

Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinately beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ.

What is preventing you from believing that God's power will work in your life?

What God can do in your life, for your life, and within your life is beyond human comprehension. Have you ever taken the time to consider God's infinite goodness and power that he wants to use for your benefit? Isn't it amazing that God created POWER in you as an integral part of his spiritual gift in your life in order to do things for his glory?

- *Ephesians 2:8 (NLT) - God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.*
- *Romans 11:29 (ESV) - For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

God's power at work within you, (a believer), is like a superhero power, but it is not focused like the typical superhero. It is not about having some specific power that can be used upon command to do whatever you want, when you want, or how you want. God's power in you is not your power – but God's power in you that becomes energized through your faith and trust in him. It is power to be used for his purposes. It is power that God energizes at the right time and place and condition. It is a power that increases as you increase your focus on him. The more you make up your mind to do what you do for God purposes – the more of his power is energized in you.

- *1 Corinthians 2:12 (NLT) - Now, we didn't receive the spirit that belongs to the world. Instead, we received the Spirit who comes from God so that we could know the things which God has freely given us.*

The typical superhero has a limited number of supernatural powers in his or her body that is energized by personal command. (Superheroes as they are depicted in movies and stories are not real so this is just for comparison purposes.) You too have certain “natural” powers that you can control by your personal command. That is how God made you. When you want to do something and you're healthy enough to do it, you can make the decision and then your brain controls your muscles and certain things happen. That sounds pretty simple and quite normal. So, what might it mean to have God's infinite power in you where it can be energized, (by God), to do things that are *exceedingly abundantly above all that you can ask or think?* You know... supernatural. It's about building your consistency of effort to do what you do for God's glory, and then expecting, believing, and looking for God to bring things to pass similar to the things Jesus did or would do. Jesus IS your model for energizing God's power.

Take a look at the earthly life of Jesus. Was he a superhero? From many perspectives you might say he was. He healed the sick, walked on water, stopped a tree from bearing fruit, turned water into wine, removed demons from people, raised a man (Lazarus) from the dead, fed 5,000 people from a little bread and a few fish, told a storm to stop, paid taxes with a coin from the mouth of a fish, and showed a bunch of fishermen how to better catch fish. That certainly sounds like superhero type actions, but those miracles were NOT because of super strength, magic rings, or supernatural physical features. Those miracles were the result of the power of God working within Jesus – the same power the Bible declares is at work in you.

- *Ephesians 1:19 (NLT) - I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power*

God means every Christian to be effective, to make a difference in the actual records and results of Christian work.

God put each of us here to be a power. There is not one of us but is an essential wheel of the machinery and can accomplish all that God calls us to. ~ A. B. Simpson

There were things Jesus did that were, perhaps, a little less superhero-like but nonetheless quite impressive. He was at the right place at the right time. He trained his followers in ways that changed their lives forever. He used his time well. He never compromised doing what was right even in the face of adversity. He knew what to say in difficult situations. He knew how to confront and hold people accountable. He was selfless, giving, and generous with his time and talents. He spoke the truth at all times and in ways that people could understand. He was great at using stories to convey ideas and help people to think. He was responsible and followed through on what he was called to do. He knew when to speak and when not to. He consistently brought a message that people wanted to hear. He saved the physical lives of many and the spiritual lives of many more. He was an excellent presenter, speaker, and teacher. He communicated his vision effectively. He had integrity, honesty, discipline, optimism, gentleness, commitment, humility, compassion, forgiveness, and much more. Those same attributes, qualities, abilities, and talents can also be at work within you – because Christ dwells in you.

- *Ephesians 4:22-24 (ESV) - **To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.***
- *Colossians 1:27 (NLT) - To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

[With the power of God within us, we need never fear the powers around us. ~ Woodrow Kroll](#)

Doing incredible things throughout your life is what God wants for you and that is why he created within you his power to make things happen. Christ in you is not designed so you can be a couch potato or risk averse. God wants you to exercise the power of Christ in your life and do things similar to what Jesus did. You and Jesus have much more in common than you might initially think. Consider that when you start making excuses for what you don't want to do, when things are tough, or you're afraid to step out of the boat. Jesus was the only perfect human, but he was still human, (Acts 2:22-23, Acts 17:31, 1 Timothy 2:5, Romans 5:15), and he had to work with his mind – just like you do.

- The Bible declares that Jesus was tempted in all ways just like you are.
 - *Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one **who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.***
- Jesus had to work through doing what God called him to do and at least one time it is recorded that he asked God to change his mind.
 - *Luke 22:42 (NLT) - "Father, **if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.**"*
- Jesus had to deal with people and politics. Some people hated it when he told them the truth and just like you when you tell the truth, they may want to try to hurt you in some way.
 - *Luke 4:28-30 (NLT) - **Everyone in the synagogue became furious when they heard this. Their city was built on a hill with a cliff. So, they got up, forced Jesus out of the city, and led him to the cliff. They intended to throw him off of it. But Jesus walked right by them and went away.***
- Jesus has to deal with prejudice, bias, negative opinions, and hostility not based on fact but on preconceived ideas and false information.
 - *John 10:20 (NLT) - Some said, "**He's demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?**" Mark 6:3 (NLT) - Then they scoffed, "**He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.**" **They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.***
- There were leaders, priests, and teachers of the law who hated Jesus for what he taught and for helping people in ways they couldn't.

- *Mark 14:1 (NLT) - It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. **The leading priests and the teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him.***
- Jesus had to deal with people who engaged in back-room deals, gossip, and lies that were designed to undermine his work, ministry, and reputation.
 - *Matthew 26:59 (NLT) - Inside, **the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death.***
- And just like today, there were evil people who manipulated and used the fear factor to hurt Jesus.
 - *John 19:12 (NLT) - When Pilate heard what Jesus said, he wanted to free him. But the Jews shouted, **“If you free this man, you’re not a friend of the emperor. Anyone who claims to be a king is defying the emperor.”***

John 14:12 (ESV) - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

How did people know that Jesus was the son of God, the Messiah, or the foretold Christ of the Old Testament? They knew by the power in his words and actions. How will people know you are a Christian? They will know by the power in your words and actions. You're supposed to do the works that he did. It was God's power in the life of Jesus that energized him to do the incredible things he did. Now...it's your turn! It is God's mighty power at work *within you to do far more than you would ever dare to ask or even dream of*. Stop being afraid to do whatever God has called you to do. God gave you his power for a reason and not so you can waste it.

- *1 John 2:6 (NIV) - Whoever claims to live in him **must live as Jesus did.***
- *1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT) - And you should **imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.***
- *John 13:15-17 (TLB) - **I have given you an example to follow: do as I have done to you.** How true it is that a servant is not greater than his master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends him. **You know these things—NOW DO THEM!** That is the path of blessing.*

Jesus did not go from town to town to be a superhero. He didn't have a secret identity, magical powers, or pretend to be something he was not. He lived every day knowing that he had the honor and privilege to be God's only begotten son and that if he put forth an effort every day to do his best in what God had called him to do, there would be power in his words and actions. That is the commitment and perspective that God energized in the life of Jesus. That is the commitment and perspective that God wants to energize in your life too.

- *Luke 4:36 (NIV) - **All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power, he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!”***

Many Christians estimate difficulty in the light of their own resources, and thus they attempt very little, and they always fail. All giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence to be with them. ~ Hudson Taylor

When Jesus told his followers that they could say to a specific mountain; *be uprooted and thrown into the sea*, he was not lying. Jesus never lied. He was setting the stage for his followers *to do immeasurably more than they might ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within them*. After the day of Pentecost, born again Christians received POWER. It is the same power that you have within you right now. It is Christ in you – the hope of glory.

- *Mark 11:22-24 (NLT) - I can guarantee this truth: This is what will be done **for someone who doesn't doubt but believes what he says will happen: He can say to this mountain, ‘Be uprooted and thrown into the sea,’ and it will be done for him.***
- *Acts 1:8 (NLT) - **But you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.** And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Oh, without prayer what are the church's agencies, but the stretching out of a dead man's arm, or the lifting up of the lid of a blind man's eye? Only when the Holy Spirit comes is there any life and force and power. ~ Charles Spurgeon

There IS power in your life as a born-again believer. Don't let yourself get talked out of it. Remember... Jesus never lied. He said you would have power and if you deny that power, you're calling Jesus a liar. God's word tells you that you have power, but it is not some silly superhero power, but the power of God working in your life to do great things for his glory. The more you put God first in what you do, what you say, how you lead, your vision, how you treat others, and the actions you take based on insights from the Holy Spirit, the more God will show up and show off in your life. God's mighty power is READY, right now, to be at work within you. How and when you move mountains or like Jesus, you say the right things at the right time, well, that's up you and to God. Today is your day to be consistent, like Jesus, and understand that your superpower is the Christ IN you – made perfect by your humble obedience to God and taking up your cross each day to follow Christ.

- *Mark 8:34 (NLT) - Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."*

God's power, added to your efforts for him, has the potential to yield supernatural results. ~ R. A. Weigel