

# **July 13, 2014 - 11:00 a.m. Pastor Jonathan Falwell**

## **Power Up!**

### **Scripture: Ephesians 1**

Summary: Expounding on Ephesians 1, Pastor Jonathan Falwell helps us to understand why it is so important that we stop living in weakness and start living in the power God.

If you've got your Bibles with you today, I want you to turn to Ephesians 1. Over the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at 2 Timothy chapters 3 and 4, talking about the sufficiency of Scripture, the power of God's Word, and we have read over and over again how that in the midst of God's Word we can find every answer to every issue, to every problem, to every challenge, that God's Word is what we need to get us through, that this book—and you know I've said it a thousand times if I've said it once—is infallible, it is inerrant, it is inspired, it comes directly from the heart of God to the heart of men, and there is not a mistake found within the pages of this book. And because of that, God wants us to be led by, guided by these words. The sufficiency and the power of God's Word.

Well today, and over the next few weeks, I want us to transition, to move into a new idea, a different idea that goes right alongside with what we've been talking about. We've been talking about the power of God's Word, and right now and in the coming weeks I want to talk about the power of God's presence. The power of God's presence in our lives.

Now we've felt a little glimpse this morning, haven't we, of what it's like to be in the presence of God? Of what it's like to just feel something that is bigger and grander and greater than you are, to be in the presence of an Almighty God, of an awesome God. This morning we felt that through worship, through music. But God doesn't just want us to feel His presence and His power in church. He doesn't want us to just feel His power and His presence when we are reading His Word. He doesn't only want us to feel His power and His presence when we are worshiping with other believers. God wants us to live in His power every moment of every day, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week.

And unfortunately today we live in a world where the Church is full of weak Christians. The Church today is full of Christians who are living in weakness, wondering if God really is capable of bringing them through. We face challenges, wondering how we are going to make it, how we are going to get through this, how we are going to survive.

We get a bad report from a doctor, we get into an issue, a difficulty, a problem with our spouse and things begin to crumble around us, and we wonder: Is God really able? Is God really capable of meeting my needs? And so what happens is that we are lied to by Satan that God is not really powerful at all. Oh, we might feel good every once in a while, but God is really not awesome.

Beginning today, I want us to spend some time over the next couple of weeks talking about and looking at the power of God's presence in our lives. We've entitled this series *Power Up*, because God wants us all to live in and with power. And in fact, I want to show you in Acts 1:8 a really important verse, and it says it this way—I know you know this verse, but I want to point it out to you before we get to Ephesians, okay? It says this, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

Now there are two words that I want to point out in this verse, two words, but really it's the same word. It's the word *shall*. It's found twice in this verse. “But you shall receive power,” and then it also says, “And you shall be witnesses.”

Now the reason I want to point those two words out is a very important reason. I'll point out one of them now and I'll point out the other one at the end, but the one thing that I want to let you in on right up front, right at the outset here as we begin, is that the word means the exact same thing in both sentences. I want you to be aware that the word *shall* actually means shall. It doesn't mean should. It doesn't mean could. It doesn't mean it's possible. It doesn't mean there's an opportunity for. It doesn't mean that maybe. It doesn't mean that if things go well. It doesn't mean next Tuesday at 2 o'clock.

The verse says it this way: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” What that means is this: It is not an option. What it means is this: When you come to Christ, when you accept Him as your Lord and Savior, when you get on your knees, when you bow your head, when you say, “God, I am a sinner and I need a Savior and I believe what John 14 says, that you are the only way, the only truth, and the only life and no man comes to the father except through you, and I believe that, God, save me today. I believe that Jesus is your Son. I believe that He died and He rose again. God, save me.”

At that moment, at that instant you are filled, you receive, you are enveloped by the power that comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is not an option. It is not an option. You get it. It happens. And God wants us to live not in weakness, but He wants His followers to live in power. He wants us to live recognizing that no matter what we face and no matter how bad the day and no matter how difficult the moment, that no matter what it is that we come up against, no matter what we hear, no matter what people tell us, no matter how bad it might seem, today we know our God's got this, because greater is He that lives in me than he that is in the world.

Why do so many of us know it, but don't believe it? We say, “I know God's powerful. He's omnipotent. That's awesome.” Our God is an awesome God. Let's sing that song again. Oh, it's awesome, He's awesome. I was expecting to see people running the aisles, scaring some of us old Baptists. Our God is awesome. We sing it and we say it and we hear it and we celebrate it and we love it and we're glad for it, but when it comes to living in real life, we don't believe it. Let me just tell you right now: Believe it, because our God said it.

Now there are some of you today that are lawyers. I know that we've got some lawyers in the room that deal with the law all the time, and I also know we have some people in this room that also deal with the law all the time, but maybe on the other side. In fact, we probably have more

of them—Sheriff, am I right?—more of them in the room today than we do on the other side, the lawyers. Yes, we do.

And there's one thing about the law—Don Sloane and Mike Brown, tell me if this is true—there's one thing about the law that when they write the law in Richmond, Scott Garrett, when they write the laws there or in Washington, when you put the word *shall* into a law, it doesn't mean maybe. It doesn't mean possibly. It doesn't mean if things go well. It doesn't mean if we have the money—we know it never means if we have the money, because you guys never have money—but we know that it doesn't mean that.

When a law says you shall, it means you shall. When it says you shall not exceed the speed limit and you do, guess what? You're in trouble. It means that you shall not break into a house, and when you do, you are going to be in trouble. It means that you shall not rob a bank. Aren't you glad—well, I guess maybe not so much—aren't you glad it doesn't say, "You should not rob a bank," because if it said you should not, people would be robbing banks all the time, because you should not, well, it's like really it's not a good plan; it's not a good idea. It says you shall not, and if you do, you're going to go to jail for a very, very long time. You shall not do it.

Now, in knowing what that word means, and understanding what it says, let's go back and read that first sentence here. "But you shall receive power." That means it is going to happen. You are going to get the power that comes only from God. Stop living in weakness. Christians, let me just tell you today, why it is that I, in my heart and passion about what we're talking about today and what we're going to be talking about in the coming weeks is because I firmly believe, it's the prayer of my heart, it's my desire as your pastor that I want this church, Thomas Road Baptist Church, to be a church—and perhaps, unfortunately and sadly, to maybe be the first church since the Acts 2 church—that is absolutely full of Christians who are living completely and totally and wholly in the power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. That's my desire. That's my heart.

[Applause]

I want this church to be filled with people that no matter what you face, you say, "I'm not worried about it, because my God is awesome, because my God is powerful. My God is with me, and the Bible says with God all things are possible. The Bible says nothing is too hard for God, and I'm not going to worry about it. You know why? Because my God lives in me." We just stand and live in the power of God.

So that's why we're going to be talking about this, and today I want to read out of Ephesians 1 some verses and some thoughts to help you see and to understand why this is so critical and why it is so important that you stop living in weakness and you start living in power, that when you wake up in the morning you have a smile on your face and it doesn't matter what you're going to face, because you know "My God is with me today. No matter how difficult, my God is with me. When that phone rings, I don't care what the other person says, my God is with me."

And let's be honest: there are far too few of us who live that way, because we worry and we fret and we doubt and we wonder and we question and we're concerned. My goal, my prayer, my hope—the hope of Scripture—is that you'll stop living like that, and that we'll start living in power.

So let's read from Ephesians 1. There are two questions we're going to answer today. The first question is: Do you have that power? The second question is: Are you using that power? Those are the two questions we want to focus on in the next seven, eight, ten minutes. We're going to read from Ephesians 1, understanding the power we're talking about. I want to focus on, this entire series, Ephesians 3:20. You don't have to turn there; I'll read it to you. It says, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

Now let me ask you a question. It says, "To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more above all that we ask or think." What that tells us is this: Our God can do more than you are smart enough to ask for. Our God can do for you what you haven't even thought of asking about. When you get on your knees and pray—and let me just ask you a question, let's do a poll here. Is there anybody here today that has ever asked God for something? Just raise your hand if you've ever asked God for something. I think pretty much every hand in the room went up. That's great. That's awesome. That's terrific.

But have you ever gone to God in prayer and said, "God, I need you to do this for me," and you go to prayer thinking, believing, and knowing right then and there that you're praying to a God who not only can do that, but can do far more and away than you can imagine. That's who God is.

Now let me tell you something. Our kids, we've got four kids—I'm sure many of you today understand this—our kids are good at asking for things. They've got that thing down. They know how to ask. When I was a kid, I got it. I remember coming home one day from school and I said, "Dad, you know what? I want to play baseball. I want to play baseball."

And you know what my dad did? Immediately he picked up the phone, he called his twin brother, Gene Falwell, and Gene is a guy who has a tractor, he's got post-hole diggers, he's got all these things that I wouldn't know how to use if I had to, and he called Gene and said, "I want you to come over and build my son a batting cage."

The next day after I told Dad, "I want to play baseball," the next day, you know what my dad did? I had no idea. I didn't even think about it. I wasn't smart enough to ask for it. The next day, Gene Falwell came over to our backyard, he put in these big telephone pole posts in the backyard, he put this wire mesh all around on the top and around the sides, and the next day I had a batting cage in my backyard. Isn't that cool? I told my dad, "I want to play baseball," and instantly my dad gives me a batting cage.

I never used it. Shh! And I certainly wasn't any good at it. But you know what? My dad, when I said, "I want to play baseball," my dad went and did far and above anything that I could have ever imagined. Listen: Our God does even more than that. Far and above, exceedingly, and abundantly more than you can ask or think.

Now listen to what it says here, "According to the [here's this word again] power that works in us." Now this word *power* is the word *dunamis*, which is where we get our word *dynamite*, and it literally means explosive power. But you know what is cool about this? It doesn't say, "Above

all that we ask or think, according to the power that is in Him.” What does it say? It says, “According to the power that works” where? In us.

It means this: When we receive the power, it is an explosive power, and it is working in you each and every day of your life, whether you like it or not, so live it up, be excited, be happy, don't worry. God's got this. That's where God wants us to live. That's how God wants us to walk through each and every day of our lives. Our God has given us explosive power.

Now let's flip back over to Ephesians 1, and I want to just give you some thoughts about power in the few moments that we have left. The first thing that we need to understand from Ephesians 1 is this: All power comes from God. All power comes only from Him. Look what it says in Ephesians 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places of Christ.”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with,” and there's this word *every*. Now, do I need to take some time this morning to explain to you what the word *every* means? Does everybody understand what *every* means? Raise your hand if you don't know what *every* means and I'll get an English teacher to come over and talk to you. *Every* means every, right? It means all. It's the Greek word *pas*, which means everything you can ever imagine and then some.

So this verse says that He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Now let's think back to the stories of Scripture. Let's think back to Abraham, let's think back to Moses, let's think back to Joshua, let's think back to Jonah, and let's think back to Elijah and Elisha and all these incredible stories that we read about in Scripture who the power of God came down upon them and they did amazing thing.

Listen to this: They did not experience one spiritual blessing that is not also available to you. There is nothing that they experienced that you can't experience. God has blessed us with every, all, everything imaginable, every spiritual blessing. Every spiritual blessing.

All power, all power comes from God. The second thing is this: God chose us to receive His power, and that blows my mind. I can understand Abraham; I get that. Moses, I can see that, too. All the names I just listed to you, yeah, we get that. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, all of them. We get that. But why in the world did He choose us? Why in the world did He choose me?

Look what it says in Ephesians 1:4, “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” I can't imagine this. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world. That means when you read Genesis and you read about “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” before God created the heavens and the earth, He had you on His mind and He chose you. Before He hung the sun and the moon and the stars in the sky, He had you on His mind.

Last night about 1:30 in the morning, actually this morning about 1:30 in the morning, I've got three dogs, and my wife is out of town and so I had all the dogs, and about 1:30 they just decide, “Hey, this is a good time to go for a walk.” So they started barking. Friday night into Saturday

morning, they slept all the way up to 8:30 in the morning and never made a sound. I got a great night's sleep. The night that I have to get up at 5:00 o'clock in the morning, guess what? They wake up at 1:30 and want to go outside.

So I took them outside at 1:30 this morning, and I don't know if you noticed it, but if you were out that late—which, by the way, you shouldn't be, but if you were—man, the moon last night was amazing. I mean it was like Alaska in summertime. It was incredible how bright it was out there. They said something like super moon or something. It was amazing. Huge, bright, you could see everything. It was incredible. The God who put that moon into space chose you before the foundation of the world. Isn't that cool?

God chose us to receive His power, but not only that, He also adopted us into this power. Adopted. I love that word *adopted*. Look what it says in verse 5, "Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."

The word *adoption*, we understand what that word means. What it really conveys the idea of is that we who were not are now truly in the inheritance of God. Now there are people out here today, I know, that have adopted children, and if I came around and did a poll and asked you: Is that child you adopted the exact same as if it were a biological child, or is there a difference—one's adopted and one's biological?

Every parent would say, "Absolutely not. There is no difference. That child that we adopted is just as much our child as if we had had that child ourselves," and they would say it with passion and firepower, and if you challenged them on it, they would probably hit you upside the face. And they should. Nah, I did not say that. Forget that. They would say it with passion. You know why? Because when they adopted that child, that child became theirs, as if they had always been theirs.

Now let's read this verse again. Let's read it again. "Having predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters." That means the moment you come to Christ, there is no waiting period. There is no moment where they are kind of checking you out. There is no return policy. There is no 30-day guarantee. There is no moment that if two weeks down the road, "I don't like this kid. Send him back!"

No. When you come to Christ, you are His. You are His child. You are His son and you are His daughter, and you will be for eternity and there is nothing that anyone else can do and there is nothing that you can do to change that."

Isn't that awesome? He adopts us. Our God has adopted us into this power. But also—and this is another great one—He accepts us just as we are. You've heard me quote Romans 5:8 many, many times. We come to Him while we are still sinners, Christ died for us, He loves us that much.

Look what it says in verse 6, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the beloved." Accepted. It means you bring baggage; it's okay. It means you've got issues; it's okay. You've got a problem; it's okay. You've got a past; it's okay. You made

mistakes; it's okay. You've done bad things; it's okay. You know why? Because God accepts you no matter what.

It burns me up when I see churches or people of faith who say, "I know that God really wants to do something in your life, but you've got to get rid of this and you've got to do this and you've got to change this, you've got to stop doing this. And if you do that, God's going to..."

No. God can do it when you're in the middle of all that stuff. Now let me tell you something: Grace does not give us the opportunity to stay in that stuff, but God takes you just like you are. And aren't you glad God never waits until you get cleaned up to accept you? He accepts you now. Aren't you glad? C'mon, aren't you glad about that? [Applause] Of course you are! I am, too!

There is not a person in this room that ever came before Christ and said, "Hey, you know what? I've done all the work. I'm good. I'm clean. I've got all this stuff. I'm ready right now and I'm worthy of what you've done." There is not one of you in this room. Now, you might lie to yourself and say that, but let me give you a little hint. If you're lying to yourself, guess what? You just sinned. You're not clean anymore. It doesn't matter. He accepts us just like we are.

But we also know that God saves us even though we don't deserve to be saved. Let me read this passage, verses 7 through 12, "In Him we have redemption through His blood." It doesn't say redemption through your works. It doesn't say redemption through what you have done. It doesn't say redemption through the church you attend. It doesn't say redemption through what your mom or dad did.

It doesn't say redemption because your dad was a preacher. It doesn't say redemption because you were baptized as a child. It doesn't say redemption because you've been in church ever since you were born. It says we have redemption in His blood, the blood of Jesus Christ, the only way we can change.

Forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He made to abound towards us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to them the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposes in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are in earth, in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance." There is that adoption, that idea that we are sons and daughters.

"Being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory." In other words, to sum all that up: God saves you even though you don't deserve it.

The next thing, and this is really where so many of us blow it, where so many of us miss it. God assures us beyond all doubt. He assures us when we question and we doubt and we wonder. When we say, "Really? Why, God? Where, God? Where are you, God? Have you abandoned me?"

Look what Ephesians 1:13-14 says, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also having believed,” and I want you to hear these words, “you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

*Sealed* is the idea of a mark was put upon you, where you have been sealed, you have been marked, where nothing can hurt you, nothing can harm you, nothing can destroy you. You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, it says. “Who is the guarantee,” that’s the warranty, that guarantee, “of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

What that means is that when you come to Christ, instantly there is a seal that is placed upon you, a mark that is put on you that says, “It doesn’t matter what you face, and it doesn’t matter what Satan has in mind for you; it doesn’t matter what people try to do to you; it doesn’t matter how bad it might get. I’m just telling you, I’ve got your back, I’m with you, I’m protecting you, I’m guiding you. Great am I that is in you than he that is in the world. You are sealed and marked by the Holy Spirit, and there is nothing that anybody can do to change that.” [Applause]

And there are way too many Christians today who don’t live like that, who don’t live as if they’re sealed, don’t live as if they’re marked. Man, get up in the morning and realize it doesn’t matter what happens today, because my God has sealed me, He has marked me, and I’m good. I’ve got that badge. I’m protected. I’ve got it. No issue, no problem, no worry.

Now the second question I told you we were going to answer today is this one. The first one took a long time; this one is just going to take a second. The first one was do you have that power? The second one is are you using that power? And I’m going to take you back to Acts 1:8, “But you shall,” remember, that’s not an option, “receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

And then the second word, “You shall be witnesses.” Now remember when I told you these words mean exactly the same thing in both places in this verse? It means that there is no option; you will receive power. But it also means that there is no option; you’d better use it. It also means you better get out there and let people know about Christ.

Listen. Listen to me, listen to me. It doesn’t say on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00. It doesn’t say when there is visitation at the church. It doesn’t say when you have an opportunity when somebody calls and they make it obvious. It doesn’t say once in a while. It doesn’t say maybe. It doesn’t say could be. It says this: You shall be witnesses for me. It’s a duty. It’s a responsibility. It’s a job that God gives us.

Now first of all, we already read this. He equips us. He gives us what we need. There is nothing that He’s told us to do that He’s not given us everything we need to go do it, so we have been gifted, we have been strengthened, we have been given the ability, we’ve been given the power, there is nothing that can harm us, we’ve been sealed, we’ve been marked. Now he says, “So go out there and let people know who I am.”



Here's the problem: The problem is that way too many times we get distracted by the good and we miss out on the best. I mentioned a few moments ago I've got three dogs. I've got Twixie, who's six years old. And then I've got Coda and Mika, who are brand-new dogs that we just got a few months ago. They are about five or six months old. Cute little dogs. They are not brother and sister, but they look alike, they are the same colors. Coda, the boy, is about twice the size of Mike. Coda is very big and Mika is very small and looks like a little guinea pig.

These dogs are really cute. They drive me nuts, and last night they were almost dead dogs, but they are cute. But it's really interesting. I watched them yesterday. Jonathan Junior and I were home together, watching the dogs and playing with them, and it's really funny that these dogs are individual dogs, and in our house if you come into our family room right now—these are dog toys. I brought them this morning. We have about 150 of these in our family room right now.

We have wall-to-wall toys in our family room. Every kind of toy that you can imagine. Some that squeak [squeaks]—and I don't want to do that too loud in case the dogs are watching; they'll go crazy right now. But some that squeak and some that used to squeak but they have ripped holes in them because they fight over them.

We've got toys everywhere. But it's amazing that these two dogs, Mika and Coda, can be actually sitting there and eating a meal and fully engrossed in eating—you know how dogs get when they eat; it's like they eat and that's what they do—but if I take a moment while they are eating and if I were to take a toy like this and throw it across the room, it doesn't matter what they're eating, it doesn't matter how good the food is—which, by the way, it's not that good—but it doesn't matter what it is, immediately their heads pop up, they look, and they will race to that toy.

And it doesn't matter that there are 150 toys in the room. They both have to have the same toy. And they will fight over it and get on other sides and pull and pull and pull and fight. They'll growl at each other. Coda, the one who's twice as big, will actually pounce on top of Mika and Mike will be on her back, all fours, Coda on top with the toy in both of their mouths, and pulling and pulling.

Coda has figured out that if he goes around behind Mika and bites Mika's tail, he can pull Mika away, and because he's larger and longer legs, he can get back to the toy before she can. They've got this stuff down. But they've got to have the same toy. And it doesn't matter what they're doing, when that toy hits the ground, when that toy squeaks, they are on it and they are following it and chasing it and that's what happens to us.

So often in life we get these little attractive nuisances in life that show up, these things that seem to be fun and seem to be good and sometimes not bad at all, but they show up, and what they do is they take your attention away from power that God has put on you and the purpose with which God has sent you.

And the result of that is that we spend our lives living in weakness. God doesn't want weak Christians. I told you at the beginning of this message, and I'm going to tell you at the end: God's purpose, God's plan is that you and I will live in power, that we will wake up in the

morning, that we will go to bed at night never doubting the power of God that is within us. When we face those most difficult moments of life, it's not an issue, it's not a fear, it's not a worry, because our God is awesome, and at the name of Jesus everything changes.

We trust God. When life is falling apart, we trust God. When we get that report from the doctor, we trust God. When we have problems at home, we trust God. And no matter how bad it gets, we know that our God gives us power, and there is no option: God is there and He is with us. Greater is He that is in me than anything that is in this world.

This morning, about 6:30, I texted Charles. Probably woke him up. Those music guys sleep later than us preachers do. I sent him a text and said, "Charles, I want to end the service today with this song. Can you pull it off?" And of course dumb question. Charles can pull off anything. He and the guys are amazing.

I want to end the service with this song, because this song says it in a way that I could preach for three hours and I wouldn't be able to say it. It simply tells us that the great name of Jesus, that's all we need. Enemies flee. Challenges fall. Problems disappear. Broken hearts are mended. Tears are wiped away at the name of Jesus.

So what we're going to do today is close our service singing this song, and as we're singing this song, if there might be somebody here today that when we roll all the way back to Acts 1:8, where it says you shall receive power, as I said it then, I say it now, the way we receive that power is believing that Jesus is, that He is the Son of God, that He is the Savior of the world, that He died and rose again, and that you've never really done that, you've never done that, maybe today is the day that all needs to change.

As we sing this song—our pastors are coming. They are going to be around the front and I'll be here—would you give us the privilege today, if you've never met Christ, if you're not sure, not absolutely positive that He is Lord of your life, would you give us the privilege and opportunity to talk with you about it for a few moments?

In a moment, as we sing these words, I'm just going to ask you, if you don't know this God that I'm talking about, would you be willing today to just walk down here and let us talk with you for a couple of minutes? We'll do it privately.

Maybe you're saying, "There's a big crowd. I'm scared." Maybe there is someone around you that you know that maybe brought you here today, a friend of yours, a family member. I guarantee you, if you just say, "Hey listen, let's go down there together. That way they won't know which one of us needs help," they'll come down here with you. I guarantee they will. And if they won't, then you bring them down because they need it more than you do. Just come down here and let us talk to you.

Maybe you're a Christian but you've been living in fear—and let's be honest, there are a lot of us here like that—chains, shackles that are on us, burdens that are too great to bear, and we wonder, "Is it worth it? Can I make it? Is it possible to get through?" Would you do me a favor

today, and if you've been going through a moment, a time, a period, a season where it seems like the world just keeps crashing in and you're that close to saying, "Where is God? Really, God?"

While we're singing this song, would you be willing to come down to this altar and kneel here and say, "God, I want to take you at your word, I really do. I've heard your Word today and I believe it, but I haven't been experiencing it." And let's be honest: If you're not experiencing the power of God in your life, it's your fault, not His.

Would you be willing today to come down and kneel at this altar? We had a lot of people do it at the first service. Kneel here and say, "God, I'm going to take you at your word. I've got issues. I've got problems. I've got hurts. God, you told me you'd give me power. Would you do it now?"

Would you be willing to do that? Let's stand and sing these words. If God's telling you to step out, step out right now.

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