

UNLEASH THE POWER

Excuses, excuses, excuses

Where Jesus got His power

"I can do nothing on my own . . . I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will." John 5:30

"Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region." Luke 4:14

What Jesus did with the power . . . "served"

- **Changed lives with grace and truth**
" . . . the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness . . ." John 1:14
- **Broke the power of sin and death**
"You were dead because of your sins . . . Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross." Colossians 2:13-14
- **Gave life, forgiveness, freedom and power**
"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you." Romans 8:11
"And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:19-20 (TNIV)
- **Commissioned the Church**
" . . . Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." John 20:21
"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20

Power for us today to be the Church . . .

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you . . ." Acts 1:8

- **Holy Spirit—wind, breath, teacher, friend, counselor, comforter, encourager**
"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." Galatians 5:25
- **A new life—forgiven, loved, rescued and transformed**
"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17
"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person . . ." Romans 12:2
- **A loving and forgiving heart**
" . . . Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8
" . . . Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13
- **Power of hope**
"We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us . . . That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!" 2 Corinthians 4:14,16-17

. . . and change the world

- **Heroic witness**
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere . . ." Acts 1:8
- **Supernatural power to change lives and society** 1 Corinthians 12
" . . . May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." John 17:23
- **Heroic serving**
- **Unleashing the power**

John Stott's Daily Reflections—pages 101-108
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