

The Searching | Power | 5.31.26

Key Outcomes

Ephesians Church continued its longest-running series on spiritual searching, introducing a multi-week focus on **spiritual power**. The core teaching established that true power comes through surrender to God, not self-strength, and is accessed through faith, obedience, and consistent Word consumption. Believers must operate as ambassadors of God's kingdom, backed by heaven's resources when living in covenant obedience. [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Decisions Made

- **Power series launch:** The church will continue teaching on spiritual power for multiple weeks, starting with foundational principles of how disciples access and demonstrate God's power. [2](#) [4](#)
- **Prayer focus:** Corporate prayer emphasized the local church, divine connections, and family salvation, with specific intercession for believers to walk in power and avoid temporary fixes/idols. [1](#) [5](#)
- **Identity emphasis:** The congregation will be disciplined as "disciples of Jesus Christ" rather than using generic terms like "believers" or "Christians," reflecting a higher standard of commitment. [2](#)

Core Teaching Points

Power Through Surrender

- **The paradox of strength:** Victory in the kingdom comes only through surrender and weakness, allowing Christ's power to reside in believers (2 Corinthians 12:8-10). [6](#) [7](#)
- **Covenant backing:** As ambassadors of God's kingdom, disciples have all heaven's resources and power backing them when walking in obedience—similar to how a nation backs its foreign ambassador. [3](#) [8](#)
- **Gospel power:** Romans 1:16 describes the gospel as God's power for salvation, serving both as saving grace for the unsaved and a victory reminder for believers. [9](#)

Faith as Power's Foundation

- **Faith precedes praise:** Authentic praise flows from faith overflow, not emotions. Faith is substance and evidence (Hebrews 11:1), not feeling. [10](#) [11](#)
- **Word consumption required:** Faith comes by hearing God's Word; insufficient Word intake leads to spiritual weakness and powerless living. Neglecting Scripture is "choosing to be weak." [12](#) [13](#)
- **Jericho example:** God instructed Joshua to praise Him for victory before walls fell (Joshua 6), demonstrating that obedience and faith-filled praise release power. [14](#) [15](#)

Signs vs. Substance

- **Miracles as aroma:** Signs, wonders, and miracles are like the aroma of a good meal—they attract attention but don't provide nourishment. The Word of God is the actual food that sustains. [16](#) [17](#)
- **Real miracle is forgiveness:** The greatest power believers possess is operating in forgiveness and revealing the gospel, not performing healings. Physical miracles are byproducts. [18](#) [19](#)
- **Discernment needed:** False prophets and the Antichrist will perform signs. Believers must look beyond miracles to the substance—whether someone lives according to God's Word. [20](#) [21](#)

Living as Ambassadors

- **Kingdom representation:** Disciples must represent God's kingdom distinctly from the world—in speech, conduct, and mindset. They should be perceived as "aliens" or "weird" for the right reasons. [22](#) [23](#)
- **Power of the tongue:** Life and death are in the tongue (Proverbs). Disciples must avoid negative declarations ("I'm broke," "you're dumb") because they create reality through their words made in God's image. [24](#)
- **Atmosphere authority:** Believers filled with the Word can command atmospheric change in rooms, discern spiritual climates, and walk with heads held high, knowing their spiritual backing. [4](#) [25](#)

Challenges Identified

- **Temporary fixes:** Believers often turn to idols (worry, anxiety, relationships, entertainment, food) for self-soothing rather than surrendering to God. The Holy Spirit called this out as giving power to ineffective solutions. 1 26
- **Excuse-making:** Many struggle with obedience, claiming they'll change "tomorrow" rather than making immediate decisions. Tomorrow never comes—today is the day of repentance. 26 27
- **Sacrifice of praise:** One leader acknowledged struggling to give authentic praise without feeling emotions, highlighting the need to understand praise as a faith-based choice, not feeling-dependent. 10
- **Experience-seeking culture:** The current generation prioritizes thrills, quick fixes, and pleasure over wisdom and preparation, leading to unwise financial and spiritual decisions. 20

Testimony & Ministry Update

- **Destiny's witness:** Appreciation given to Destiny for standing in proxy and blessing her family, with prayer that her witness would shine brightly and draw people to Christ. 28

Spiritual Insights

- **Investment determines power:** The level of spiritual investment (time in God's presence, Word consumption, obedience) determines the power level a believer operates in. Peter's shadow healed people because of his dwelling time with God. 29 30
- **Demon-casting authority:** Believers cannot effectively cast out demons or perform spiritual warfare without prior investment. Living in disobedience while attempting deliverance invites spiritual defeat. 31
- **Aroma of believers:** Negative, anxious, fearful, or doubting people emit spiritual aromas that repel others. Disciples should emit aromas that draw people toward God through worship and consecration. 32 33
- **Circumcision principle:** Before giving Israel victory at Jericho, God required circumcision—cutting away unnecessary things. Bloodshed in circumcision represents covenant sealing. 14

Call to Transformation

For those watching online needing to "get it right": Sincerely tell God "my way isn't working, I need you as Lord of my life," then reach out to the ministry for discipleship. Transformation requires someone walking alongside you who has already traveled the path, warning of dangers and guiding toward safety. 34 35

Giving Emphasis

The church gives out of honor to God, not obligation. Those who don't give should examine whether they truly trust God with their finances—a deeper spiritual issue requiring attention. 25

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Next Steps

- Continue power series next week, building on foundational principles introduced today. 4
- Members encouraged to pray Psalm 139:23-24 daily, asking God to search hearts and reveal offensive ways and temporary fixes. 26
- Increase Word consumption to build faith capacity for authentic praise and spiritual power.

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