

activated

A large, dark silhouette of a hand is positioned in the center, reaching upwards. The background is a vibrant blue with a glowing, grid-like pattern that resembles a digital or energy field. The overall composition is centered and symmetrical, with the hand acting as a focal point against the luminous background.

CHANGE YOUR LIFE | CHANGE YOUR WORLD

SPIRITUAL POWER

Tap into God's limitless supply

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

It's easier than you think

ENDTIME INSIGHTS

Supernatural Powers in the Great Tribulation

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PERSONALLY SPEAKING



Itaipu Dam, on a stretch of the Paraná River that forms the boundary between Brazil and Paraguay, is the world's largest operational hydroelectric power plant. In 1995, a decade after it opened, the U.S. magazine *Popular Mechanics* listed it as one of the seven wonders of the modern world. By 2000 it was generating over 90 billion kilowatt-hours of power each year, enough to supply 93% of the electrical power consumed by Paraguay's 5.5 million people and 20% of that consumed by Brazil's 184 million. That's a lot of power! The river flowed there for thousands of years before the dam, of course, which means that the potential for all that power was also there, untapped, until someone set out to harness it.

The spiritual power that God makes available to us can be likened to that river: There is tremendous potential there, but it doesn't do us any good until we acknowledge its existence, recognize its potential, and learn to use it. If we've gone all of our lives without that spiritual power, and if we've managed okay and been relatively happy, maybe things will work out fine if we continue as we have. Maybe that wouldn't be so bad. But we would never know what we would be missing, and we would be missing a lot!

Itaipu Dam wasn't the first of its kind, of course. Those who conceived and built it benefited from the knowledge and experience of many others, going all the way back to the first paddle wheel. Again, God's power is a bit like that. Men and women before us have learned how to draw on God's power, and we can benefit from and build on their knowledge and experience.

And that's what this issue of *Activated* is all about. If you're looking for more from life, I hope that what you are about to read will bring you a step closer to your goal.

KEITH PHILLIPS

FOR THE ACTIVATED FAMILY

VOL 8, ISSUE 10 October 2007
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FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND

BY ABI F. MAY

MY ELDERLY MOTHER WAS ON THE PHONE. “The next time you visit, would you mind looking in the garage? Your brother is helping clean it out, and he came across some of your old things.”

What childhood leftovers could possibly remain? When I arrived, there it was: a ponderous manual office typewriter, as sturdy as ever but a little rusty from three decades of disuse. The sight brought back happy memories. My parents had bought it secondhand to reward me for passing an important exam at age 11. I taught myself to type and spent many hours during my teen years hammering out poems and stories.

Before I could reconcile with the idea that my old friend should finally be thrown away, I tried typing again. I had forgotten how much force was required to press a key on an old manual typewriter! Maybe it was the old ribbon, but I could barely see what I had typed. Oops, I made a mistake! I pushed down on the backspace key to delete the mistake, and then remembered that I was back in the day of crumbly typewriter erasers. Hammering painstakingly at the keys, I managed to type a few words. A bell sounded, signaling me to pull back the lever that advanced the paper and returned the

heavy carriage to start a new line. I had expended a lot of effort and had very little to show for it.

How different it is typing on my computer! I press the power button and the computer turns on. A few feather-light keystrokes and the first words form on the screen. When I make a mistake, one press of the backspace key deletes it. When I finish, a few more keystrokes and spelling mistakes are autocorrected. One more click and I save my work. A few more clicks and I can email copies to a few friends around the world—no carbon paper, envelopes, or stamps needed—and they will get them almost instantly.

Our spiritual lives are a bit like that. God is pouring out His Spirit in abundance to those who will receive it. He is offering us “advanced spiritual technology” to use in our daily lives—enhanced prayer power, a close personal relationship with Him, and gifts of the Holy Spirit such as wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, and discernment (1 Corinthians chapter 12)—but it’s up to us what we do with it. We can choose to try to get by without God’s help or just a bare minimum of prayer when we feel we *really* need it, or we can avail ourselves of His *full* power by asking for it and learning to use it in all we do.

Me? I’ve made up my mind. I want to learn new things. I’m going to press the “power key” and make as much use of God’s spiritual technology as I can!

And the old typewriter has gone for recycling.

ABI F. MAY IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ENGLAND. ←

By Virginia Brandt Berg

IT'S SO BECAUSE GOD SAID SO



why someone hadn't told me the truth of these things before, but suddenly a deep conviction dawned on my soul that God could not fail to keep His promises!

I had considered myself a Christian all my life, but I had never really believed God's Word, nor had I met Christ personally. It was through a little gospel tract that I had that glorious experience. Christ came into my life to fully satisfy. Gone was my unbelief and the accompanying sense of futility and disappointment in life, and there arose in my heart an unfamiliar hunger.

I was an invalid at the time, and had been for the past five years—utterly helpless and a hopeless case, according to a number of physicians. But after I received Christ and my faith came to life, I began to look to Him to restore my health. I prayed to be healed and waited for God to let me see some evidence that He had heard my prayer and was going to answer. Like many other people, my faith was the “seeing is believing” kind. But the Bible teaches just the opposite: Believe and you will see.

God brought certain verses from the Bible to my mind to show me that I must believe a certain thing simply because He said it was

so, not because of anything I saw or felt. I suddenly believed that God had heard my prayers and had already answered, that He had reached down and had healed me, even though my physical condition appeared to be unchanged. It was so simply because God said so. That was enough! My heart leaped for joy at that realization, and in that moment there was born in my soul something that has never changed from that day to this: an abiding, unshakable faith in God's Word.

Again and again, lying there helpless in bed, I whispered over and over, “It is the Word of God—it cannot fail! It's God's Word, and He cannot lie!” It was as though I could see the marvelous Word of God marching down the centuries, invincible, infallible, inexhaustible, and

THE WORD OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD CANNOT FAIL; you can depend upon it. When I first learned that, I realized that through the years the Bible had never been a living, vital thing to me, but rather a sort of combination of creeds, doctrines, wise sayings, and printer's ink. I hadn't known the power in the Word of God, that it could bring miracles to pass. I don't know



“THERE IS LIFE-GIVING POWER IN WHAT GOD SAYS IN HIS WORD

DRAWING POWER

unchangeable. What joy came into my heart as I realized I had such a strong anchor to hold on to.

I believed the work was done, for I had met His conditions. There was His promise, very plain and sure, that He could not and would not fail to keep His Word, and I was not going to doubt that promise.

Then it happened, exactly as He had promised it would. I was completely healed! How wonderful it was when I found out that Jesus Christ was “the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). That was many years ago, and I’m still going strong. *[Editor’s note: Virginia Brandt Berg was 29 years old at the time of her healing and lived another 54 years, to the age of 83.]*

Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit,

and they are life” (John 6:63). When we come into the realization that there is life-giving power in what God says in His Word, then we have hold of the truth that makes all things possible.

“God is not a man, that He should lie. ... Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19). And 1 Kings 8:56 says, “Not one word has failed of all [God’s] good promises.” Take that to heart! Put your finger on a verse, some promise, and say, “It’s so because God says so!” Whatever the need is in your life right now, He will meet it! He will guide your life daily, faith will spring invincible, and you too will shout triumphantly, “It’s so because God said so! What He has promised He is able also to perform!” ◀

God’s Word is as full of promises as the heavens are full of stars, and all of them are payable according to the conditions named. They are made freely and they are paid fully. [Nineteenth-century British preacher Charles] Spurgeon called the book of God’s promises “the checkbook of the Bank of Faith.” We do not have checkbooks for an ornament or for meditation, but for use!

A promise of God is given to be presented and paid in full. The believer’s capital for the King’s business is all lodged in the Lord’s treasury, and the only way to secure it for use is to make daily drafts upon the unfailing supply.

God writes no names upon these promises, only conditions upon which they will be honored. Put your name in, fulfill the conditions, and draw upon God for all He promises. Some promises are payable upon demand, while others are dated further on. But a long-term promise of God is as sure of payment as one payable on demand!

—MRS. CHARLES E. COWMAN (1870–1960),
MOUNTAIN TRAILWAYS ◀

POWER-PACKED PROMISES

The Bible is full of promises that God has made—promises laden with spiritual power that He wants us to apply practically. Some of His promises are universal, like: “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21). Others were originally made to certain individuals or groups, like “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:14)—a promise that Jesus first made to His 12 disciples.

But God’s promises were not given solely for the sake of the original hearers. They are for *anyone* who has faith enough to believe that God will be true to His word—including you! God means exactly what He has promised, and He will fulfill His promises to the very letter if you will reach out with the hand of faith and claim them in a definite manner.

As you become more familiar with God’s Word, you will learn to recognize His promises and claim them as your own. When you do that, it shows you have faith. It’s a positive declaration of your faith and knowledge of the Word, which pleases God and sets His power in motion to answer your prayers.

POWER KEYS

As social and international problems worsen year by year, many people are losing faith in their leaders and even in God to ever bring about real and lasting solutions, and cynicism and egocentricity are becoming the norm. This is happening just as Jesus said it would in the time preceding His return: “Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).

A time of greater darkness needs greater light; a time of greater testing needs greater strength. God promises, “As your days, so shall your strength be” (Deuteronomy 33:25). As our need for spiritual power becomes greater, so God provides that power.

Jesus gave us some extraordinary promises regarding that, which we can claim specifically for the situations we face today: “I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on Earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on Earth will be loosed in Heaven” (Matthew 16:19). “Whatever you bind on Earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on Earth will be loosed in Heaven” (Matthew 18:18). “According to your faith let it be to you” (Matthew 9:29).

What exactly are those “keys of the Kingdom”? A key unlocks a door; it gains us entrance to or possession of something otherwise unattainable. The keys Jesus spoke of represent the spiritual power that can be ours through faith—power that has always been available to believers who claimed the many promises in God’s Word in their times of need, but which is now even greater to meet today’s greater challenges.

Believers around the world are discovering the power of these keys.

E.N., Venezuela

Clara’s mother was in bed, immobilized by severe back pains, and she was planning to have surgery to try to correct the underlying problem. We prayed for her complete healing without her having to undergo the operation, claiming the promise Jesus gave about the keys of the Kingdom for her.

Within a week she started to be able to move more easily and without as much pain. Day by day she got so much better that she cancelled her scheduled operation.

One week after we had prayed, we happened to meet her on the street. She seemed like a completely different woman from the bedridden one we had prayed for. We walked and chatted, and she kept pace with us, not feeling a bit of pain in her back. This is the power of the keys of the Kingdom in action!

A.M., India

Some time ago, one of our friends told us about the many problems and pressures that she and her husband faced as he battled both cancer and serious heart problems. They had strong faith in God, but this was still a lot for them to cope with at one time.

When we asked if we could pray with her for her husband's healing, she jumped at the chance. We asked Jesus for a complete healing for this man through the power He promised would be ours through the keys of the Kingdom, and we claimed some other Scripture promises as well. We also prayed specifically for him to receive that healing within the month, and we continued to pray for him daily.

About a month later his wife phoned us. She excitedly explained that she had taken her husband for a checkup, and the doctor said that there were no traces of cancer and no indications of heart problems. "I can't explain it," the doctor said, "but I know that *I* didn't heal him!"

What a wonderful answer to prayer—not only healed, but within the month, exactly as we had asked!

D.L., Canada

My friend had been struggling for years to stop smoking. In desperation he asked God to help him, through the power of Jesus' Matthew 16:19 "keys" promise, and he has not smoked since!

J.R., Thailand

For six years or so, I had been getting migraine headaches regularly, and each one would completely incapacitate me for about 24 hours. It got to the point that I was having these about once every 12 days. In prayer, I claimed deliverance through the promises associated with the keys of the Kingdom, and for over a year and a half now I haven't had one migraine! I wasn't delivered right away, but as I continued to hang on to the Lord's promises, He did it!

J.M., Guam

A super typhoon with sustained winds of over 150 mph (240 kph) and gusts of up to 200 mph (320 kph) was bearing down on Guam, where we live. Knowing from experience that a direct

hit from a storm that strong would probably mean weeks without power and water, we prayed desperately and claimed the power promised us in the verse about the keys of the Kingdom. The very next day the storm turned away from Guam. Even the gusty winds and torrential rains that usually accompany typhoons did not affect us. I was reminded of the disciples' astonishment when Jesus calmed the Sea of Galilee after their small boat was about to sink. "What manner of man is this," they marveled, "that even the winds and sea obey Him?" (Matthew 8:26–27 KJV). ←

MIRACLES COME NATURALLY TO GOD

DAVID BRANDT BERG

WE USUALLY THINK OF THINGS that are beyond our comprehension as supernatural or miraculous, but those things aren't supernatural to God because He operates in the spiritual realm where everything is "natural" to Him. It's like saying there is nothing impossible with God (Luke 1:37). A lot of things God does are beyond our power and grasp of things and what we consider natural, so when they happen we say they are "supernatural." But with God nothing is impossible, so nothing is supernatural to Him!

God can do things that are contrary to what we consider His natural laws. When someone gets healed of an incurable disease, for example, we call it a miracle because we're seeing the evidence or manifestation of some of God's laws that link the spiritual and the physical realms—laws that we know little about. To God, on the other hand, it's simple! He knows how to undo whatever damage the disease may have done and thereby creates what to us is a miracle—a supernatural act that is beyond our capabilities.

God is always ready, willing, and able to work miracles on our behalf—miracles of healing, supply, protection, or whatever else we may need when we ask Him to in faith and claim the promises from His Word. We can't work miracles; we can only pray for Him to do it and marvel at His power when He does. ←

FEEDING READING

POWER FROM GOD

GOD IS INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL THAN WE ARE.

Psalm 8:3–4
Isaiah 40:15,17,22
Daniel 4:35
1 Corinthians 1:25

GOD CAN DO WHAT WE CAN'T DO.

Psalm 60:11
Psalm 127:1
Zechariah 4:6
John 15:5

GOD IS ABLE TO DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING.

Job 42:2
Jeremiah 32:27
Matthew 19:26
Matthew 28:18

WE MUST LEARN TO DRAW ON GOD'S STRENGTH.

Psalm 20:7–8
Psalm 84:5
Psalm 105:4
Isaiah 26:4
2 Corinthians 3:4–5
Ephesians 6:10
Philippians 3:3

HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S POWER:

Joshua 1:5–9
2 Chronicles 16:9
Nehemiah 8:10
Psalm 138:3
Isaiah 30:15
Isaiah 40:31
Acts 1:8

Prayer for the day

Dear Jesus, thank You for always working everything out for our good, because we love You and You love us, and because You promised to. Help us to see Your hand in everything, and help us to hold tight to Your hand through everything, knowing that You know best and want only the best for us. Amen.



ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

hEaRiNg God'S VOICE

Q: *A lot of people say God speaks. I have been praying earnestly for God to speak to me, but I have never heard Him. Does His speaking come as a thought, or is it in an audible voice that I should hear with my physical ears?*

A: If you have established a personal connection with God by accepting Jesus as your Savior, and if you have asked God to speak to you, He will. Jesus promised, “Ask and it will be given you” (Matthew 7:7). In fact, God has probably already been speaking to you; you just need to learn to recognize His voice.

God speaks in a number of ways. As you read the Bible, He will often cause a particular passage to stand out to you and show you how it applies to your situation or how it answers a question you may have. He may speak to you through vivid dreams or visions. He may speak through godly counselors, people who are strong in faith and knowledge of God’s Word and ways, who He inspires with advice that He knows will benefit you.

God is also able to speak to you directly. Under special circumstances, some people hear God speak in an audible voice, like the child prophet Samuel did (1 Samuel chapter 3) and as appears to have been the case when He spoke to the prophet Elijah through a “gentle whisper” when Elijah was desperate for God’s guidance (1 Kings 19:11–12). Usually, however, He speaks in our minds at those times when we get quiet, clear our minds of other busy thoughts, ask Him to speak, and then wait for an answer. Sometimes He may not even use words; He may just give you an impression or inner conviction, a sort of intuitive knowledge about a particular situation.

David Brandt Berg explained hearing from Heaven this way: “It’s easy to hear from the Lord. When you ask the Lord for an answer to a question or problem, *expect* an answer and take the first thing that comes. If you want the Lord to answer and believe that He can and will, you won’t be disappointed. What you see or hear with the eyes or ears of your spirit, that’s the Lord answering.” ←

TURN ON AND TUNE IN

Quotes by David Brandt Berg

God is like a broadcasting station, broadcasting all the time. Just like the radio waves that are unseen in the air all around you this very minute, God’s Spirit is ever present, waiting for you to make contact. And much the same as a simple little radio, you have been designed by your Creator to receive those signals. God’s power is always on. The message is always there. But in order to receive it, you must turn on your spiritual receiver and tune in to God’s frequency!

You’re going to have to get quiet by yourself—somewhere, somehow, sometime—if you’re going to hear from the Lord. You can’t solve your problems on your own. You’ve got to be desperate for God’s solutions, and then you’ve got to stop everything else and listen. ←



Life

IS IN THE

Seed



PLANTING SEEDS AND WATCHING THEM GROW

can be a wonderful, gratifying experience. Of course, planting a few seeds in a flower pot and farming are two different things. I once thought farming would be easy and attempted to plant corn in an abandoned field that my family owned. I rented a tiller and dug up the ground, bought some seed corn and planted it, and hauled water to help the seeds germinate, but I had planted too late in the year and frost killed the shoots when they were still tender. Next I tried to grow spinach, but the bugs had a feast and I got their leftovers. After those experiences I was thankful that I didn't have to make my living by farming. They did, however, give me a greater appreciation for farmers. I will never again take a single ear of corn or leaf of spinach for granted!

A seed is the beginning of something much bigger. The seed of the globe turnip, for example, is less than 1 mm (one-twentieth of an inch) in diameter, but within a few months it can grow into a mature turnip that weighs 27 million times its original weight. If conditions are right, it will increase its own weight by 1500% in one minute.

You might think that it would take a large seed to produce a large plant. Not so. The giant redwood tree, the largest tree in the world, grows from a seed only 1.6 mm (1/16 of an inch) long. Nor is a large seed required for beauty. One of the most stunning flowers, the orchid, comes from one of the tiniest seeds and grows solely on moisture and nutrients it draws from the air, no soil required. A million orchid seeds weigh 29 grams (about 1 ounce).

It takes the proper conditions for seeds to germinate and the plant to grow and mature, but if conditions *aren't* right, some seeds are able to wait it out. Beneath thick ice, in a frozen lemming burrow, scientists found seeds of the arctic tundra lupine which they calculated to be 5,000 years old. The seeds germinated in 48 hours when put in warm, fertile soil.

So if you feel inconsequential, too small, too young, or too old, take heart! Perhaps there is latent greatness in you, just waiting to be brought to life by the power of God. Let the warm sunshine of His love and the water of His Word work their miracle.

CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ←

BY CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER

Spiritual Power

POINTS TO PONDER

Power from God makes possible things that are beyond our human capabilities. This power can manifest itself in many ways: a miraculous healing from physical affliction; an easing of stress and emotional pressure; a change in circumstances that couldn't be brought about through human effort; insight that transcends earthly wisdom, knowledge, and experience; the capacity to love sacrificially and unconditionally, as God loves us. From simple solutions to outright miracles, all come from a force outside of us. It is the power of God.

There is tremendous power in God's love. It forgives sins, changes hearts, renews spirits, restores health, gives hope to the despairing and strength to the weary, and brings sunshine where there is darkness.

God is all-powerful, and all things are possible for those who tap into His power through faith and prayer. With faith no bigger than a mustard seed, anyone can cast mountains into the sea (Matthew 21:21), heal the sick, raise the dead, and give new life to the desperate and needy (Matthew 10:8).

Do you think millions of people throughout the ages would have believed in prayer if it didn't work? Discover the power of prayer for yourself. It's no secret.

God knows each person's heart and innermost needs, feelings, and fears, and it's in His power to give each person exactly what he or she needs.

The secret of spiritual power and victory and overcoming and fruitfulness and fire and life and light—the secret to everything good—is found in God's Word!

God has unlimited power, but to tap in to that power you need a conduit, a line. Faith is like a cord that carries God's power from the source to the appliance.

We've all seen superhero movies like *Superman* where people had supernatural powers. Though they lived in the physical world, they had powers that enabled them to defy its limitations and to do things that were impossible for mere humans. That's how it is in the spirit. God's Spirit in you gives you power to break out of the problems and despair of life by bringing you happiness, hope, courage, and new strength that is unquenchable and unstoppable.

Including God in everything adds a whole new dimension to life. It's like stepping into a new world where even things that used to be mundane can become extraordinary. ←

GOD ENGINEERS EVERYTHING

DAVID BRANDT BERG

GOD HAS THE WHOLE WORLD TO THINK ABOUT, yet somehow He manages to keep everything under perfect control and ultimately going the direction He wants it to go. Everything is planned; everything is ordered in “decency and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40), and nothing can happen without His will. Whatever happens is what ought to happen or what God allows to happen for a reason. Everything is in His hands and nothing happens without His will, especially to His children whom He loves and to whom He wants to be good.

God engineers every situation and has a good purpose for everything—even our troubles. “We know that *all* things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28). So the next time you find yourself in a situation that doesn't look so good to you, take another look. It may not be immediately apparent, but sooner or later God will turn your “bad” to good! ←

SUPERNATURAL POWERS

By Scott MacGregor

IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION

JUST THE THOUGHT OF LIVING THROUGH THE TRAUMATIC ERA REFERRED TO IN THE BIBLE AS THE GREAT TRIBULATION, the “time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time” (Daniel 12:1), is enough to make most of us uneasy, to say the least. And if we didn’t have God on our side, it would be a most frightening prospect. But the fact of the matter is that if you are a believer, then you *do* have God on your side. Knowing that you have the biggest guy on the block on your team is comforting, even when the other side that is lined up against you looks nearly invincible. The book of Revelation calls the Antichrist “the Beast” and explains, “All the world marveled and followed the Beast, saying, ‘Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” (Revelation 13:3–4).

But looks can be deceiving, and in this case we are dealing with the arch-deceiver himself, Satan, the power behind and ultimately *in* the Antichrist. Both Satan and the Antichrist, fortunately for us, have Achilles heels. Their doom is already sealed and they are the ultimate losers—a destiny they cannot escape, no matter how much they pretend otherwise. “The Beast was captured, and ... cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20). The Devil will be similarly disposed of, first for a thousand years and then permanently (Revelation 20:2–3,10). We can definitely take comfort in knowing that they will lose in the end and we will win.

There are some dark days ahead for believers in Jesus and for the world in general, but even in those trying times we will not be left to fend for ourselves.

The Bible makes it clear that we will be given a great deal of protection and that even the horrible plagues and monsters described in the book of Revelation will actually be directed against and torment the Antichrist and his followers, *not* those who love and serve God. Jesus' Endtime followers will be divinely protected (Revelation 7:2–3; 9:4).

Revelation chapter 11 talks about the exploits of two prophets of God who live in this Endtime period. An angel tells John, who wrote down the book of Revelation: "I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth" (Revelation 11:3).

And John continues:

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our

Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. (Revelation 11:4–12)

The angel is initially clearing up some of the mystery that surrounded a passage in the Bible that was written some 500 years earlier by the prophet Zechariah:

I answered and said to [the angel], "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" ... Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth." (Zechariah 4:11,13–14)

Ironically, John's mother had once asked Jesus if her sons James and John could have the honor of sitting on either side of Him in His kingdom:

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons [James and John], kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." (Matthew 20:20–23)

So John was finally learning from this angel who the two people would be on either side of Jesus' throne in His kingdom. But what is more important to note, especially for those of us who could be alive during the time of these two prophets, is the *supernatural powers* they will manifest. These two defiantly stand up against the Antichrist and his forces, and the prophets' enemies will not be able to harm them until their mission is accomplished—and their very public mission will take place right in Jerusalem, the apparent capital city of the Antichrist government.

Will these powers be limited to these two prophets, or will Christians in general be able to avail themselves of similar if not identical powers when they need them?

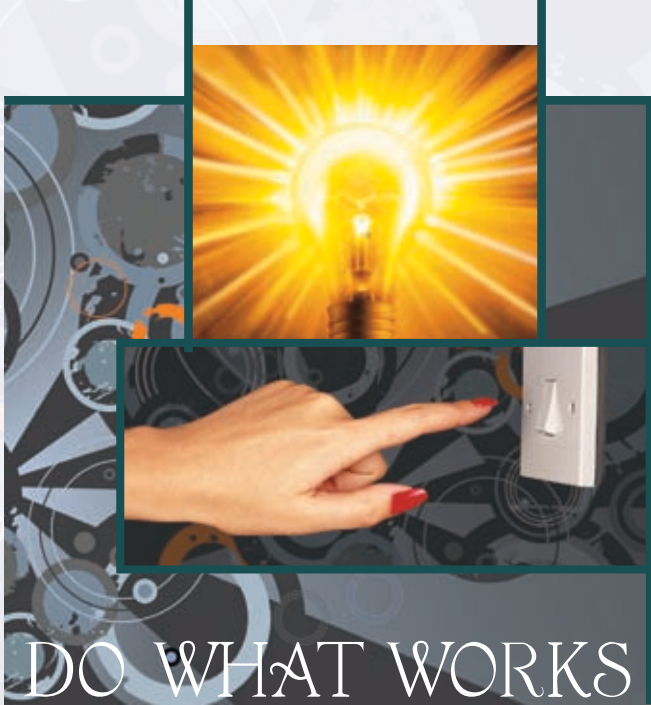
There are biblical precedents for people having special powers when they needed them. God backed up Moses' warnings to the Egyptians by sending

plagues until Pharaoh relented and let the Israelites leave Egypt (Exodus chapters 7–12). Elijah called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice on the altar on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:17–39), and again, in an example of heavenly protection, to slay two companies of soldiers that had been sent by the wicked King Ahaziah to arrest him (2 Kings chapter 1). And when the King of Syria sent an army to capture Elisha, God sent a heavenly army in fiery chariots to protect him and to temporarily blind every man in the enemy army (2 Kings 6:8–23).

These demonstrations of power from on high weren't solely for the sakes of Moses and his fellow Hebrews in Egypt, or Elijah, or Elisha, or the others involved, we are told. "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).

If God has done it before, why wouldn't He do the same again to protect those who love and serve Him in the treacherous time of the Great Tribulation ahead? It seems He will, because clearly there are going to be a lot of us still here when Jesus returns to take us home to Heaven in the Rapture, at the time of His Second Coming.

There is also a promise that is specifically made to Christians in the Tribulation period: "The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits" (Daniel 11:32). Jesus has a vested interest in each of us because He loves us, and He and all the forces of Heaven will be fighting for us. Even though they will for the most part be unseen, they will not let us down. The apostle Paul wrote, "For [Jesus] Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5–6). ←



DO WHAT WORKS

WE ALL ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF ELECTRICITY, even though no one has ever seen it or fully understands it, not even the scientists. We only know its laws, its effects, and how to channel it to serve many useful purposes. Even so, we must accept the existence of God even though we don't know where He came from or who made Him or how He got here. We simply know that He *does* exist and that the universe in which we live is governed by laws He established.

Electricity makes all sorts of things possible, but it won't do *you* any good until you flip the switch that connects you to the source. Just so, God's power is there, waiting to make your life easier.

You don't have to take anyone else's word for it. Put God to the test! Flip the switch of decision to connect with Him through His Son, Jesus. Once you have experienced God for yourself, there won't be any doubt in your mind that He is who He says He is—our ever-present, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving Creator.

If you haven't yet connected with the power of God, you can right now by inviting His Son, Jesus, into your life. Simply pray this short prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to Earth and dying for me so I can be reconnected to God. I open the door of my heart and invite You in. Amen. ◀

YOU CAN TOO! WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR OTHERS, HE CAN DO FOR YOU!

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

JESUS LEFT HIS FOLLOWERS WITH AN AMAZING PROMISE OF SUPERNATURAL POWER. "Anyone believing in Me shall do the same miracles I have done, and even greater ones, because I am going to be with the Father" (John 14:12 TLB).

That promise has stood for two thousand years, and multitudes of Christians have done those "greater things." God empowered otherwise ordinary people like you and me to work His miracles, and that same power can work miracles through us today if we will simply believe and act on God's Word.

The trouble is, most people put God's promises of power in either the past or the future. The past was wonderful, glorious, and supernatural, with all those heroes of the faith working miracles and angels intervening on behalf of God's people. And the future is going to be marvelous and "miraculous" in Heaven. But they don't believe that any of those things could happen in the present. They say, "Of course you couldn't expect anything like that now." But that's not what the Bible says!

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). God is still the God of miracles. What He's done before, He can do again—and not only later, but right now if you need it and have faith for it. If ordinary believers in the past have already done miracles by the scores and scores, in both the Old and New Testaments, as well as throughout the past two thousand years, then Christians today can do them too! ◀

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

STAYING IN TOUCH

Talk to Me and I will talk to you. It's that simple. I'm here. I'm always with you. If you want to talk to Me, I'm available anytime and anywhere. I don't have office hours or office fees. I don't even have an office. I am available for you whenever you need Me. If you will stop, acknowledge Me, speak to Me, and wait, I will answer. I will never leave you comfortless (John 14:8 KJV). I will never leave you without an answer. I will never walk away from you. I am here for you.

You can ask Me anything, and I will give you an answer. In fact, if you want to make a difference in this world, ask Me *everything!* Ask Me about everything and you will find that it is a key to progress, a key to happiness, a key that will set your spirit free.

So if you want to reach a place where you can make a difference, where there is joy in place of sorrow, sunshine instead of shadows, love that casts out fear, and beauty for ashes—then come to Me (Isaiah 61:3). I will not turn you away. I can't wait to talk to you. I love you!