n) **Fulfillment**

3. How to Fast. **Matthew 6:1, 16-18**