

## THE POWER SOURCE

We all face an ongoing battle with our sinful nature, temptations in the world around us, and schemes of the evil one designed to rob us of right living. Sometimes we are not able to live victoriously when we are faced with these assaults because we lack knowledge or faith. At other times our lack of victory may be directly related to disobedience. God provides clear instructions on how we are to live in power as illustrated in this Scripture and in a story about Mr. Yates.<sup>1</sup>

*“Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers...” (Ephesians 6:18, NIV).*

### MR. YATES' STORY

*Mr. Yates lived in West Texas during the time of the depression. He was a sheep farmer, but was very poor and unable to keep up the payments on his land. He was using government subsidy in order to provide for his family. Foreclosure on his property was imminent.*

*One day a seismographic company asked Mr. Yates if he would be willing to allow them to do a “wild cat test” for oil on his land. Having nothing to lose, he agreed. At 1100 feet they struck oil to the tune of 80,000 barrels a day – the biggest strike in American history. Fifty years later that same oil field was still going strong and continuing to produce an astounding 125,000 barrels a day.*



*Even though Mr. Yates had lived as a pauper, all along he was one of the richest men in the world. He simply didn't know how to tap into the riches right beneath his feet.*

Many Christians live like Mr. Yates – like spiritual paupers unaware of the amazing power available through the

indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. When we get sin out of our lives and live in full surrender to Jesus Christ, allowing Him to control our lives as we walk in obedience, we tap into an unending source of power that brings life to our bodies, families, cities, nations and generations to follow. God's Word clearly describes three kinds of people.<sup>2</sup> He differentiates among them based on their spiritual understanding and power:

- The **natural** person has not received Jesus in a personal way and has no interest in spiritual things.

*“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14, NKJ).*

- The **carnal** person has received Jesus, but lacks spiritual understanding due to unconfessed sin.

*“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:1, NKJ).*

- The **spiritual** person has received Christ, is filled with the Holy Spirit and is tuned in to the mind of Christ.

*“But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:15 NKJ).*

Every person needs to make two important decisions:

1. To invite Jesus Christ to come into their life as Savior by recognizing that He died on the cross to save them from their sins, self and Satan so that they can receive forgiveness, freedom and eternal life;
2. To surrender to Jesus' lordship over their life daily with an understanding that He died for them and purchased their life with His own blood.

When we surrender by giving our entire life to Christ for His purposes, He fills us and empowers us by His Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit we have power to hear and obey Him.

## Get Real

Here is an experiential test you can use to see if God's power is operating in you.

- ▶ Do you recognize any of these benefits of walking in the power of the Spirit in your life?
  - intimacy with God that you desire
  - experiencing life and abundance
  - prayer rising up in you spontaneously because you desire and love to pray
  - increased faith
  - the Word of God coming alive to you
  - loving to read and learn God's Word
  - sensing God's direction and purpose
  - hearing God's voice
  
- ▶ Can you add any other benefits of walking in the power of the Spirit to this list? If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- ▶ Have you made these two important decisions of inviting Jesus Christ into your life as Savior and surrendering to His Lordship for your daily living? \_\_\_\_\_

# PLUGGING INTO FULL POWER

We receive the fullness of God's Holy Spirit into our lives by faith, the same way we received salvation:

*"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18, NLT).*

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:6-7 NIV).*

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:13-15 NIV).*

Take God at His Word and ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Based on your decision to surrender to His plan for your life, trust that He is faithful to fill you according to His command:

