

Power

Principles

**AMES BIBLE COLLEGE &
HARVESTIME INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**

This course is part of the **Harvestime International Institute**, a program designed to equip believers for effective spiritual harvest.

The basic theme of the training is to teach what Jesus taught, that which took men who were fishermen, tax collectors, etc., and changed them into reproductive Christians who reached their world with the Gospel in a demonstration of power.

This manual is a single course in one of several modules of curriculum which moves believers from visualizing through deputizing, multiplying, organizing, and mobilizing to achieve the goal of evangelizing.

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HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

MANUAL FORMAT

Each lesson consists of:

Objectives: These are the goals you should achieve by studying the chapter. Read them before starting the lesson.

Key Verse: This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

Chapter Content: Study each section. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual.

Self-Test: Take this test after you finish studying the chapter. Try to answer the questions without using your Bible or this manual. When you have concluded the Self-Test, check your answers in the answer section provided at the end of the book.

For Further Study: This section will help you continue your study of the Word of God, improve your study skills, and apply what you have learned to your life and ministry.

Final Examination: If you are enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination along with this course. Upon conclusion of this course, you should complete this examination and return it for grading as instructed.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a King James version of the Bible.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

FIRST MEETING

Opening: Open with prayer and introductions. Get acquainted and register the students.

Establish Group Procedures: Determine who will lead the meetings, the time, place, and dates for the sessions.

Praise And Worship: Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your training session.

Distribute Manuals To Students: Introduce the manual title, format, and course objectives provided in the first few pages of the manual.

Make The First Assignment: Students will read the chapters assigned and take the Self-Tests prior to the next meeting. The number of chapters you cover per meeting will depend on chapter length, content, and the abilities of your group.

SECOND AND FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Opening: Pray. Welcome and register any new students and give them a manual. Take attendance. Have a time of praise and worship.

Review: Present a brief summary of what you studied at the last meeting.

Lesson: Discuss each section of the chapter using the **HEADINGS IN CAPITAL BOLD FACED LETTERS** as a teaching outline. Ask students for questions or comments on what they have studied. Apply the lesson to the lives and ministries of your students.

Self-Test: Review the Self-Tests students have completed. (Note: If you do not want the students to have access to the answers to the Self-Tests, you may remove the answer pages from the back of each manual.)

Working It Out: You may do this section on a group or individual basis.

Final Examination: If your group is enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination with this course. Reproduce a copy for each student and administer the exam upon conclusion of this course.

MODULE: Multiplying
COURSE: Power Principles

INTRODUCTION

Jesus told the religious leaders of New Testament times. . .

**Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.
(Matthew 22:29)**

The truth of the Gospel is two-fold. First, it is the Word of God as revealed in the Holy Bible. To know the Scriptures you must study, understand, and apply them.

But the truth of the Gospel is more than the Scriptures. It is also the power of God. To know the power of God you must understand and apply power principles. The power of God must become a reality in your life through experience.

The early church was born in a demonstration of the power of God, not through great public speakers or theological debate. Paul wrote:

And my speech, and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

**That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
(I Corinthians 2:4-5)**

Paul recognized that. . .

. . . the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. (I Corinthians 4:20)

Jesus left believers with a great mission of reaching the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom. This task will not be accomplished by words alone. As in the early church, there also must be a demonstration of the power of God.

Many people know the Word of God but have not experienced the power of God. They do not really understand the power of the Gospel. Many ministers today are well educated. They preach with enticing words of man's wisdom, but there is no demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power.

In some churches the miraculous has been replaced with human reasoning that demands a logical explanation for everything that happens. Power has been replaced by theological debate over

whether the miraculous is for today or was only for the early church. When reason and debate take the place of the miraculous, the life flow of God is replaced by man-made religion. People have had their fill of religion and its accompanying ritual. They want to experience reality. They need to witness the visible manifestation of God's power.

If your faith is to stand in the power of God instead of the wisdom of man, you must experience the same flow of power as did the early church. Believers in the early church. . .

. . . went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following. (Mark 16:20)

We have talked of working for God. We plan our ministry and ask God to bless it. But the Biblical method of effective ministry is the Lord working with us, confirming His Word with miraculous signs.

The world is not interested in what you have done for God. The world is attracted to Jesus when they see visible results of the power of the Gospel that has changed your life. The world is attracted by the demonstration of spiritual power as the Lord works with you to confirm His Word with miraculous signs.

Power principles taught in this course will enable you to experience the spiritual power taught in the Bible. This course answers the heart cry of those who have hungered for reality instead of religion. It will move you from being a spectator to a demonstrator of the power of God.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Identify the source of true spiritual power.
- Recognize the counterfeit power of the enemy.
- Summarize the powers delegated by God to Jesus Christ.
- Receive the authority delegated by Jesus to believers.
- Identify Biblical purposes for spiritual power.
- Explain and apply the following power principles:
 - Power of the Gospel
 - Power of the Holy Spirit
 - Power of love
 - Anointing of power
 - Power, faith, works
 - The name of Jesus
 - Power of prayer
 - Power of the Word
 - Being in authority while under authority
 - Power of His resurrection
 - Fellowship of His suffering
- Explain how to have the power of God in your life and ministry.
- Identify reasons for power failures.
- Face the opposition and overcome Satan when he challenges your spiritual authority.

CHAPTER ONE

LIFE AFTER RELIGION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verses from memory.
- Explain the difference between religion and the true demonstration of God's power.
- Identify worldly power structures.
- Give a Biblical reference which explains the difference between worldly and Biblical power.
- Define Biblical power.
- Define Biblical authority.
- Identify the supernatural forces which are the sources of spiritual power.
- Identify the two parts of every Biblical promise.
- List steps for possessing the promises of God.

KEY VERSES:

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. (Psalms 63:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

Just as there is a deceiving sleep and warmth which comes upon a man who is dying from cold by freezing to death, so it is in the spirit world. There is a stupor and an unconcerned attitude when people are dying spiritually.

Religion is the attempt of man to know God. It is ritual and regulations, works and words without power. Religion brings spiritual death.

The power of God is the visible demonstration of His desire to reveal Himself to man. Spiritual power is God's Kingdom in action. It brings spiritual life.

Many have experienced religion. They have joined various cults and denominations. These organizations have lulled them into an unconcerned spiritual attitude. They have not experienced

the power of the Gospel which can change their lives. They are defeated and discouraged, sick and wounded. They are dying spiritually. Their heart cry is as that of the Psalmist David who wrote. . .

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. (Psalms 63:1-2)

These people need to experience life after religion.

TYPES OF POWER

There are many types of power in the world today:

Political power is held by those in control of organizations, tribes, villages, cities, states, provinces and entire nations.

Intellectual power results in new inventions, literary and musical creations, and the establishing of educational institutions.

Physical power is possessed by strong men, many of whom become professional athletes.

Financial power is held by the bankers and businessmen who head corporations and great financial empires.

Military power held by great armies is used to defend and gain new territories.

The power of energy serves men in many ways ranging from a simple fire for warmth to electricity serving an entire city.

Religious power results in great denominations and religious cultures.

All of these are great powers at work in our world today. But the call from Jesus is not to worldly power. It is to spiritual power. It is a power that asks not "How can I be master?," but rather "How can I serve?"

THE DIFFERENCE IN STRUCTURE

Jesus explained the difference between the power structure of the world and that of the Kingdom of God. He said:

. . . Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant;

Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:25-28)

The call from Jesus is to relinquish worldly power for spiritual power which is given for the purpose of serving a suffering, lost, and dying world.

SPIRITUAL POWER

When we speak of power in this course we are not talking about man-made religious denominations or religious organizations. We are not speaking of authority delegated through a vote by the majority. It is not authority given by a title or office. It is not power based on education or ability.

When we speak of power in this course, we are referring to the Biblical concept of spiritual power. The Biblical meaning of the word "power" is spiritual might, ability, force, and strength. It is a supernatural dominion that results in mighty works and miracles.

A similar word, "authority," is also used in this course. As in the Bible, it is closely related to and has similar meaning to the word "power." Authority refers to legal and rightful power to act on behalf of another. Taking authority is the action of demonstrating power. It is possessing the right to exercise delegated power within defined boundaries.

FORCES OF SPIRITUAL POWER

There are several supernatural forces operative in spiritual power. The Biblical source of spiritual power is the true and living God who is revealed in the Holy Bible. God is a triune person composed of God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the source of power:

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God. (Romans 13:1)

God has delegated power to His Son, Jesus Christ:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28:18)

Jesus has delegated spiritual power to believers. This power is experienced through the Holy Spirit:

**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
(Acts 1:8)**

There is another force of spiritual power, but it is a negative force. It is the source of evil spiritual power and responsible for witchcraft, voodoo, and all other evil practices. That force is Satan. Satan is a spiritual power, but his power is evil, not good:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

You will learn more about this "challenging counterfeit" of God's power in Chapter Three of this course.

THE DEMONSTRATION OF POWER

When Jesus began His public ministry, it was a ministry of miracles. His ministry did not succeed because of its great organization. He started with twelve disciples and ended with eleven. It did not succeed because of popularity. In the end, everyone turned against Him including His own followers. His ministry touched the multitudes because of the demonstration of power:

And they were astonished at His doctrine, for His word was with power. (Luke 4:32)

And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits and they come out. (Luke 4:36)

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil; for God was with Him. (Acts 10:38)

The early church was birthed in a demonstration of power. It was said of them. . .

. . . These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also. (Acts 17:6)

The early church affected entire cities and nations, but they did not do it by just preaching alone. People listened and lives were changed because they witnessed the demonstration of God's power:

... the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:6-8)

When Peter came to Lydda, he found a man named Aeneas who had been bedfast for eight years. . .
And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole; arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

**And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.
(Acts 9:34-35)**

In Joppa, Peter raised a woman named Dorcas from the dead. When this miracle took place. . .

**... it was known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
(Acts 9:42)**

Each miraculous demonstration of God's power focused attention on the Lord Jesus Christ. Each power encounter resulted in multiplication of the church.

Political influence is not what we need to reach the world with the Gospel. The early church did not have enough influence to keep Peter out of prison, but they had enough power to pray him out.

More preaching is not what will reach the world. The early church prayed for days, preached a few minutes, and 3,000 souls were saved (Acts 1-2). Today we pray ten minutes, preach a ten-day revival, and see only thirty saved.

More money for ministry does not assure reaching the world with the Gospel message. While it is true that finances are important to the work of the ministry, they are not the most necessary essential.

When Peter and John passed by the temple gate at Jerusalem, a lame beggar asked for a few coins. Peter and John did not even have this small amount of funds. But they gave what they had:

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he, leaping up, stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. (Acts 3:6-8)

What they had was power and authority in the name of Jesus. They had no advertising budget to reach the city of Jerusalem. They had no printed tracts or Bibles, no television networks. But they had power. Through the demonstration of God's power, the entire city was affected by the Gospel message (Acts 3-4).

The early Church realized that the Gospel of the Kingdom was not only of word but of power:

For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. (I Corinthians 4:20)

THE POWER OF CHOICE

When God created the world, He made many different kinds of creatures. He made animals, fish, insects, and birds (Genesis 1).

But God's greatest creation was man who was created in His own image. Man is unique among all creatures because he has a body, soul, and spirit. He was created to worship and fellowship with the true and living God (Genesis 2-3).

Man, by creation, is the companion of a miracle working Father, the true and living God. Man, endowed with the breath of God and made in His image, has a capacity for power unlike any other created being. The miracle-working realm should be man's natural realm.

Man has the most powerful, intelligent mind of all of God's creatures. Man has the power of choice. Man can choose to do good or evil. He can choose to obey God or Satan.

The first temptation of man by Satan in the Garden of Eden focused on this power of choice (Genesis 3). Because of a wrong choice to sin, a basic sin nature has been passed from Adam and Eve to all mankind.

THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL POWER

If man is to experience true spiritual power, he must choose to serve God. Since all are sinners, all are in need of forgiveness:

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

Forgiveness comes through repentance and belief on Jesus Christ:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:8-9)

Repentance from sin is the basis for spiritual power. You cannot experience the power of God if you remain in the spiritual death of sin.

When the disciples were preaching in one city, a man named Simon witnessed the power of God in action. He offered money to Peter and said:

... Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:19)

Peter answered:

... Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Thou has neither part nor lot in this matter; for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. (Acts 8:20-23)

Repentance is the basis of all true spiritual power. You will never experience God's power unless you have first experienced repentance. Salvation from sin is the greatest demonstration of the power of God.

God does not pour His power through sinful vessels. He does not work through people who try to improve their lives through self effort (Matthew 9:16-17). God demonstrates His power through holy vessels who have repented and are serving Him.

POSSESSING THE PROMISES

Believers have been promised spiritual power. But there are two parts to every promise of God:

The promise: The content, the actual words and meaning of the promise.

The possession of that promise: You cannot use that which you do not possess. You must claim the promises of God in order for them to become reality in your life.

How do you claim the promises of God? Here are the steps:

1. YOU MUST CHOOSE TO DO SO:

You have the power to accept the promise of God, reject it, or ignore it. Many people have rejected the promise of spiritual power. They believe it was only for the early Church. Others have ignored it. They read the promises in the Bible, but do not act upon them. These people do not have the demonstration of God's power in their lives because they have exercised their own power of choice and failed to claim the promise.

Whenever there is a promise in God's Word that is not fulfilled in your life it does not mean it is not true or not for you. Do not interpret the Bible on the basis of your own experience. Just because you have not experienced a promise of God does not mean it is not a true and valid promise. The promise of power is a gift from God. But you must choose to accept that gift.

2. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES:

To possess any Biblical promise, you must understand the principles upon which it is based. Promises of God are always based on certain principles which always involve a response from man.

For example, many promises of God are based on the "if/then" principle. God says, "If you will do this certain thing, then you will receive the promise." (See Deuteronomy 28 for an example of this principle).

To experience the promise of spiritual power, you must understand the Biblical principles of power. In the natural world, it is similar to reading the instructions that come with a product to learn how to operate it properly or like using a recipe to learn how to prepare a certain food.

3. YOU MUST APPLY THE PRINCIPLES:

Someone can give you a lovely gift in the natural world. You can choose to accept it. It comes with instructions. You can read the instructions and understand them thoroughly. But unless you use the instructions to operate the gift, the product is still useless to you.

Mere understanding of the Biblical power principles taught in this course is not enough. You must apply these principles to your own life and ministry.

BEYOND BLESSING TO POWER

Many believers do not experience power because they never get beyond the point of spiritual blessing. The Holy Spirit begins to move upon them and they feel great joy. They may express it in singing, shouting, dancing, or crying. They are blessed by God and respond emotionally.

There is nothing wrong with this. The Bible is filled with such spiritual experiences. But God wants to move His people beyond the point of blessing into the realm of spiritual power, beyond emotion to demonstration.

There is a story in the Old Testament that illustrates this truth. It also illustrates the link between a promise and the possessing of that promise. The nation of Israel traveled for many months from Egypt through the desert to the land God promised them. When they reached the edge of this promised land, Moses sent in spies to check out the land. Ten of the spies brought back a negative report. They said there were giants in the land and there was no way Israel could go in to possess the land. Only two spies urged the people to enter the land and possess it as God had promised.

Israel chose to listen to the negative report. Because of this, although it was only an eleven day journey from where they were camped to the Promised Land, it took Israel forty years to make the journey (Deuteronomy 1:2).

God brought Israel to the point of blessing. They were at the edge of the Promised Land. God's power was available to conquer the enemy. But Israel refused to move forward in God's power. There was nothing wrong with the promise. The problem was Israel's refusal to possess it.

You must not stop when you get to a point of blessing in your life. You must break through into the spiritual realm of power. If you do not do so, you will continue to wander in a spiritual wilderness of dry, powerless existence.

You must move beyond the point of blessing into the realm of power. You must become a demonstrator instead of a spectator; a doer instead of only a hearer. When you do so, you will experience the true flow of God's power. You will experience a life force and anointing within you that you have never before known. You will experience life after religion.

ORDINARY PEOPLE

You may think you cannot experience this power because you lack education. Perhaps you do not hold ministerial credentials with any denomination. You may live in a village far away from a Christian college and you are unable to obtain a Bible school education.

None of these things need stand in the way of your receiving spiritual power. The Word of God is filled with examples of ordinary men and women who were used of God in mighty ways:

Abraham. . . lied about Sarah being his wife because of fear, yet he was used of God to found the great nation of Israel.

Moses. . . was not a good speaker and killed an Egyptian in anger, yet God used him to lead an entire nation of over two million people to the promised land.

Peter. . . sank while walking on water, always said the wrong thing at the wrong time, and in the end denied he knew Jesus. . . yet this ordinary fisherman stood and gave a powerful witness on the day of Pentecost which resulted in the salvation of 3,000 souls.

Gideon. . . a young man hiding in fear to thresh the harvest grain was called to deliver an entire nation from oppressive captors.

King David. . . committed adultery, took another man's wife and had the man murdered, yet he was the greatest King of Israel and called a man after God's own heart.

Peter and John. . . both were poor fishermen and had no money or education, but the healing power of God flowed through them to stir entire cities.

The Apostle Paul. . . it was said of him that his letters were powerful, but his bodily presence weak and his speech poor (II Corinthians 10:10).

Jacob. . . was a deceiver, liar, and schemer. But when God touched him, he became a "prince with power with God and man."

If men such as these can be entrusted with spiritual power with God and men, you can also, despite your human failures! God calls ordinary men and women and makes them extraordinary. He does not see you as you see yourself. He does not see you as others see you. God sees you as you can become when you are endued with spiritual power. God uses ordinary people, what the Bible calls "earthen vessels." The reason He does so is. . .

**. . . that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
(II Corinthians 4:7)**

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. What is the difference between religion and the demonstration of God's power?

3. Name some worldly power structures listed in this lesson.

4. What reference explains the difference between worldly and Biblical power structures?

5. Give the Biblical definitions for power and authority.

6. Identify the supernatural forces which are the source of spiritual power.

7. What are the two parts of every Biblical promise?

_____ and _____

8. List three steps given in this lesson, for possessing the promises of God.

9. The basis of spiritual power is_____.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. The first Biblical record of a man being endued with spiritual power is Jacob. It was said of him that he had power with God and men. Study the record of this experience in Genesis 32 and Hosea 12:3-4. Write a summary of what you learn in these passages:

2. Jesus rejected worldly power. See Luke 4:1-13, John 6:15, and John 7:2-6. Write a summary of what you learn in these passages:

CHAPTER TWO

THE SOURCE OF POWER

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Identify the source of power.
- List eight ways God reveals His power on earth.
- Give a Scriptural reference which explains why God reveals His power on earth.

KEY VERSE:

**God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.
(Psalms 62:11)**

INTRODUCTION

To properly understand power principles we must start at the very beginning. We must discover the source of power. The source of something is its beginning or place of origin. This chapter presents the true and living God revealed in the Holy Bible as the source of all power. David wrote:

**God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.
(Psalms 62:11)**

When God repeats something it is because it is very important.

THE SOURCE OF POWER

Before anything else existed, there was God. Genesis 1-2 records the beginning of the world and all living beings. God made the earth by His power:

He hath made the earth by His power; He hath established the world by His wisdom and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion. (Jeremiah 10:12)

I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. (Jeremiah 27:5)

For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were create by Him, and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)

Since God created all things, there is nothing beyond the scope of His power:

Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee. (Jeremiah 32:17)

God is the source of power behind all things in their present state:

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and POWER: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Revelation 4:11)

For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things; to whom be glory for ever. (Romans 11:36)

Who being in the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power . . . (Hebrews 1:3)

God has the times and seasons in His power:

And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. (Acts 1:7)

The earth and all it contains belong to the Lord:

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (Psalms 24:1)

In Genesis 14:22 God is called the possessor of Heaven and earth. To possess something is to have power over it.

There are many kingdoms and governments in this world. But God's Kingdom is sovereign. This means He rules over all:

The Lord hath prepared His throne in the Heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all. (Psalms 103:19)

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. (I Chronicles 29:11-12)

Since God created man, only He has power over the spirit of man:

There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death . . .(Ecclesiastes 8:8)

God has power to preserve those appointed to die:

Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die. (Psalms 79:11)

God is the one who gives power to the faint:

He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. (Isaiah 40:29)

. . . The God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. (Psalms 68:35)

God's power is not affected by the power or lack of power of man:

. . . Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power . . . (II Chronicles 14:11)

God has the power to deliver. The Bible is filled with records of how God supernaturally delivered people in times of need. Two good examples are found in the book of Daniel. Read how God delivered His servants from the furnace of fire in Daniel 3 and from the lions in Daniel 6.

His power is unlimited:

The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power...(Nahum 1:3)

His power is excellent:

Touching the Almighty, we cannot find Him out; He is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice . . . (Job 37:23)

God's power is everlasting. Paul wrote that God...

. . . hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. (I Timothy 6:16)

In the final book of the Bible we read of a future event in Heaven when . . .

. . . the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from His power . . . (Revelation 15:8)

And the hosts of Heaven cried . . . Saying Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and POWER and might be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7:12)

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in Heaven, saying, Alleluia: Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power unto the Lord our God. (Revelation 19:1)

Repeatedly, from beginning to end, the Bible stresses that God is the source of power.

HOW GOD REVEALS HIS POWER

The Bible is a record of how God reveals His power in the earth. Here are the various ways God reveals His power:

NATURE:

God has revealed Himself in nature. The plants and animals, valleys and mountains, waters and deserts, and even the skies above are all visible signs of His creative power:

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. (Psalms 150:1)

Which by His strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power;

Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves . . . (Psalms 65:6-7)

God is in the wind, sea, and mountains:

He caused an east wind to blow in the Heaven; and by His power He brought in the south wind. (Psalms 78:26)

. . . the Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.

He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers . . .

The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at His presence . . .(Nahum 1:3-5)

He controls all the elements of nature:

When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures. (Jeremiah 10:13)

Job chapters 38-40 provide a detailed record of how God is revealed in the world of nature. God has revealed His power so clearly in nature that men have no excuse for not believing in Him:

For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

HIS WRITTEN WORD:

From beginning to end, God's written Word reveals His power. It opens with His power to create. It closes with His power to destroy, judge, and recreate. Between Genesis and Revelation, God's Word records His power constantly at work in the world and in the lives of men and women.

Not only do the stories recorded in God's Word reflect His power, but the words in which they are told are powerful:

For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

JUDGMENT:

Acts of judgment by God reveal His power. His power was first demonstrated in judgment when He judged Adam and Eve after their sin (Genesis 3).

It was revealed at a greater level when God destroyed the entire world with a flood in the days of Noah (Genesis 6-9).

The Bible is a continual record of the power of God revealed through judgment of sin. He sent judgment upon His people when they sinned. He also sent judgment upon evil nations. You can read about this in the book of Judges and the books written by the prophets.

Each time God sent judgment, He clearly indicated its purpose was that people would come to know His power (for an example, see Exodus 7:17).

REDEMPTION:

Throughout history, God revealed His power in miraculous acts of redemption.

Although God judged Adam and Eve, He provided a way of salvation for them (Genesis 3:15). Although He destroyed the wicked earth with a flood, He provided an ark of safety (Genesis 6-9).

God redeemed Israel from bondage in Egypt through His power:

And because He loved thy fathers, therefore He chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in His sight with His mighty power out of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 4:37)

God raised up judges, kings, and prophets whom He used to redeem His people out of the hand of the enemy. Nehemiah said of Israel:

Now these are thy servants and thy people whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. (Nehemiah 1:10)

Each time God redeemed His people, He had a purpose. That purpose was to reveal His power:

Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power to be known. (Psalms 106:8)

JESUS CHRIST:

God's greatest plan of redemption was revealed in Jesus Christ through whom all men could be

redeemed from sin once and for all.

God's power was revealed through the prophecies about the birth of Jesus and in His miraculous birth. It was evident in the life, teaching, and ministry of the Lord as well as in His death and resurrection.

The greatest revelation of God's power was in Jesus Christ:

And I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and THE POWER OF HIS CHRIST: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. (Revelation 12:10)

In Chapter Four of this course you will study in detail how the power of God was revealed in Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Jesus promised His followers:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Acts 2 is the record of the coming of the Holy Ghost, sent from God as Jesus had promised. Through the Holy Ghost God continues to reveal His power. You will learn how as you study the power of the Holy Spirit later in this course.

SUPERNATURAL SIGNS:

You have already learned that God revealed His power through judgment and redemption of His people. But God also reveals His power in other supernatural ways. "Supernatural" means beyond the power of the natural world. It is something that cannot be done by the power of man.

God's power has been revealed through miraculous healings, deliverances from demon powers, the dead being restored to life . . . even through fire falling from Heaven. The entire Bible is a record of supernatural signs of God revealing His power. God's power is still revealed through such signs today.

BELIEVERS:

Jesus said God would do such powerful signs through believers:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.

**They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
(Mark 16:17-18)**

From the beginning of His written Word, God worked on this earth through men and women. Man has a capacity for power unlike any other created being. God's judgment came through evil men and women. Redemption came through godly judges, prophets, kings, and finally through Jesus Christ.

When Jesus came to earth to manifest God's power He was born of a woman in human form. The greatest redemption of all times, redemption from sin, came through one made in the form of man.

After Jesus returned to Heaven God continued to demonstrate His power on earth through men and women. The book of Acts is the record of the power of God at work through believers.

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following . . . (Mark 16:20)

God's power was demonstrated through the power of the Gospel that changes lives of men and women. It was demonstrated in miracles of healing and deliverance. His power was shown in spite of suffering and persecution.

Whenever God raises up a man or ministry it is for the purpose of showing His power. God said to Moses:

**And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power, and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.
(Exodus 9:16)**

God continues to reveal His power today through believers who are part of the true Church. He demonstrates His power through special leaders He sets in the Church and through spiritual gifts given to believers. You will study more about this in Chapter Five on "Delegated Authority."

WHY GOD REVEALS HIS POWER

Why does God reveal His power on earth? Why does He show miraculous signs to mankind? There are many purposes for God's power at work in the world. You will study these in Chapter Six on "The Purposes Of Power."

But the many purposes of God's power can be summed up in one major purpose. This purpose, from

the beginning of time, was to redeem sinful mankind through Jesus Christ. The purpose of the revelation of His power is to draw all men to Himself through Jesus:

Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath **PURPOSED in Himself;**

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:11)

OTHER LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

God is the source of all power. He is the supreme and highest authority in the universe.

God has established other levels of authority in the world. He gave authority to His Son, Jesus Christ. He gives believers authority through the Holy Spirit. God has established levels of authority in society, government, business, the home, and the church. These levels of authority are all important. To properly understand principles of spiritual power you must recognize the structure of authority established by God. You will study each of these later in this course.

But first, attention must be focused on an important truth which is revealed in the Bible. Although God is the source of power, His authority does not go unchallenged. The levels of authority He has established in the world also do not go unchallenged. There are evil forces challenging God's authority. They are not a threat to His authority in any way, but they constantly wage warfare against it nevertheless. If you incorporate Biblical "Power Principles" into your life then you will be challenged by these same forces. The following chapter, "The Challenging Counterfeit," deals with this subject.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. What is the "source" of something?

3. Who is the source of all power?

4. List eight ways God reveals His power on earth.

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5. Is this statement True or False? "God is the only power in the universe. There are no other levels of power." The statement is _____.

6. Give a Scripture reference which explains God's main purpose in revealing His power on earth.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. David was the greatest King to ever rule the nation of Israel. He recognized God as the source of all power:

II Samuel 22:33; Psalms 59:11,16; 62:11; 63:2; 65:6; 68:35; 78:26; 79:11; 90:11;
106:8; 110:3; 111:6; 145:11; 150:1

Summarize what you learn from these Scriptures:

2. David expressed a personal desire related to God's power. What was the desire he expressed in Psalms 71:18?

3. As you study the Bible, keep a record of how God reveals His power through:

Nature
Judgment
Redemption
His Written Word

Jesus Christ
The Holy Spirit
Supernatural Signs
Believers

CHAPTER THREE

THE CHALLENGING COUNTERFEIT

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verses from memory.
- Identify Satan as the challenging counterfeit of the true power of God.
- Explain what is meant by "spiritual wickedness in high places."
- Summarize how Satan imitates God's power through spiritual wickedness in high places.

KEY VERSES:

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

**Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works.
(II Corinthians 11:14-15)**

INTRODUCTION

In the last chapter you learned that God is the source of power and of the ways He reveals His power on earth. But God's great power does not go unchallenged. There is a power struggle going on in the world today. It is not a war of flesh and blood. It is the struggle of a very challenging counterfeit rebelling against God.

THE CHALLENGING COUNTERFEIT

Satan constantly is challenging God's power in the universe. He is the challenging counterfeit because he actually poses no threat to God. This has not always been so. Satan was originally created by God as a beautiful angel named Lucifer. Read about his original state and position in Ezekiel 28:12-17.

But Satan rebelled against the power and authority of God. He wanted to be as God Himself. You can read the story of his rebellion in Ezekiel 28:17 and Isaiah 14:12-15. God could have struck Satan down and killed him for such rebellion. But if He had brought down the first enemy in this way, there would have been the possibility of another rebellion and the history of Heaven would have been clouded with similar disasters.

Instead, God cast Satan out of Heaven and allowed his claims to power to have complete trial on earth. God also cast out other angels who had participated in Satan's rebellions. They are now evil angels known as "demons" or "devils" at work in the world today.

Shortly after God created the first man and woman, the battle began on earth. You can read of the first challenge in Genesis chapter 3. The fall of Adam and Eve into sin was rooted in rebellion against the authority and power of God. Adam and Eve sought knowledge equal to that of God. With such knowledge would come power.

From this time on, Satan has challenged the authority of God on earth. Through sin, Satan seeks to draw men and women to allegiance to himself instead of God. The Harvestime Institute course, "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*," deals with the subject of Satan in detail. If you are taking the Institute courses in their suggested order, you have already studied this course. If not, we suggest you obtain it to assist in understanding this enemy and specific spiritual strategies to overcome his power.

One of the chief methods of Satan in challenging God's power is to counterfeit it. A counterfeit is an imitation of something and is designed to deceive. For example, counterfeit money is made to look like real money. Criminals pass it off to others as real money to deceive them.

Satan counterfeits the power of God. He imitates God's power to deceive people. He uses his angels (demons) to help him accomplish this goal. Satan and his demons sometimes appear as good instead of evil. We are warned:

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

**Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works.
(II Corinthians 11:14-15)**

In the final days of time on earth, this imitation of God's power by Satan will increase. Through signs and wonders, he will deceive many:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders.

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. (II Thessalonians 2:9-11)

This Scripture reveals how Satan works. He counterfeits the power of God with "all power and signs and lying wonders." The only way you can detect his deception is by the truth of the Word of God.

PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Man is caught in this conflict of Satan rebelling against the power of God. We are engaged in a power struggle with the invisible powers of Satan. But the power of God is greater than "thrones, dominions, principalities and powers" (Colossians 1:16) and greater than all "principalities and powers in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). But you need to be alert to the deceptive power of Satan which counterfeits the power of God. You must be aware of . . .

SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES

When Paul speaks of "spiritual wickedness in high places", he is referring to wicked spirits who have infiltrated the religious systems of the world. Satan has organized his evil forces to imitate the organization of the true Church of God. In some cases he actually has congregations known as "The Church of Satan" or "Spiritualists." He has set up a form of worship in the spiritual "high places" of organized religion.

Satan has also established his system right in the true Church through evil people who have "crept in unawares" (Jude 4). Satan has imitators right in the Church who demonstrate power, but it is not God's power. The structure Satan has established in the high places of religion is based on imitation and deception.

SATAN HAS HIS OWN TRINITY:

God is a trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The trinity of Satan includes Satan himself, the beast, and a false prophet.

SATAN HAS HIS OWN CHURCH:

God established the true Church which is known as the "Body of Christ" of which Jesus is the head:

**Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.
(I Corinthians 12:27)**

Satan has his own church which is called "a synagogue of Satan":

... I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. (Revelation 2:9)

The name "synagogue of Satan" is not always openly used, but his synagogue is established any place the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not preached.

SATAN HAS A DOCTRINE:

God has a doctrine that is revealed in His holy Word, the Bible:

**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...
(II Timothy 3:16)**

The doctrine of Satan is called the "doctrine of devils":

**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.
(I Timothy 4:1)**

The doctrine of devils is any teaching presented as truth which does not agree with the written Word of God.

SATAN HAS A SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE:

In Romans 12:1, we are told to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. This means we are to surrender in total allegiance to God. Satan demands sacrifices also:

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. (I Corinthians 10:20)

Satan demands total allegiance of body, soul, and spirit. There are actually services of sacrifice conducted where men and women dedicate themselves to the service of Satan. The blood sacrifice of humans and animals is also practiced.

SATAN HAS HIS OWN COMMUNION:

The sharing of the communion bread and wine was started by Jesus as a way of remembering His sacrifice for the sins of all mankind on the cross (I Corinthians 11:23-34). Satan counterfeits this with his own communion service:

**Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.
(I Corinthians 10:21)**

SATAN HAS MINISTERS:

God calls some believers to serve as pastors and minister to His Church by proclaiming the Gospel (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has ministers:

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

**Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
(II Corinthians 11:14-15)**

Satan's ministers proclaim his “gospel” which is contrary to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:7-8)

Just because a message is delivered with a powerful style of presentation does not mean it is a message of the true Gospel.

SATAN HAS A THRONE:

God has a throne in Heaven. Satan also has a throne, although we are not told its exact location:

And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon (Satan) gave him his power, and HIS SEAT, and great authority. (Revelation 13:2)

SATAN HAS WORSHIPERS:

There are many who worship the true God. Satan also has worshipers:

**. . . and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast?
(Revelation 13:4)**

Some worshipers of Satan pretend to be followers of Jesus:

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. (Matthew 13:38-39)

Satan mixes the bad "seed" in with the good "seed" (true believers).

SATAN HAS PROPHETS:

God has set prophets in the church, men who are especially anointed to bring a direct message from Him to the church (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has false prophets:

**And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
(Matthew 24:11)**

SATAN HAS TEACHERS:

God has anointed some people as teachers to explain His Word to others (I Corinthians 12:28). But all teachers are not from God. Satan has false teachers who spread his evil doctrine:

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you . . . (II Peter 2:1-3)

Satan's teachers bring in "damnable heresies," teachings which are false and cause division. They speak lies and are experts at mixing truth and error in a way that makes error acceptable.

SATAN HAS APOSTLES:

An apostle is a person who spreads the Gospel and establishes churches (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has apostles doing his work throughout the world. They deceive people by imitating the true apostles:

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (II Corinthians 11:13)

Satan's apostles become leaders of false cults and infiltrate churches and even become leaders in the churches.

SATAN RAISES UP FALSE CHRISTS:

Satan has even imitated the Lord Jesus Christ by raising up false Christs. Jesus warned:

. . . Take heed that no man deceive you.

**For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
(Matthew 24:4-5)**

These false Christs may use the name of Jesus. They may do many signs and wonders. But they are imitators of the power of God.

SATAN HAS A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM:

The Bible is a record of how God spoke to man in times past. God continues to speak to men today. Satan also speaks to man. His first words to humans resulted in their fall into sin (Genesis chapter 3).

Believers pray to God regarding their needs. God responds to the prayer of the righteous (James 5:16). Satan's followers pray to him and communicate with evil spirits. Sometimes Satan responds with supernatural events such as voices, the moving of objects, noises, etc. Satan does have real power and can demonstrate this power visually in our world.

God has communicated to man through His written Word, the Bible. Satan's message is also being communicated through the written word by evil magazines, books, motion pictures, and music. Communication from God through His written and spoken Word provides guidance for man in the affairs of life.

Satan has a system of false guidance accomplished through methods such as the following:

Astrology and horoscope: Which use stars to predict events and give guidance.

Readings of tea leaves, pictures, bumps on the head, palm of the hand and crystal balls. The formation of the tea leaves, lines in the human hand, crystal balls, and pictures are claimed to give guidance.

Witchcraft: Using spells, potions, charms, rituals, seances, divinations, methods of chance, visions, drawings, and similar unscriptural methods to receive guidance.

SATAN HAS SUPERNATURAL POWER:

Jesus promised supernatural power to his followers after they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Satan also gives supernatural power and authority (Revelation 13:2). His demons create supernatural strength and energy. Satan gives both power and authority (Revelation 13:2), as did Jesus. Satan can perform many supernatural signs and miracles:

**For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles...
(Revelation 16:14)**

Jesus said:

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:22-23)

Note that Jesus said "I NEVER KNEW YOU". These people with their impressive demonstrations of power were NEVER of God. They were deceiving counterfeits.

THE GREATER POWER

Satan is truly a challenging imitator. He has a powerful organization. His followers can do powerful acts. Jesus warned of his power:

**But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.
(Luke 12:5)**

But God has greater power. Jesus said:

. . . Greater is He (Jesus) that is in you than he (Satan) that is in the world. (I John 4:4)

You will learn in the next chapter how Jesus came with great power and authority to destroy the evil works of Satan. You will learn in later chapters how Jesus delegated power over all the power of the enemy to believers.

FACING THE CHALLENGING COUNTERFEIT

Here are some Biblical guidelines for facing the power of the challenging counterfeit:

RECOGNIZE SATAN IS AN IMITATOR:

The first step in overcoming the power of Satan is to recognize that Satan imitates God's power.

USE DISCERNMENT:

There is a special gift of the Holy Spirit called discerning of spirits. It is an unusual ability given by God to immediately discern another person's spirit and know if they are good or evil. If you have this spiritual gift, use it to determine whether people's spirits are of God or Satan.

If you do not have this gift, God has provided other methods of detection. II Peter 2 and the book of Jude list the characteristics of people with seducing spirits to help you identify them. No matter how spiritual or powerful a person may appear, evaluate him on the basis of God's Word.

EVALUATE THE SUPERNATURAL BY THE FRUIT:

Because Satan imitates the power of God through supernatural manifestations of miracles, signs, and wonders, God has provided a way to evaluate ministries. Jesus compared men to fruit trees:

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them. (Matthew 7:18, 20)

Satan can imitate spiritual gifts and God's power, but he has no imitation for a holy life exhibiting the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which includes . . .

. . . love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance . . . (Galatians 5:22-23)

Evaluate ministries by spiritual fruit instead of supernatural manifestations of power.

STUDY THE WORD OF GOD:

In order to recognize false doctrines of Satan's teachers, apostles, prophets, and ministers, you must know what is taught in the Word of God. Paul told Timothy:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15)

Even though Paul was a great spiritual leader in the early church, the believers at the city of Berea checked everything he said by God's written Word:

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (Acts 17:11)

To avoid being deceived by Satan's power, examine everything that is taught in light of God's Word. Evaluate the lives of those who are teaching powerful doctrines or performing signs and wonders.

Do not accept any teaching, doctrine, revelation, or miracle that is not in harmony with God's Word. The power of Satan often attracts believers through so-called "special revelation of new truth." People claim special dreams, appearances by angels, visions, voices, or other supernatural events. But Paul warned:

... but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from Heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:7-8)

Do not accept any so-called prophecy that is not in right relation to the faith (Romans 12:6) and which does not come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:22). Do not accept any revelation that leads you away from God and the truth of His Word (Deuteronomy 13:1-5):

The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead. (Proverbs 21:16)

AVOID EVERY SATANIC INFLUENCE:

God warned Israel to avoid every type of Satanic influence:

... destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places. (Numbers 33:52)

Read the additional instructions God gave in Deuteronomy 18:9-14. Israel was to have no contact with the work of Satan in any form.

Destroy anything you own that has to do with witchcraft or the work of the devil. This includes idols, lucky charms, potions, amulets, crystal balls, games, divining devices, and other similar items. Destroy any evil literature and music that does not glorify God. This is what people did in the New Testament when they became believers:

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men, and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (Acts 19:19)

Do not spend time in places where there is evil influence. The Bible records that God manifested Himself in special places such as the Old Testament temple and the upper room of a house on the Day of Pentecost. It is equally true that Satanic power can be manifested in special places dedicated to evil. This includes places where evil pictures are shown, drinking and riotous behavior is occurring, seances are being held, worship of Satan is occurring--anywhere sinful practices are going on. Avoid such environments, because Satan's power is especially strong there. You cannot pray, "Lead me not into temptation," and then put yourself in such a place:

**... and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.
(I Corinthians 10:20)**

Do not associate with false leaders, teachers, prophets, ministers or apostles:

Abstain from all appearance of evil. (I Thessalonians 5:22)

RECOGNIZE GOD'S POWER IS GREATER THAN SATAN:

God's organization, the true church, is more powerful than that of Satan:

(God) hath put all things under His (Jesus) feet, and gave Him (Jesus) to be the head over all things to the church. Which is His body . . .(Ephesians 1:22-23)

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. (Ephesians 3:10)

Jesus is the head of the Church. Believers are the body. If all things (including Satan and his religious structure) are under the feet of Jesus, then they are also under our feet because we are the body. "Under the feet" means they are under the power and authority which God has delegated to us.

Jesus said we have power over "all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19). This includes spiritual wickedness in high places. Satan and his hosts challenge God's power, but they certainly are not a threat to Him or His people. The Church is actually to demonstrate God's power to these evil principalities and powers!

LEARN BIBLICAL POWER PRINCIPLES:

You will study Biblical principles in this course. If you understand the principles of God's power, you will not be deceived by the counterfeit works of Satan.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. What is meant by "spiritual wickedness in high places"?

3. Summarize all you remember about the counterfeiting of God's power by Satan through spiritual wickedness in high places.

4. List eight Biblical strategies given in this chapter for overcoming the power of the challenging imitator.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Study II Peter chapter 2 and the book of Jude. These chapters will help you detect Satan's imitators in the church.
2. Obtain the Harvestime International Institute course "*Spiritual Strategies: A Manual Of Spiritual Warfare*". It will help you learn more about the challenging counterfeit and provide specific strategies for overcoming his power.
3. As an imitator of the power of God, Satan seeks to deceive in the world today. To "deceive" is to mislead or cause someone to believe something that is not true.

- Satan deceives not only individuals but nations: Revelation 20:8-10
- Satan works with "all deceivableness of unrighteousness": II Thessalonians 2:10
- We are warned that deception will increase: II Timothy 3:13
- Because deception will increase, we are instructed to be aware of the events indicating Christ's return: Matthew 24; Mark 13; II Thessalonians 2:3
- We are warned about those used by Satan to deceive: II Corinthians 11:13; Titus 1:10; II Peter 2:13; II John 7
- Man's heart is deceptive: Jeremiah 17:9
- Every unsaved man is deceived: II Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 3:13
- Do not accept deceptive "fair speeches" which do not agree with God's Word: Romans 16:18; II Corinthians 4:2

You are deceived if . . .

- You listen to vain philosophies: Colossians 2:8
- You trust in riches and permit the lusts of the flesh: Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19; Ephesians 4:22
- You are a hearer and not a doer of the Word of God: James 1:22
- You say you have no sin: I John 1:8
- You listen to evil men: II Timothy 3:13
- You think you are important when actually you are nothing: Galatians 6:3
- You think you will not reap what you sow: Galatians 6:7
- You think the unrighteous will inherit the Kingdom of God: I Corinthians 6:9
- You think you are wise because you have the wisdom of this world: I Corinthians 3:18
- You think you are spiritual but an unconquered tongue reveals your true condition: James 1:26
- You do not believe Jesus Christ came in the flesh: II John 7
- You think contact with sin will have no effect on you: I Corinthians 15:33

CHAPTER FOUR

"NEVER A MAN SPAKE AS HE"

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Identify the source of Jesus' power.
- Summarize what the Bible teaches regarding the power and authority of Jesus.

KEY VERSE:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28:18)

INTRODUCTION

God is a triune personality made up of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The source of power is God the Father. God delegated power to His Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit later endued believers with power delegated by the Son.

In this chapter you will learn of the power and authority of Jesus. It was so great that the religious leaders of His time commented, "Never a man spake as He." (John 7:46).

BORN IN POWER

Jesus was born in the power of the Holy Ghost:

**And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
(Luke 1:35)**

Jesus was the visible manifestation of God's power:

But unto them which are called. . . CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD, and the wisdom of God. (I Corinthians 1:24)

BAPTIZED IN POWER

John recognized the power of Jesus. He said:

... There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

I indeed have baptized you with water; but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. (Mark 1:7-8)

When Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove:

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. (John 1:31)

God had told John . . .

... Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. (John 1:33)

This was confirmed when the Holy Ghost rested on Jesus in the form of the dove. Jesus was not only filled with Holy Ghost power, He was to baptize with power.

A PROVEN POWER

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan:

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost, returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. (Luke 4:1)

You can read of this experience in Luke 4:1-13.

Power is proven by testing. Each temptation by Satan challenged the power and authority of Jesus. Jesus successfully overcame each one and . . .

... returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about. (Luke 4:14)

HIS SOURCE OF POWER

God the Father was the source of Jesus' power and authority. Jesus said:

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
(Luke 4:18-19)**

Jesus did not exercise power independently of God the Father. Continually, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus credited God as the source of His power:

**Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father.
(John 10:32)**

UNLIMITED POWER

There were no limits to Christ's power. He was given all power in Heaven and earth:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28:18)

Jesus has power. . .

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

And (God) hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church. (Ephesians 1:21-22)

Jesus is the head of all other powers:

**And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.
(Colossians 2:10)**

Jesus had unlimited power. He was given:

POWER TO TEACH WITH AUTHORITY:

The scribes based their authority on the Old Testament scriptures. Jesus based His authority on God Himself:

And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. (Mark 1:22)

