

# The Gift of God that's Within You

Part 1: Power, Love, and a Sound Mind

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## Full Text (for reading on your own)

### *Baptism, Prayer, and Worship Nights*

We had our second monthly prayer and worship night this past Friday. Our next one will be October 13th at 7pm. God has been pouring out at the prayer nights in a super-fresh way. He has been imparting new things to everyone. This past Friday we had a time of ministry during which many were super blessed. It has been really good and refreshing to get together with everyone, worship, and pray for the city and the church. Additionally, we celebrated the baptisms of a four Kauffman children and partook of communion together.

Main church (during the sermon) is like a lecture. House church (when we discuss the sermon) is like a recitation. Where's the lab space? Of course our daily life is the lab, but the Friday Night Worship Nights are truly a lab space - a place to experiment with God!

It honors God when we experiment in partnering with His Holy Spirit. Proverbs 25:2 says it is God's glory to conceal a matter, but it is the glory of kings (Revelation calls us kings and priests) to search a matter out! So how do you search out the things of God? It is a "hunt and peck operation" - you have to try stuff!

Not everything in the Kingdom of God is first intellectualized and then acted upon. A lot in the Kingdom of God is EXPERIENCED and THEN understood!

The Friday Night Worship time is a research & development (R&D) time - a less formal experimental time. Do you notice that I (Peter) have no idea how to structure ministry time like we just had? Remember I said "so here's what we are going to do ... I don't know! ... I just know people are going to get set free!" You got to be patient with your pastor because I don't know how to structure this time!

There is a lot in the Kingdom of God that is not understood before it is experienced. It's experienced and then it's understood. God is saying "if you will let me go outside your intellectual box, I will take you into places that otherwise you'd limit Me from taking you."

I want you each to be ready to go with us deeper into the things of God. You are going to see it on Sunday morning but Friday night will not only prep you for that but also prep the church to go further into those things in that R&D environment.

### *Don't Let Your Sermon Schedule Get in the Way of MY Move*

When fishing up notes for the sermon I had planned for this Sunday on Saturday night, God spoke to me and said “don't let your sermon schedule get in the way of My move.” I told God “but God, this message I've planned has to come out in one part - or else it will be the worse cliffhanger ever.”

In response I felt like God gave me a creative idea ... If I sometime can't finish a sermon (because worship or ministry time went long, etc.) maybe I will just finish it up with an audio recording on my computer! Then our audio team could tack it on to the back end of the sermon recording online and you would just be responsible for finishing up listening to it.

This I think will really help me (Peter) not limit God's timing because I can always get the sermon out to you all with an audio recording. This way God can move however He wants to and my teaching schedule will adjust to His move instead of His move needing to adjust to my teaching schedule :)

So, bear with me because we are trying some new stuff and we don't want to get in God's way.

### *A Fresh Touch from God*

I've been touched by God more powerfully in the last couple of weeks than I ever have been in my entire life. I've had the most profound encounters with the love of God that I have ever had. That is part of what I am imparting in prayer. The gifts of God are freely received and they are freely given.

Some of you might not be very familiar with people falling over when they get prayed for. There's nothing in the Bible that says “thou shalt fall over when the power of God comes upon you.” But there is also nothing in the Bible that says when the power of God comes upon you you won't yell or scream or shout or weep or laugh. God's power when manifested in our body has effect. It can be different effects for different people at different times. That's just how it is, so don't get freaked out about that.

Being “slain in the Spirit” is pretty new to me (Peter). While it had happened a couple times before when I was praying for people, in the last month it has happened about 25-30 times when I've prayed for people. So, I know there is something different happening when I pray for people now. It is nothing that I am doing ... I literally sometimes just put my hand on someone's forehead “thank you for my sister, we receive your power” and BOOM they are on the floor.

The key is they need to not fall over and hit their head. You may think it is odd to teach about this, but it is just intensely practical because all we are after is people receiving from the Lord. We are NOT after people falling over, but sometimes people fall over. Don't ever force yourself to fall, but don't ever resist it either.

The fact that people will sometimes be slain in the Spirit is no different than the fact that sometimes people will laugh, or sometimes people will cry, or sometimes people double over, or sometimes people feel like they need to lay down or sit down or kneel down. It is simply God's presence moving on their bodies and we all know this in our personal times of prayer with the Lord. When you get in your prayer closet you may just feel like "man I just need to lay down right now or need to kneel right now." These are just the sorts of things that happen when God's presence moves on people's bodies.

His is the kingdom, His is the glory, and His is the power FOREVER! All the glory and all the power is His. Matthew 6:13 all the authority, glory, and power is God's FOREVER! We are supposed to minister in power, but it is only ever His power and even after each of us minister in power it is STILL His power! You never take any glory to yourself. All the glory, all the power, and all the Kingdom is HIS and remains His - we just get to partner with Him in it.

So, we need to have spotters when people pray. I can't pray for someone without someone else behind them because they might get hurt.

### *Operating in the Grace of Another*

And the SAME is true for every member of Agathos! Because when you honor what is on someone else's ministry, do you know that you actually partake of the grace that is on their ministry? (Phil. 1:7)

Some of you might be saying "I'll make sure someone is behind people when Peter is praying for them, but when I am praying for someone no one needs to spot." I am telling you ... if you are a financial giver into this church (Phil. 4 tells you why I am saying that in conjunction with Phil. 1:7) then anything that I (Peter) am getting becomes yours. What will happen is you will EACH start flowing in the same thing that I am starting to flow in. In other words, you are going to need a spotter when you pray for people as well ... especially if you believe for it. So just receive it in Jesus' Name!

### *"Spotter" Protocol*

It needs to be standard practice that we have someone or two people standing behind people when they pray. This is not anything abnormal by the way. This is what many churches have to do when there are believers praying very powerful prayers.

At those churches it is known “oh my gosh, Kris Vallotton is praying for someone and no one is standing behind the person” so someone will jump up out of their seat and go stand behind the person receiving prayer to make sure they don’t hit their head.

That has happened to me (Peter) before too. I was in Idaho and someone was ministering very powerfully and gave an altar call that sounded just like what God had been speaking to me that weekend so I went up there straight away. I was supposed to be ministering after service but I ran up there to be first up there to receive.

Here’s one of the keys to ministry ... humility! You will only get what you actually need. But if you don’t think you need anything, you won’t get much!

When my friend who was ministering realized I was not up there to pray for others but instead to receive prayer, he simply reached out, touched my chest, and I instantly went down. Luckily the pastor’s son reacted quickly to catch me, but my head actually landed on a blanket that was folded up. God’s grace was on the whole thing!

I didn’t go up there trying to fall over. I went up there to receive prayer. The desire of my heart plus the willingness of the Holy Spirit met and it wasn’t my friend’s power. All the power is GOD’S FOREVER. But he reached out and whatever he had that he was carrying that God wanted to give to me ... he just touched me and I fell over. I wasn’t trying to fall over. I am just trying to normalize this for you.

Now, if someone is going to fall over, they could also just sit down too. That said, there can be something special about laying on the ground. For instance, when I pray I have a very different experience when I am sitting in a chair vs. lying down. Sometimes I have found that it is very important that I am laying down. I will feel the urge “I need to lay down before the Lord” and then I literally experience more of His presence because I am not standing now.

So it is important that if that is how God’s moving on someone’s body that they could fall over. (They won’t probably think about it, it will probably just happen). Or if they feel to sit down or kneel down, they can do that - or they can keep standing if they feel like they should keep standing.

But when that happens (they feel the need to lay down) we want to give them space for that to happen because in my experience (when I’ve been slain in the Spirit as people call it - fall over involuntarily when someone prays for me) a lot of times the Lord will minister to me much more profoundly after the prayer. The prayer might have been 10 seconds, I get touched by the presence of God, and while I am on the ground I start seeing beautiful pictures and God is ministering to me.

So we don’t want to short-circuit that because if you actually get in the way of that and say “well I don’t want to fall - I don’t want to lay down - I feel odd about this - or people aren’t here to catch

me.” Now they aren’t laying down on the ground and don’t get ministered to by the Lord for 10 or 20 minutes like He had planned because all they can do is stand there and wobble as the power is hitting them and they are trying their best not to fall. Then the prayer is done and the time is done and God is saying “I wasn’t even trying to minister to you so much through the person praying for you” I was just wanting the Holy Spirit to come upon you in a powerful way so that then I could minister to you profoundly as you lay there in my presence.

If no one is standing behind someone receiving prayer they can fall and hit their head. I prayed for about 40 people one night recently and about half of them got slain in the Spirit. It was like all of a sudden this lightbulb when on in my prayer at a level I had never had before. As I laid hands on them, 3 of them went down in a total of about 45 seconds. “Thank you for my sister, we receive your power” and BOOM they are on the floor. Then the person who was my catcher gently lays that person on the floor. I then would have to wait before I started praying for the next person because they could fall so instantly that they could get hurt. So once my catcher was ready I would start to pray for the next person. When you are catching for someone it can happen really fast. Another person I was praying for didn’t all over but instead instantly crumpled straight down. I even lunged to catch underneath their arms. It is supernatural. It is in an instant.

When you are spotting you have to have your hands on their back so they can feel it because if they can’t feel your hands on their back, you will think you are ready for them but they will start leaning back and not feel anything there and just their natural reflexes will tell their muscles “don’t fall back b/c you are going to die!”

Instead, if your hands are there and if they start to fall, all you do is just lower them to the ground. And know that by the end (once they are close to the ground) you actually have to put some substantial force on their body so that their body goes down very gently.

If someone is big, get 2 people to spot! My one friend was one time praying for a very large individual (about a 300 pound person) and got trapped underneath them!

I know this may seem over-the-top practical, but as many of us have learned to prophecy to people in different contexts, you learn some practical habits that are very helpful so that your prophetic ministry goes very well. This is what happens - you start to learn some practical things. The Bible says we should earnestly desire to prophecy and gives some guardrails to it, but then you learn by the flow of the Spirit of God and experience in doing it!

With praying for impartation ... with the power of the Holy Spirit moving upon people’s bodies, being ready to spot for people being prayed for is just a practical thing that we as a church need to know how to do ... because all of a sudden the lightbulb came on for me (Peter) and you are going

to partake of the same grace that I am carrying ... so it is going to start happening a lot when you are praying for people too.

It is *never* the goal when praying to see people fall. Always the goal to see the power and love of God touch people in a profound, life-changing way.

I don't want people who God is wanting to minister to as they lay there for 10 minutes to be inhibited from receiving the ministry that He wants to give them because they were uncomfortable, or felt insecure in it, don't know what's going on with this power in my body, or I don't want to fall because I will get hurt.

Having spotters is just part of the equation when ministering in power.

### *Scriptures and Power!*

In Matthew 22:29 Jesus says "Jesus answered and said to them, *"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."* Jesus told the Sadducees that they do "err" - knowing neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. He was talking with religious folks and telling them that they were indeed mistaken in their doctrine.

First of all, we should not be critiquing other churches. I will critique teachings because the teachings are what we need to be clear on so that we can be set free to flow in the power, love, and sound mind of God! So again, churches should not be critiqued very often - unless they are in full on heresy and no longer preaching Christ - and then you speak to it so people don't get bound by it. ALL THAT SAID, when people say "there's something wrong at that church over there," what do they say the issue is every time? Doctrine - they say their interpretation of the scriptures is not correct. How often have you heard it said "I am concerned about that church over there because the power of God isn't there"?

Yet Jesus gives a two-part litmus test. He says "you are mistaken - you are in error" because "you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." Scriptures & Power. Scriptures & Power. Equal weight from God.

Paul had the same mindset. In 1 Corinthians 2:4 Paul says *"my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in **the power of God.**"* "

*"For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power."* (1 Cor. 4:20)

## *God has Given us a Spirit of Power, Love, and a Sound Mind!*

God has given us a Spirit. It is not a spirit of fear. What spirit has He given us? One that is powerful. One that is loving. One that produces a sound mind in Its carriers. He has given us a Spirit of power!

If you want to operate in power according to God's Holy Spirit, you need to operate in two other things as well - love and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 says *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* If you want to know how God's Holy Spirit is going to work within you, He is going to work within you to release power into your life and into the lives that you touch. Holy Spirit is going work within you to release love into your life and into the lives that you touch. Holy Spirit is going to work within you to release soundness of mind into your life and into the lives that you touch.

God's Spirit produces a calm mind. God's Spirit produces a peaceful mind. He produces a soundness of mind. He produces love. He produces and releases power.

As we start to talk about the power of God, there are two guardrails we need to keep on this. First is love. You can flow in the power of God but be a clanging symbol or a noisy gong - if you have not love. It will profit you nothing in terms of eternal inheritance if you move mountains and command hurricane Irma to not touch Tampa if do it without love. Love is essential to operating in God's power in God's way.

Jesus said in Matthew 7 that there were people who would operate in His power without even being saved and therefore would not even go to Heaven because they never knew Him. If that concerns you, it is not about you. These are people who didn't want to know Jesus but wanted to use His power and principles.

Love. The first guardrail in operating in God's power is love. Let all that we do be motivated by love. Little children, let us be imitators of Christ and walk in His sort of unconditional, selfless AGAPE love! It is love that motivated Jesus to cast demons out.

When Jesus showed up at the Gaderenes and there was the person with a legion of demons who made it dangerous to walk in that area, the demons started manifesting because of the light that was in Christ that exposed their darkness. "What do you have to do with us?"

You have power over ALL the power of the devil! Luke 10:19 says *"Behold, I give you the authority (power) to trample on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* Know this when you minister!

Mark 3:14-15 says *"Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons ..."* Notice that the 12

were ordained for 4 purposes: (1) to be with Jesus, (2) that He might send them forth to preach, (3) that they would have power to heal sickness, (4) that they would have power to cast out demons.

Mark 6:7 says *“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and **gave them power over unclean spirits.**”*

There are so many people in the world today who don't have a mental illness - they have a demonic illness. I am not saying mental illness can't exist, but often it is demonic illness. Tourette's Syndrome is a medically identified demon. People with it involuntarily curse in the middle of public. What is that? That's a demon.

LISTEN! There is NEVER any shame in someone being demonized (in other words, oppressed in some way by a demon). The only shame would be them not wanting to be set free. The first person Jesus appeared to after raising from the dead was Mary Madeline out of whom were cast 7 demons. The first person that our Lord came to see after He rose from the dead - and therefore the first person to witness the most important event in history (His Resurrection), was witnessed first by the woman who had been set free of 7 demons. There is never any shame in being set free of a demon. Satan is an equal opportunity oppressor.

Satan takes 6 year old boys that got molested and gives them a demon to boot - to dominate their life. Then he takes a 9 year old girl that is getting made fun of constantly by her peers and gives her a demon of suicide - to end her life. So you have adults walking around all their days oppressed by the devil.

Jesus came to set those free who had been oppressed by the devil. It's our inheritance and birthright as born-again believers to set people free who have been oppressed by the devil.

What motivated Jesus to set people free? Love! And how did He operate to set them free? In power!

How could you possibly operate in that power? Ask yourself this ... are you baptized in the Holy Spirit? You need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not set anyone free of any devils until He was baptized in the Holy Spirit. We too receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. (Acts 1:8)

When you got saved you got the Holy Spirit on the inside of you and you will go to Heaven. But Jesus told His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until the promise of God - the power of God - the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came upon them. That is Pentecost. When the Day of Pentecost had fully come (not just the type-and-shadow OT feast of Pentecost), the Holy Spirit baptizes those believers waiting for Him in tongues of fire.

Remember that when Jesus went to get baptized by John the Baptist, John said he couldn't do it but Jesus said "it is fitting that all righteousness should be fulfilled" - to show that He is righteous. The voice of the Father then testified likewise "this is my beloved Son in whom I'm well-pleased." And the Holy Spirit comes upon Christ as a dove and Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

John had said "*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming **after me** is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*" (Mt. 3:11) It's Jesus Himself that baptizes you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. You got the Holy Spirit in you if you are a believer, but you get the Holy Spirit UPON you when you get baptized in the Holy Spirit. You lay hands on people and sickness goes. You lay hands on people and demons leave. People touch your clothes and get healed. Your shadow passes over the sick and they walk again.

Power, love, and sound mind. It was love that motivated Christ and power that worked through Him!

The last part is soundness of mind. The Vineyard Church has a rich heritage (starting with their founder, John Wimber) in the power of God. They say "Word only = dry up; Spirit only = blow up ... Word and the Spirit = grow up!" John 6:63 shows us that the Word of Christ is the Spirit so there is no real divide, but many churches will tend towards either the Word OR the Spirit, but not both. Growth is found in BOTH!

Power, love, and a SOUND MIND. We have a tremendous scriptural foundation at Agathos. It is my (Peter) job to guard that doctrinal foundation just like Paul charged Timothy. So we are not going to depart from that one bit as we start to experience things. I am still going to be bringing teaching, teaching, teaching because it is the teaching that brings anchoring and foundation.

We want to have power that has TWO partners: (1)love and (2) a sound mind.

You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. Many people that major on the Spirit but fail to also major on the Word may see God's power often, but they are actually not very free. The reason is they just don't know a lot of the truth that would be setting them free. If they would study the Word of God it would do most of the heavy lifting.

God was delivering me (Peter) of some things these last few weeks. I was asking the Lord "what is this God, because I have been having great teaching for years and knowing the goodness and grace of God?" Even as God was delivering me of shame, I thought "this seems like what you showed me in setting me free of shame is just the scriptures I've already known ... should I have just studied the scriptures harder?" God told me "when people get delivered - when I set you free of something - it takes lenses off your eyes and removes triggers from your heart."

I found that I could know the truth and that definitely set me free to a certain level, but I could still have a lens that I was viewing the entire world through. We can pick up a lens when we are 4, 6, or 8 and we can have triggers in our heart that we picked up when we were 14, 16, or 22. And the Lord is saying “you’ve known the truth and it has set you free, but I also need to remove some things so that you can be totally free.”

God told me (Peter) “Peter, you are already totally free, but I am setting Myself free.” I thought “that can’t be God - He is the One that is TOTALLY free.” Then He said it louder. He said “I am setting Myself free to be able to love you fully!” He continued “in releasing freedom to you, I am giving Myself freedom to be able to love you with full access to every single area of your life!” He wants to be able to love you with all of His love and sometimes there are things that have bound you. There is perhaps fear that has bound you, or shame that has bound you, or anxiety that has bound you and God is saying “I want to set you free so that I can set Myself free to love you with all the love that I want to give you!”

Power, love, sound mind. Power, love, sound mind. Power, love, sound mind. That’s what God’s Spirit produces.

So we are going to minister in power. (And we have already been seeing financial and physical miracles for years - praise God!). But I know I am experiencing some new things and that is what I am giving out.

Remember that the power was and always will be God’s. Likewise with all the glory that goes with the power - it was His; it is His; and it will always be His!

But we do it with love and a sound mind - with a scriptural foundation. We hold tight to the anchor of the Word of God. It’s the Word of God - the Truth of God - that sets us free, but sometimes people need an encounter, they need an experience, they need a touch from God to usher that truth all the way in!

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## Discussion Introduction (for reading as a group)

Not everything in the Kingdom of God is first intellectualized and then acted upon. A lot in the Kingdom of God is EXPERIENCED and THEN understood! God is saying “if you will let me go outside your intellectual box, I will take you into places that otherwise you’d limit Me from taking you.”

Peter’s been touched by God more powerfully in the last couple of weeks than he ever have been in his entire life - including having the most profound encounters with the love of God that he has ever had. Being “slain in the Spirit” is pretty new to Peter. While it had happened a couple times before when he was praying for people, in the last month it has happened about 25-30 times when he prayed for people. He knows there is something different happening when he prays for people now - a new normal. Each member of Agathos is going to start flowing in the same power because you receive the grace on a minister’s life when you honor that ministry. So, we need to have spotters when people pray.

Jesus told the Sadducees that they do “err” - knowing neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. *“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.”* God has given us a Spirit. It is not a spirit of fear, but of power! If you want to operate in power according to God’s Holy Spirit, you need to operate in two other things as well - love and a sound mind. The Scriptures and the Spirit cannot be separated!

There is NEVER any shame in someone being demonized (in other words, oppressed in some way by a demon). The only shame would be them not wanting to be set free. The truth we know will set us free, but sometimes God appoints a time to deliver us from lenses and triggers that have held us back from total freedom. Praise God we can partner with Him for each of His children’s total freedom! It’s here - we are going to minister in more power than ever before!

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## Points to Ponder . . .

- Why is “encounter / experience” so necessary to our walk with God?
- How would we explain “being slain in the Spirit” to a visitor who had not experienced it before?
- How do we know the power of God is so necessary for us?!?
- What are the guardrails of God’s power?
- What are you most excited about in this season in God?