

# Lesson 11 | May 16, 2021

## An Empowered People

**Study Text:** Matthew 17:1–5; 2 Peter 1:1–21

**Central Truth:** God calls and empowers Christians to overcome.

### **Key Verse: 2 Peter 1:3**

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (KJV).

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness (NIV).

### **Learning Objectives**

- Help students understand the necessity of God's power in their lives.
- Guide students in understanding their calling as a believer.
- Challenge students to rely on God's presence and God's Word in the way they live every day.

## **Introducing the Lesson**

**Say:** Today we will seek out a better understanding of Godly empowerment, an Active approach to walking the path of Christianity. Then we will look at God's direction for us to Confirm and remember our calling. Hopefully we will be able to conclude with the Gospel being a Divine Revelation. The authors wrote Scripture from their prospective but the Words came from the Holy Spirit.

"Empower" has been a popular word in secular leadership circles for many years. For example, **we hear a lot about empowering employees to make decisions or take actions. Tell about the Inverted Triangle.**

**Our lesson will not be on this type of empowerment. This is human empowerment. Godly empowerment is much different. God empowered David, Samson, Abraham, and a host of others. The Spirit of the Most High God gave the power.**

While it is probably true that empowered employees are usually happier and more productive, **the source of employee empowerment is from the supervisor, business owner, or another human being and is usually based on how much that employer trusts the abilities of the employee.** But **God empowers His people with the Holy Spirit who resides within them and gives them power far beyond their own abilities and understanding.**

## **Opening Activity—Power Sources**

*Ask: What different kinds of power can you name that we use in our daily activities? What happens if that power supply is interrupted for some reason?*

***Energy that powers Electric devices, Gas powered devices, humans,***

**Say:** Many things require some kind of power in order to accomplish their intended purposes. Things like hand tools are utterly worthless without human power. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**You may give little thought to the battery that sits under the hood of your car. But without the energy it provides, you would find yourself walking to your destination instead of driving to it.**

Likewise, we need the power of God in order to walk with Him every day. Without His power, our walk will become stymied. Fortunately, God does provide us with the power to live rightly, overcoming temptation and pursuing godliness. Today's study focuses on the power God offers His people. It also shows us how we access this power.

## **Part 1—Divine Power**

### **God Provides Power for Godliness**

2 Peter 1:1–4

**[2Pe 1:1-4 KJV] 1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

**Say:** In attempting to live by the Law, the people of Israel proved that no one could fulfill God's purposes through human effort. **Peter's own life had shown that even his good intentions to never forsake Jesus—even to the point of death—could not be carried out without the power of the Holy Spirit.** Thus God provides the power we need to live for Him. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**Peter began his second Epistle proclaiming the gospel's blessing on all who will accept it. Though he was an apostle of Jesus Christ, who had served alongside the Lord during His earthly ministry, Peter recognized that all followers of Christ have "received faith as precious as ours," just like those who had been closest to Jesus (2 Peter 1:1, NIV). The gospel recognizes all people equally. Peter prayed a blessing of God's grace and peace on every believer who would read his Epistle (verse 2).**

**Peter's prayer shows the spiritual growth that had taken place in his life. Had Peter written his Epistle earlier in his Christian life, he may not have been so generous. Peter, like the other Jewish Christians of the Jerusalem church, had once viewed the gospel as reserved for the Jews. But God intervened to connect Peter with the family of the Roman centurion Cornelius in order to show the apostle that Jew and Gentile alike can receive salvation (see Acts 10).**

**Peter had come to understand that God provides everything necessary to change any life. This is done through His divine power and through our knowledge of, or relationship with, the Lord (2 Peter 1:3). God sovereignly makes possible the miracle of salvation. He is the One who calls us to a life that reflects His heavenly characteristics and goodness (verse 3).**

Anyone who comes to Christ in faith can experience new life. That is just the beginning. God has also provided "great and precious promises," so that we can partake of the divine nature in order to become more and more like Christ (verse 4).

**Peter's words remind today's believer that Christian character depends on God's power.** Experiencing this power demands commitment on the part of the believer as well. **Christians must remain open to God's power in everyday living, as they continue in reading, studying, and applying God's Word to their lives.** Developing godly character is no small matter. Neither is the experience of God's power. Each contributes to spiritual maturity. Each produces a life that blesses others, and blesses us as well..

### ***Discuss***

? How does Peter's emphasis on the gospel's availability for all impact your personal view of, and participation in, missions activities?

? Peter's spiritual growth is apparent when you compare his Epistles with actions in his life in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts. How would you describe your own spiritual journey in terms of growth over the past few months or years?

## **God's Power Brings Spiritual Growth**

2 Peter 1:5–9

[2Pe 1:5-9 KJV] 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

[2Pe 1:5-9 NIV] 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

**Say:** While salvation is entirely a gift of God, and while God provides empowerment through the Holy Spirit for necessary spiritual growth, such growth is not a passive process. Peter tells us to make every effort to grow in our faith. God will help us apply the characteristics Peter lists in 2 Peter 1:5–9 as we make those efforts. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

#### **Resource Packet Item 1: The Formula for Christian Character**

Distribute the work sheet as you teach verses 5–7. Take time go over the characteristics listed, and discuss the application questions at the bottom of the sheet.

Christians need not doubt that God saves them completely. **Followers of Christ need not worry that their salvation is dependent on their own actions. Christ accomplished God’s plan for salvation once and for all through His death and resurrection, and multitudes through the ages have received everlasting life as a result.**

Yet there is also a practical aspect to the life of faith. **Peter taught Christians of their need to pursue the blessings that salvation makes available to them. He urged, “Make every effort to add to your faith goodness” (2 Peter 1:5, NIV).** Peter never said human effort is involved in salvation, for salvation is entirely a miracle of God’s grace, but **spiritual growth calls for spiritual exercise**. Our faith grows as we dedicate ourselves to obeying God and placing Him at the center of our lives. In a sense, this is like the miracle of physical life. **We cannot take credit for the physical**

body God gives us. But each of us must take the responsibility to exercise the body to grow in a healthy manner. The person who refuses to take care of the body can eventually endanger his or her own life.

Although Peter did not clearly describe the consequences of unfruitfulness, he hinted at them in his reference to spiritual fruit-bearing. **Christians who pursue the qualities Peter listed in verses 5–7 will be kept from being “ineffective and unproductive in [their] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (verse 8, NIV). Yet Christians who neglect these qualities can be both barren and unfruitful (verse 9). Peter warned that they will be like people who cannot see anything in the distance and so keep their eyes only on what is close to them, which is the sin and worldliness that characterize the present age. They risk forgetting they have been cleansed from their sins. **The only way to avoid such danger is to keep growing in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.****

### *Discuss*

? How do you balance depending on God’s power to develop Christian character and your own efforts at developing Christian character?

? What role does Bible reading and study play in the development of a solid, Christian character?

## **Part 2—Divine Calling**

### **Confirm Your Calling**

2 Peter 1:10–11

**[2Pe 1:10-11 KJV] 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**[2Pe 1:10-11 NIV] 10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**Say:** In 2 Peter 1:10–11 (NIV), Peter again used the words, “make every effort,” this time in relation to confirming our calling in Christ. Yet we are not doing it alone, and we

need not be discouraged, because God's rich welcome awaits us. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**As believers continue the process of growing in the character traits described earlier in 2 Peter 1, they grow in their assurance of salvation as well. While “blind” Christians—like those described in verse 9—risk succumbing to spiritual failure, those described in verse 10 mature in their walk with God. This maturation process brings assurance of their relationship with God.**

There is a common debate in the Church world today concerning the eternal security of believers. That is, “Can a genuine Christian forfeit his or her salvation?” During this debate, 2 Peter 1:10 is often brought into the discussion. **Peter’s encouragement to “make every effort to confirm your calling and election” and the promise “if you do these things, you will never stumble” (NIV) seem to include the possibility of falling as well as the comforting reality of assurance. To understand, perhaps we need to note that Peter pointed out the realities of lifelong growth in service to Christ and the everlasting results of such service. The believer who lives a faithful life will receive an abundant welcome into everlasting fellowship with God (verse 11).**

**We must also be willing to recognize an inherent danger in this endeavor. Too often, Christians see themselves as tired combatants in a spiritual struggle, hoping for survival. To them, heaven seems a goal just barely within reach. But this is not how Scripture describes the life of faith. It is much the opposite, in fact. Peter painted a picture of a Christian life lived to the fullest, walking in freedom and power with Christ, and with assurance that heaven’s glories await us.**

### ***Discuss***

? How does increasing spiritual maturity impact a person’s assurance of salvation?

? How would you describe the “security” of believers? Why might a sense of “perpetual insecurity” be harmful to one’s faith?

### **Resource Packet Item 2: Sight and Blindness**

Distribute copies of the case study to your class. Divide your class into small groups to read the study and complete the accompanying questions. If your class is small, you may want to read it as a group. Then discuss the questions as a class.

## **Remember Your Calling**

2 Peter 1:12–15

**[2Pe 1:12-15 KJV] 12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know [them], and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I**

**am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting [you] in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off [this] my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.**

**Say:** In these verses, we can sense that Peter longed for assurance that his readers would remember their calling and continue in the faith. He knew that he would not always be there to remind them, so he wanted to drive the point home. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**The gospel's rich truths bear repeated study and application no matter how well a believer may know them (2 Peter 1:12). Throughout his ministry, even to the end of his life, Peter was determined to urge Christians toward an ever-deeper walk of faith (verse 13).**

**The realities Peter emphasized in these verses only help us understand verse 10 all the more.** To "make your calling and election sure" and "give diligence" (verse 10, KJV) point to continued development and practical expression of the Christian life. **Peter, who at that time was a prominent leader in the Early Church, did not rest on his reputation as an apostle who had been taught by Jesus. In all the years since Christ's ascension, Peter had continued to grow in Christ.** Jesus' final admonition to him had been to always love Him supremely and serve Him without distraction (see John 21:15–22). Clearly, this was Peter's passion.

[Jhn 21:15-22 KJV] 15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 18 **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry [thee] whither thou wouldst not.** 19 **This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.** 20 **Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what [shall] this man [do]? 22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what [is that] to thee? follow thou me.**

[Jhn 21:15-22 NIV] 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know

that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. **18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.**" 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" 20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

Peter's commitment to the gospel was so strong that he was ready to lay down his life in service to Christ. **To the very end of his days, he determined to build up other believers in their faith. Peter's legacy, even after his death, would continue to point people to Jesus** (2 Peter 1:15).

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### ***Discuss***

? What do you feel is the best way to keep yourself knowledgeable in the truth of the Bible?

? How do you apply the truths of Scripture in your everyday living?

## **Part 3—Divine Revelation Delivered Through Eyewitnesses**

Matthew 17:1–5; 2 Peter 1:16–18

**[Mat 17:1-5 KJV] 1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.**

**[2Pe 1:16-18 KJV] 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our**



**Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.**

**Say:** Peter emphasized the truth of what he was teaching, reminding his readers that he wasn't teaching cleverly created stories, but the gospel of Jesus Christ, of which he was an eyewitness. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

**Any time a building is built, great attention is given to the foundation. A good, solid foundation gives stability to any structure. What is true of buildings is also true regarding the life of faith. A life built on the right foundation—God's Word—will enjoy a sense of security that it otherwise would not have. This is especially true in the spiritual realm.**

**We can make the mistake of building our lives on falsehood and sinful choices. Opportunities abound in today's world to engage in either, and all too often these things are depicted as normal—or even healthy. The same danger existed in Peter's day. Peter wrote his second Epistle to Christians plagued by false teachers. In 2 Peter 1:16, he reminded them, and us, that a Christian's faith does not rest on the deceptive stories common to false doctrine. These kinds of stories often mark the cults and "isms" prevalent today that have been created by cunning, inventive minds. Such stories are falsehoods that lead those who accept them down a path to destruction.**

Unlike false doctrine, Christian doctrine is drawn from the truths of the Bible. **Instead of falsehood, it presents God's truth passed on through people, like the apostle Peter, who were eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ (verse 16). They did not invent the teachings they related. They fellowshipped with Christ, listening to His teaching, and then passing it on in written form.**

In verses 17–18, Peter related his unique and powerful personal eyewitness experience. The incident he described occurred during the transfiguration of Christ, recorded in Matthew 17:1–5 (see also Mark 9:2–8; Luke 9:28–36). **Peter's dramatic encounter reminds us that the human authors God used to write the Bible often wrote out of personal experience. Their teachings did not stem from human opinion. Instead they came about by inspiration of the Spirit, from the experience of those who had actually communed with God. Some even walked with Jesus Christ. We do not build our lives on fables when we build our lives on Scripture.** Instead, we build on the solid foundation of truth. In doing this, we do not risk the shame and failure that await those who promote and follow falsehood.

### **Discuss**

- ? How does Peter's explanation of his writing support the doctrine of inspiration?
- ? How can we recognize false teachings and avoid them?

### **Resource Packet Item 3: Building on the Right Foundation**

Distribute copies of the work sheet and assign sections to small groups or to individuals. Have them read the Scriptures and answer the accompanying questions.

## **Provides Light for Living**

2 Peter 1:19–21

**[2Pe 1:19-21 KJV] 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.**

**Say:** The inspiration of Scripture is an important part of Christian belief and practice. In 2 Peter 1:19–21, Peter defines inspiration and challenges his readers to pay attention to God's Word. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

In 2 Peter 1:19, Peter presented Christ's followers with the proper response to the Word. **Here, Peter applied to all of Scripture what he had previously said about his witnessing Christ's transfiguration. He called it "something completely reliable" (NIV). What makes the Word so certain is that it came to us through eyewitnesses. Because of this, and the fact the words were inspired by God, we do well to pay attention to God's Word (verse 19).**

Peter's comparison of the Bible to a light shining in darkness illustrates this. **One would be foolish to ignore a well-lit path and plunge along in darkness. Traveling through life without the guidance of God's Word is foolish as well. There are many voices offering spiritual advice and teaching. But the Bible stands far above even the best of these because the Bible was not created by the writers, (verse 20). No one created the stories and instruction found in the Bible. Instead, each writer spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (verse 21).**

**The Holy Spirit laid the Word on the hearts of the writers and guided them as they wrote the words. This produced something far more than a religious book. What we have in the Bible is God's own Word. God speaks to us through**

**its pages. We neglect it at our own peril. Conversely, we exercise great wisdom when we give its teaching the attention it deserves.**

### ***Discuss***

? How can studying the Scripture empower you for service?

? What suggestion can you give from your own experience in reading God's Word concerning applying Scripture to daily living?

## **What Is God Saying to Us?**

**Say:** When you put all the elements of the study together, the idea of hope emerges. A sure salvation provides a believer with hope for eternity. A holy calling gives a Christian hope for the present, through guidance about how to live today, in this present life. The incorruptible seed of God's Word provides hope for spiritual growth to those who take time to read, study, and obey its precepts.

## **Living It Out**

### **Ministry in Action**

- Seek empowerment from the Holy Spirit through the Word as you go into each day.
- Find someone to encourage in his or her walk with God this week.
- Share your personal "eyewitness" salvation experience with an unbeliever this week..

## **Daily Bible Readings**

### **Monday:**

God's Power in Egypt.  
Exodus 9:13–17

**[Exo 9:13-17 KJV] 13 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that [there is] none like me in all the earth. 15 For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. 16 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. 17 As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?**

### **Tuesday:**

God's Power in the Sanctuary.  
Psalm 63:1–6

**[Psa 63:1-6 KJV] 1 [[A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.]] 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; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so [as] I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3 Because**

thy lovingkindness [is] better than life, my lips shall praise thee. 4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as [with] marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise [thee] with joyful lips: 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, [and] meditate on thee in the [night] watches.

**Wednesday:**

God's Power in the Wilderness.  
Psalm 106:1–12

[Psa 106:1-12 KJV] 1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for [he is] good: for his mercy [endureth] for ever. 2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? [who] can shew forth all his praise? 3 Blessed [are] they that keep judgment, [and] he that doeth righteousness at all times. 4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favour [that thou bearest unto] thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; 5 That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance. 6 We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. 7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked [him] at the sea, [even] at the Red sea. 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. 9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. 10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated [them], and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. 11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. 12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

**Thursday:**

Power for a Paralytic.  
Matthew 9:1–8

[Mat 9:1-8 KJV] 1 And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. 2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This [man] blasphemeth. 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? 5 For whether is easier, to say, [Thy] sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. 7 And he arose, and departed to his house. 8 But when the multitudes saw [it], they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

**Friday:**

Power on the Damascus Road.  
Acts 26:12–18

**[Act 26:12-18 KJV] 12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. 14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? [it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and [from] the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

Saturday:

Power Given to Two Witnesses.

Revelation 11:3–12

**[Rev 11:3-12 KJV] 3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**