30 DAYS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S POWER

with Donna Partow



Welcome to Unleash the Power of God. Our goal is to seek the presence and power of God, along with His direction and blessing for our lives.

Here are the components of the study:

Private Facebook Group

I have created a private <u>Facebook Group</u> for students to interact with one another and to post questions, comments or prayer requests. Be sure to join! You can find the link to the current semester on

Book

This class was inspired by my book, <u>Becoming a Vessel of God's Power: Give God 30 Days & Watch What He Will Do</u>. This is NOT the same as Becoming a Vessel God Can Use, which is a 10-week study. The book is not required for the class and is not included in the price of admission. But if you are so inclined, you can obtain a copy of it on <u>Amazon</u>.

Daily Videos

This class features 30 videos, which are posted on <u>Daily Video</u> page of the membership site.

Weekly Audios

Each week features one hour of audio training. These are all posted on the <u>Audios</u> page of our Course Website.

Optional Fast

I know, from the witness of scripture, from personal experience and the testimony of believers throughout history and around the world, that fasting is one of the most powerful tools God has made available for us. Fasting is a BLESSING, not a duty, not a 'punishment' and certainly not an outdated religious ritual. Far from it. My prayer is that you will discover the POWER of fasting during this 30 journey. Whether it's for a day, 2 days, 10 days, etc.

Here's a great article on <u>fasting</u> by Bill Bright. Dr. Bright drank warm lemon water with a bit of Grade B maple syrup and cayenne pepper during his extended fast. I have done multi-day fasts with this yummy beverage and felt okay. You can also try the <u>Cabbage Soup recipe</u> (not the entire diet, just the soup) More of my fasting tips, just <u>click here</u>

Finally, for those who aren't ready for a liquid fast, you can try The Daniel Diet, which means restricting yourself to God's foods. We have a terrific 10-day guidebook, available at my bookstore as an e-book called The Daniel Diet Recipe Book

Okay, I think that's enough to get us started. I look forward to getting to know you on the Facebook Group. Please stop by to introduce yourself, as well.

Empowering You,

Donna Partow

Day 1: Experience the Real Thing

Watch the <u>Video</u>

The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Corinthians 4:20

Here's what we'll be exploring in the coming 30 days:

- Power through purification. God's power flows most consistently through a pure vessel, so you'll learn some practical ways you can experience ongoing spiritual purity.
- The power of the Word. You'll see how to tap into the power of God's Word with a fresh approach to reading, memorization, meditation, and usage.
- The power of prayer. You'll find some practical tools for unlocking the power of praying Scripture for yourself, plus the effectiveness of God-directed prayer, corporate prayer, and praying with authority.
- God's provision for power. You'll learn to make the most of every-thing God has provided for you to walk in his power, including the support of prayer warriors, insightful counselors, and gifted teachers.
- The power of balancing solitude and service. You'll be challenged to balance rest and service, in order to strengthen both the internal reality of God's Spirit at work within you and the external expres-sion of the Holy Spirit's power upon you, enabling you to impact people and situations.

 Power in practice. You'll discover that as you walk in obedience and listen to God's Spirit, he directs you to situations where his power is already at work. You simply get the joy of being part of it.

If that sounds like what you're looking for, I challenge you to make a serious commitment. Right now. Make the decision. For the next thirty days open your mind, your heart, and your life to the power of God. Give God thirty days—and see what he will do!

Day 2: Believe God Is Still a God of Power

Watch the Video

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. Psalm 77:14

Affirmation: I remain confident that God is still a God of power.

As we study the Bible and church history, we must conclude that God

was, is, and always will be a God who displays his power. Quite frankly, God is a bit of a show-off! He loves to make "a public spectacle" of "the powers and authorities," as he did on the cross (Colossians 2:15).

God is, always has been, and always will be, a God of power. God always has and always will demonstrate his power in and through his people. He can and will enable you to experience that power. No doubt about it.

Day 3: Remember What God Has Done

Watch the Video

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.

Psalm 77:11–12

Remembering what God has done is a choice. He doesn't want us to remember for remembering's sake, but so we'll have the faith to believe that what he has done before, he can do right now.

Write your Standing Stones in the front of your bible

Day 4: Align Yourself With God's Purposes

Watch the Video

I do nothing on my own. John 8:28

Affirmation: If I want to experience God's power, I must align myself with his purposes.

Experiencing God's power is not about getting God to align with our agendas; it is about getting in alignment with him. It is about walking in obedience.

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus, not only to bring salvation to the world, but to show us how we might join our Triune God in the vital work of bringing that salvation into all the earth. I stand amazed that, because Christ Jesus lives in me, I can also experience the power of God flowing in and through my life. Holy Spirit, teach me to be sensitive to your leading so that I can perceive and join in your work. Amen.

Day 5: Cherish God's Power More Than Your Pet Sins

Watch the Video

I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Psalm 66:17–19

Affirmation: The power of God flows most consistently through pure vessels.

If you aren't experiencing God's power, maybe someone hurt you. Maybe you've been hurt, over and over again, by a long succession of people. You haven't committed some grievous sin, but you have held on to your hurt and become bit-ter or angry or jealous or full of self-pity. Unfortunately, it doesn't stop there. If you're like most people, anyone who gets within a mile of you will be contaminated too, as your anger, bitterness, or jealousy rubs off on everyone you touch.

Day 6: Don't Let a Guilty Conscience Hold You Back

Watch the Video

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Affirmation: Confession and cleansing set me free to serve God.

God created us to walk with joy and a healthy God-confidence. Although he never promised that the circumstances of life would always go our way, he has placed within us the power to rise above life's challenges rather than be constantly defeated, discouraged, and frustrated. He has given us an ever-present solution for those times when we aren't experiencing his power in our lives because of a guilty conscience: confession, which brings about our purification. Once we con-ess our sins, we are forgiven and cleansed, and his power can flow in and through us once again. Just a trickle at first, but as we continue to abide in him, eventually we will have a mighty rushing river. That's his promise.

Day 7: Commit to Daily Confession and Repentance

Watch the Video

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:37–38

Affirmation: The power of God will keep flowing as long as I am purified daily.

If we want to be fit and ready for God to work through us, we must remain alert to the devil's attempts to stop the flow of God's power in our lives. The Bible tells us what a "flowing" life looks like: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23). The simplest way to know whether we're flowing or stopped up is to listen in on our own conversations, because "out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34).

Listen to the silent conversation that runs through your mind. Do love, joy, and all those wonderful attributes characterize your thoughts and conversations...or are you constantly finding fault with everyone and everything, while adamantly defending yourself?

Day 8: Pursue A Lifestyle of Radical Purity

Watch the Video

"God is willing to work through anyone who is willing, but that willingness must be sincere and it must be demonstrated. Lip service isn't enough. God looks at the heart, yes, but "out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" Matthew 12:34.

The proof is in our lifestyles. It doesn't matter what we say; what we do gives us away every time.

"However, I would be doing you a disservice if I didn't share my conviction that you are highly unlikely to experience God's power in significant ways if you are living the typical Western lifestyle, featuring a hectic daily schedule capped off with three hours of television viewing and/or Internet surfing, during which you're deluged with impure messages. All things are possible, but some things are highly improbable."

Consider which aspects of your lifestyle promote purity and which might be hindrances. What lifestyle change is God calling you to make?

Day 9. Meet Weekly With Your Pit Crew

Watch the Video

Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up; but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (TLB)

Affirmation: I need a PIT crew: prayer warriors, insightful counselors, and gifted teachers.

It's not enough for us to hunker down alone, fighting spiritual battles by ourselves. Frankly, it's easy to get weird when we go it alone. We need a group of people who pray with and for us. Our experience of the power of God will, to a great extent, depend on the caliber of prayer warriors on our team.

Ask the Holy Spirit whom to invite to be on board.

Who will you contact about being part of your PIT crew? Do you need to volunteer to be part of someone else's PIT crew? Ideally there is a crossover between the two.

Day 10. Abandon Clock-Controlled and Checklist-Driven Bible Reading

Watch the Video

Read Verse Psalm 119:10-16

Affirmation: There's no substitute for time spent in God's Word.

As a living book, the Bible communicates with us. It speaks to our circumstances; it gives us just the answer we need, when we need it. That's why we should ask specific questions when we read the Bible and expect the Holy Spirit to provide clear, unmistakable answers.

We should perceive that He is customizing the curriculum, showing us which of our own thoughts and attitudes need to change

"We need to make it a daily priority to sit at the feet of Jesus. We need to take time in God's Word so it can transform us from the inside out, thus unleashing His power to flow through us.

Practically speaking, what changes do you need to make to shift from an efficient approach to Scripture reading...to an effective approach to life?

Day 11: Highlight God's Word

Watch the Video

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Affirmation: When I customize my Bible, I am sharpening my sword.

Are you ready to sharpen your sword so God can unleash His power in your life? Ask you personal tutor, the Holy Spirit, which subject you should study. If you don't hear a clear answer, assume He wants to strengthen areas of weakness in your life.

Describe a time when you were excited about Bible study. What sparked your enthusiasm, and how can you recover that spark if it seems to be fading?

Day 12. Take God's Word Personally

Watch the Video

Your statues are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. Psalm 119:111

Affirmation: God's Word has the power to transform me, especially when I make it personal.

The Holy Spirit led me to search out every Scripture passage that spoke to my identity in Christ. He prompted me to take out a notebook and rewrite every passage, making it personal. For example, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you...to go and bear fruit,' became, 'God chose ME! God handpicked me to go bear fruit.' "

There is a preliminary list of personalized verses starting on page 257 of this book. However, let the Holy Spirit be your Teacher. He knows your areas of greatest need.

Write out some of your own personalized scriptures!

Day 13. Let God Unleash the Power of His Word Through You

Watch the Video

"The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any doubleedged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Affirmation: God's power is unleashed through me as I share His Word with others.

Not only can the Holy Spirit use it to transform us from the inside out, as discussed yesterday, He can also unleash the power of God's Word through us, as a surgical tool in the spiritual lives of those around us.

Can you think of someone, right now, who needs a message from God's Word? Pray, asking God to lead you to a scripture that will speak directly to the situation. Share here if you feel lead to do so (use only initial(s) of that person to respect privacy).

Day 14. Do What Jesus Did

Watch the Video

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things that these, because I am going to the Father." John 14:12

Affirmation: I am an imitator of God"

You may think stepping out in faith to do the things Jesus did is risky, but nothing is riskier than disobedience. If we're not seeing miracles in our midst, I believe it's because we are unwilling to step out and do what Jesus did.

When was the last time you imitated something Jesus did? What were the results?

Day 15. "Exercise Bold Faith"

Watch the Video

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly." Acts 4:31

Affirmation: God has called me to exercise bold faith.

I believe the Holy Spirit favors the bold rather than the timid. Timidity may seem the considerate or even spiritual approach, but the Bible states 'God did not give us a spirit of timidity,' 2 Timothy 1:7. The Message Bible put it this way: 'God doesn't want us to be shy with His gifts, but bold' "

Unfortunately, many of us miss the opportunity to experience God walking with us--and miss out on promotions, as well--because we are unwilling to exercise such bold faith.

In what area of your life do you believe the Holy Spirit is directing you to exhibit more boldness? What steps of obedience do you plan to take in response?

Day 16: Realize God Wants to Say Yes

Watch the Video

The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:15–16

Affirmation: I believe God likes to say yes to my prayers.

God did not create prayer as an exercise in futility. He created prayer as a tool to bring heaven's power to bear upon the affairs of earth. For example:

- We read in Exodus how God answered many of Moses's prayers in miraculous ways, including parting the Red Sea (see 14:13– 22).
- God answered Elijah's prayer on Mt. Carmel when he rained fire from heaven in the battle against the prophets of Baal (see 1 Kings 18:20–40).
- Daniel was a mighty man of prayer who experienced many powerful answers. (see Daniel 2:17–19 and 6:4–24).
- Hezekiah prayed for protection against Sennacherib's army, and God wiped out 185,000 enemy troops while the Israelites slept (see 2 Kings 19).
- Jonah prayed to be delivered from the belly of the fish, and God caused it to spit him out on dry land (see Jonah 2).

Clearly, God delights in saying yes to our prayers! We'll spend

the next several days taking a look at how we can maximize the power and effectiveness of our prayers.

Day 17. Root Your Prayers in Scripture

Watch the Video

"Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written....' " Matthew 4:10

Affirmation: Praying God's Word unleashes God's power in my life.

To pray Scripture, simply open your Bible, search out passages you've highlighted and turn them into prayers. When we root our prayers in Scripture, we can pray with power packed faith, because we know our prayers are in alignment with God's will. Praying the Bible is an acquired skill that improves with practice.

If you want to experience real power in prayer, pray God's Word.

Write out your own Scripture-based prayer.

Day 18. Open Yourself to God-Prompted Prayer

Watch the Video

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. James 5:17

Affirmation: I believe there is power in God-directed prayer.

Is it possible that if we don't pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done, we can hinder God's kingdom? The truth is, many of us think prayer is nice...but not necessary. We would never say that aloud, of course. But deep inside, many Christians believe that God's kingdom will come and His will shall be done whether or not we pray. Maybe that's why only one in ten thousand American Christians prays for an hour a day.

How can you make yourself more open to God-directed prayers?

Day 19. Pray with Others

Watch the <u>Video</u>

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Affirmation: There is power in prayer when two or three are gathered.

But wait, you protest, didn't Jesus withdraw to quiet places to pray alone? He sure did. But in Gethsemane, He was looking for prayer partners and was profoundly disappointed when no one was up to the task. There's a time for solitary prayer and a time for corporate prayer. A time for private prayer and a time for public prayer. A time to pray silently and a time to pray aloud.

Some people say they are uncomfortable praying aloud. If you are one of them, ask yourself why. If you can stand around chatting with friends in public, then you can pray in public. If you can have a conversation with a human being, you can have a conversation with one or more human beings plus God. Prayer is just talking to God. It's the highest privilege we enjoy; why would we ever pass up the opportunity?"

Day 20: Discover Soul Rest

Watch the Video

You can be a soul at rest and a body in motion. You can become a Mighty Musk Ox Prayer Warrior.

I have been chosen by God.
He has called me
to be a spiritual warrior
in my own home
in my church & community
in this nation
even to the very ends of the earth.
In this critical hour
I take my stand
and I declare:

No devil in hell

No porcupine on earth

Nothing and no one

Can thwart God's good plan for me.

As long as......

I choose to walk in peace.

With my soul at rest

and my body in motion.

I have absolute confidence

in my Father's loving care.

God's got my back.

I am standing in the gap

And I will not be moved.

I will fight battles worth fighting

And tell stories worth telling.

Because I am – and always will remain —

A Mighty Musk Ox Prayer Warrior!

Day 21: Make the Most of the Sabbath

Watch the Video

The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath. Matthew 12:8

Affirmation: I acknowledge my faith in God's power by choosing to take a day off each week.

Finding rest for your soul isn't easy in this day and age. But apparently, it wasn't much easier in New Testament times, because the writer of Hebrews noted: "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest" (4:9–11).

Did you catch that? We have to *make every effort* to enter rest. But the good news is, although it isn't easy to experience rest, it is possible. And it is well worth the effort. I emphasize effort, because rest is not going to drop down upon you apart from effort, and no one else can rest for you. It sounds contradictory, doesn't it, to make effort to enter rest. Yet, I've found that rest takes work. I have to carve out time if I want the rest I need. And I've found that the Sabbath is the best day to do your carving.

Day 22: Trust God's Promises

Watch the Video

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Peter 1:3–4

Affirmation: I believe God keeps his promises.

God's promises bring us face to face with one of the most difficult choices every Christian must make: Will I believe God's promises...or will I take matters into my own hands? "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31, KJV) while those who take matters into their own hands shall exhaust themselves and everyone around them.

Maybe you are at that crossroads at this very moment. Believe God's promise: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20–21).

Day 23. Behave as God's Child

Watch the Video

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let you conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:5-6

Affirmation: I can behave as God's child.

If our faith is NOT setting people around us free from their chains, let's examine ourselves and ask God how we can become more effective vessels of His power.

Whether you're in a prison cell or an airport terminal, the Holy Spirit can give you the power within to behave as God's child. And as an added bonus, you may just get an upgrade in your circumstance.

Can you think of some circumstances you might routinely encounter (traffic jams, waiting in lines, and so on) when you might be tempted NOT to behave as God's child? How can you prepare yourself to handle such circumstances with more grace?

Day 24. Cultivate Power Within and Power Upon

Watch the Video

"To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Affirmation: The Holy Spirit gives me both power within and power upon my life.

God wants to pour His Spirit on us so that we can do the greater works Jesus spoke about (see John 14:12). We have a big God with a big heart for a big world---almost seven billion people, many of whom have no opportunity to see 'Jesus with skin on'.

"God's power is unleashed wherever Christians are open to both power within and power upon."

What are some practical steps you can take to cultivate both power within and power upon?

Day 25. Find Power in Weakness

Watch the Video

"But the Lord said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my ower is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Affirmation: When I am weak, God is strong.

Whether we like it or not, the Bible plainly demonstrates---from start to finish---that God's power only manifests when two conditions are met: we genuinely need it, and more important, we humble ourselves enough to admit we need it. His power is strong when we are weak. Period. Too many of us have organized our lives so we don't need God's power, and then we wonder why we never experience it."

Day 26. Watch for Open Doors of Opportunity

Watch the Video

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains." Colossians 4:2-3

Affirmation: God will open doors of opportunity to me.

The Christian life should be a daily adventure. We are not following a list of rules and regulations. We are following the Person of the Holy Spirit. He is always at work all around us. If we are not seeing his work, it's not because he isn't working! It's because we are not being prayerful and watchful.

We are to devote ourselves to prayer, asking God to grant us the privilege of experiencing his power at work in the world. Then we are to begin watching for his answer to our prayer.

Think of a place you are likely to be in today (for example, a grocery store or the school parking lot). Pray specifically for God to show you his work in that place today.

Day 27. Assert Your Spiritual Authority

Watch the Video

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

Affirmation: I can exercise my rightful spiritual authority.

But in order to exercise spiritual authority, we must be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing. When we are not walking in obedience, God won't authorize us to do anything for him Why would he? Consider a soldier who is not where he is supposed to be because he has gone AWOL. Imagine how effective this soldier would be if his commander left orders on his desk and the soldier returned six months later and tried to carry out those orders. It would be a disaster. The same is true in the spiritual realm. If we are not walking in obedience, God won't direct us to do anything for him.

What are some practical ways you can begin to exercise greater spiritual authority?

Day 28: Be Faithful in Small Things

Watch the Video

Read Matthew 25:34-40

Affirmation: I can make the most of seemingly small opportunities.

Every follower of Jesus Christ has a standing appointment with people in need. If you see someone with a need that you can meet, consider it a divine appointment. You don't need to hear a chorus of angels singing to take the hint. If someone is thirsty, give that person something to drink. Hungry? Give them food. It's not that complicated. Don't over look small opportunities just because they are small. Sometimes the power of God is most clearly demonstrated not in the big things, but in the small things we do with faithfulness.

What small thing can you do?

Day 29. Balance Solitude and Service

Watch the Video

"Because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat [Jesus] said so them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' " Mark 6:31

Affirmation: I experience God's power when I walk in divine rhythm.

God has always commanded us to both come and go. There have always been those who willingly come, who sit at his feet and learn, and learn, and learn. But they never get up out of the pew to go. Then there are others who gladly go, but who sometimes do more harm than good because they do not first seek God, are not securely grounded in him, and don't return to him before they are depleted.

Just as there is a need for both spiritual fruit and spiritual gifts, there's a need for both inward spiritual reality and practical outreach.

How can you balance your natural tendency toward either coming or going?

Day 30. Keep Believing

Watch the Video

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

Affirm: I choose to keep believing.

"On Day 1, I challenged you to give God 30 days---and see what he would do. Let me issue an even greater challenge: Give God the rest of your life----and see what he will do. I promise you, he's just getting started! So keep believing. God really does what you to become a vessel of his power."

Reflect on the last 30 days. What are some things you've seen God do in your life?