



WORKERS WHO HAD NO POWER

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The theme of “Workers Who Had No Power” serves as a cautionary reminder about the necessity of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues for salvation and empowerment in the life of a believer and in ministry. The examples provided illustrate various biblical figures and situations where individuals operated without the necessary spiritual authority and power.

Examples of Workers Who Had No Power

Old Testament Examples

1. Gehazi (2 Kings 4:31): Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, attempted to use the prophet’s name and authority without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. His actions led to disastrous consequences, demonstrating that one cannot operate in spiritual matters without true empowerment.
2. Samson (Judges 16:20): Samson’s strength came from the Spirit of the Lord, but when he disobeyed and cut his hair, he lost his power. This illustrates how disobedience can lead to a loss of spiritual effectiveness.
3. King Saul (1 Samuel 16:14): After disobeying God’s command, the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul. His subsequent actions were marked by fear and poor judgment, illustrating the consequences of operating

without God's power.

4. Balaam (Numbers 22): Although he was a prophet, Balaam sought to curse Israel for personal gain. His inability to speak against God's will demonstrates that one can have a prophetic title but lack divine power when motivated by selfishness.

5. King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:16-21): Uzziah initially sought the Lord and prospered, but when he became proud and attempted to burn incense in the temple (a role reserved for priests), he was struck with leprosy. This shows the danger of overstepping one's God-given authority without His power.

New Testament Examples

1. The Disciples and the Lunatic Boy (Mark 9:28): The disciples were unable to cast out a demon from a boy. Jesus later explained that such a spirit could only be cast out through prayer and fasting, highlighting their lack of spiritual power and preparation.

2. The Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:14): These Jewish exorcists attempted to invoke the name of Jesus without a genuine relationship with Him. Their failure and subsequent attack by the possessed man illustrate the futility of using God's name without His authority.

3. The Formalist (2 Timothy 3:5): Paul warns against

those who have a form of godliness but deny its power. This points to individuals who may appear religious but lack the genuine power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

4. The Elocutionist (1 Corinthians 4:19): Paul emphasizes the importance of power over eloquence. Mere words without the Spirit's backing are ineffective in bringing about real change.

5. The Wise of This World (1 Corinthians 2:5): Paul reminds believers that their faith should not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God. Relying on worldly wisdom leads to a lack of spiritual effectiveness.

6. The Man Who Did Not Count the Cost (Luke 14:29): Jesus teaches about the necessity of counting the cost of discipleship. Those who do not fully commit and rely on the Holy Spirit will struggle in their walk.

7. The Flesh-Minder (Romans 8:7-8): Those who focus on the flesh cannot please God. This highlights the need for spiritual empowerment to live according to God's will.

8. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:14-16): Judas, one of the twelve disciples, betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. His actions illustrate a lack of true commitment and spiritual power, as he operated out of greed rather than faith.

9. Demas (2 Timothy 4:10): Paul mentions that Demas has forsaken him, having loved this present world. This indicates a failure to rely on the Spirit's power, leading to spiritual defeat and abandonment of the faith.

10. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11): This couple lied to the Holy Spirit about the proceeds of a sale, seeking to appear more generous than they were. Their actions demonstrate the danger of attempting to manipulate spiritual authority without genuine integrity and power.

New Testament Emphasis on the Holy Spirit's Power

- Acts 1:5-8: Jesus instructed His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit before beginning their ministry. This highlights the necessity of the Holy Spirit for effective witness and service.
- Acts 2:4: On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. This event marks the empowerment of believers for service.
- Luke 10:19: Jesus gives His followers authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, emphasizing the power granted to them through the Holy Spirit.
- John 1:12: Those who receive Christ are given the right to become children of God, indicating that receiving the Holy Spirit is integral to identity and

empowerment.

- Acts 2:38: Peter instructs the crowd to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This underscores the connection between salvation and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- Zechariah 4:6: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” This emphasizes that true success in ministry comes from the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- Ephesians 1:19: Paul prays that believers would know the exceeding greatness of God’s power toward those who believe, indicating that understanding this power is crucial for living the Christian life.
- Ephesians 3:20: God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. This affirms that the Holy Spirit’s power is at work within believers.
- Colossians 1:11-13: Believers are strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for endurance and patience. This speaks to the empowerment needed for service and perseverance.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7: We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. This highlights that the power of the Holy Spirit is what enables believers to accomplish God’s work.

- 1 John 4:4: “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.” This emphasizes the power of the Holy Spirit within believers to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Conclusion

The overarching message of these lessons is the critical importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, essential for salvation and service. This is effective for ministry and spiritual life. Without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, believers risk operating in their own strength, which leads to ineffectiveness and spiritual defeat. It is essential for every believer to seek the Holy Spirit's baptism with the evidence of speaking in tongues, empowerment and water baptism in Jesus Name; to fulfill God's calling and purpose in their lives. The power of the Holy Ghost is essential for salvation and service, enabling believers to walk in victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.