

# The Holy Spirit Gives Power

by Corrie Ten Boom

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*The Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome the world and its trials, enabling us to trust in God's boundless resources and obey His commandments.*

**Duration:** 22:11

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:44, Matthew 22:37-39, John 7:38, Acts 1:8, Romans 5:5, Ephesians 5:18, Colossians 1:11

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of relying on the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He shares a story of a little boy who overcame his fear by holding his father's hand, illustrating the need for us to trust in God's love and strength. The speaker also highlights the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to love our enemies and live a life surrendered to God. He encourages believers to be willing to suffer for Christ and reminds them that Jesus is the ultimate victor in all situations. The sermon concludes with a reminder of the commandment to witness and make disciples, with the assurance that the Holy Spirit will empower believers to fulfill this calling.

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## Transcript

I never cease to be amazed and thrilled at the diversity of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how God is working in so many different ways throughout the world, and here we are sharing them together during this time today. While we are gathered here, the headlines of the newspapers outside are dangerous and ominous. A war has already started in Cyprus, and I think that we should be praying.

The Americans have alerted their fleet, the Russians have alerted theirs. Diplomats are meeting. One British diplomat said last night, the cork has popped out of the bottle and it may never go back in again.

And I believe that we should be in prayer during this day, that if it please God that this trouble may be confined to a relatively small area of the world and not drag the whole world in. The second thing is I'm asking all of you to be in prayer a great deal about the service this afternoon. People are coming from France, all the way from Paris by the hundreds.

They're coming from Brussels and from Belgium and from all over Switzerland and parts of Germany. We don't know how many people will be there. It is an evangelistic service, and this afternoon when the appeal is given I'm asking all of you to be in a spirit of prayer and that we may see people come to Christ this day in the city of Lausanne.

This meeting is much on the hearts of the believers of this great city. Now this morning has been one of the high points of this Congress, and the best is yet to come. Because seldom in one's lifetime does one have the privilege of meeting or working and hearing a person who is a legend in her own lifetime.

Corrie ten Boom was the first official woman watchmaker in Holland. And during the Second World War she and her family helped protect and save many Jews. Because of that she and her family were condemned to the concentration and the death camps.

Her father was killed, her sister, and the week that she was to die she miraculously escaped. Since then she has toured the world, preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, winning many to Christ by both her writings and her preaching. And now a motion picture has been made on her life that we think is the finest religious motion picture ever made and will be in contention, we believe, for an Academy Award this coming year.

It will be released early next year. It's called The Hiding Place. And many of you are going to want to see that in many languages.

But Corrie ten Boom, there's a new book about her and by her called A Tramp for God. And I want to introduce her today as one of the great women that it's been my privilege to meet in secular or religious life. But I want to introduce her as what she fondly likes to be known as a tramp for God.

Corrie ten Boom of Holland. And it's all what you heard has taught me to obey the Lord. In the Bible we read in Colossians 1.11, as you live this new life with Jesus Christ, we pray that you will be strengthened from God's boundless resources so that you will find yourselves able to pass through any experience and endure it with courage.

God's boundless resources we find when we obey the commandments be filled with the Spirit. This is not a suggestion. The Bible has no suggestions, only commandments.

And this is the most happy commandment of the whole Bible. When the Lord told us to witness and make to disciples over the whole world, he promised you will receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you. To me, a little story of a bird, a rootpecker, has helped me in this.

A rootpecker picked with his beak against the stem of a tree, like they are used to do. At the very moment, the lightning struck the tree and destroyed it. And the rootpecker flew away and said, I didn't know that there was so much power in my beak.

I don't ask you, have you the Holy Spirit, but has the Holy Spirit you? When I was a little girl, I remembered that my father, that I should talk with my father, and I said, Daddy, I will never be strong enough to be a real witness and a martyr for Jesus. And father said, when you go to travel, when do I give you the train ticket or the money for it? Three weeks before, I said, no daddy, the day that I go to travel. And father said, that is what God does.

You don't need to have the power to be a sufferer for Jesus at this moment. But the moment that you have the great honor to be a martyr for Jesus, the Lord will give you everything. And I have experienced, we have not a spirit of fear, but of power of love and a sound mind.

And the Holy Spirit is there always to do the job, to make us ready. We live in a time that we can expect the Lord Jesus coming very soon. Many of the signs of the time are so very clear.

And it is very important that we are ready for Jesus coming. Peter writes, because you have a hope like this before you, I urge you to make certain that such a day would find you at peace with God and with man, clear and blameless in his sight. Sometimes I tremble when I think that that is necessary, to be right with God and right with man.

But in Russia, once I got a great comfortable story. A Russian said, there was a big apartment house. Many people lived there.

And they all put their junk in the basement. But there was in the basement also a beautiful harp. But it was broken and nobody could repair it.

Once there came a tramp and said, may I sleep this night in your house? It is such a terrible snowstorm. And they said, we have no guest rooms, but you can sleep in the basement. After some hours, they suddenly heard beautiful music in the basement.

And the owner of the harp came down and said, how could you repair that harp? And the man said, I have made this harp. And when you have made something, you can also repair it. Who has made you? Wasn't it God? Wasn't it that nothing has been made without Jesus? Do you think He is able to make you good and blameless and right with God and man? So that you will be ready for Jesus coming? He is able and He will do it.

For it is written that Paul prayed, May the God of peace make you holy through and through. May you be kept in spirit, soul and body in spotless integrity until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is that possible? In spotless integrity? You and I? Yes.

For the rest of the text is, He who calls you is utterly faithful and He will finish what He has set out to do. The Holy Spirit shows as many things as it were from God's point of view. The Holy Spirit gives you wisdom to cast your burdens on the Lord because He gives a spiritual insight and understanding.

I was in Vietnam and I was there not a thermometer but a thermostat. Do you know what I mean? The thermometer goes with the heat and the cold up and down. A thermostat brings a cold room immediately in contact with the source of heat and so restores the temperature.

I carried the load of suffering that I saw in the hospitals, in the tribes, in the front line. And the Holy Spirit showed me that I had to cast my burden on the Lord. We are not called to be burden bearers but cross bearers and fruit bearers so I could be used as an open channel of streams of living water.

In my work to bring the Gospel in many places I sometimes feel weak and old, not adequate to speak in so many different meetings. But I trust that we heard today again and again, the viewer shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you. The Holy Spirit gives power and we can never expect too much from Him.

He points to the cross where Jesus finished all for our redemption and obedience and surrender is the answer. I was comforted by a story told in New Zealand. A little boy went with his father over a bridge.

It was a very small bridge and he was scared and said, Daddy, I'm afraid. Do you see this water underneath us? And the father said, Boy, give me your hand. Then he was not afraid any longer but in the evening he had to go again over the bridge and now it was pitch dark.

He said, Daddy, I'm more scared than this morning. And then the father took the little boy in his arms and immediately the boy fell asleep and awakened in his own little bed. That is surrender to the Lord Jesus.

And that is what the Holy Spirit teaches us how, that we are safe in Jesus' hands. When I was in prison, when my sister died and 95,000 women were killed or died, I experienced the same. What Paul has written to the Philippians, when he was in a terrible prison, the Holy Spirit had pointed him to Jesus and he did with me and I can say with him what he wrote in the text, I count everything as loss compared with the priceless privilege, I read it from the Amplified New Testament, the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth and the supreme advantage of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord and of progressively more intimately getting acquainted with Him.

That happened when I was in a terrible prison. That can happen with you when you let the Holy Spirit turn your eyes more and more to the Lord Jesus, even when we are perhaps entering now a time of very great darkness and suffering over the world. The world is very sick, very ill.

Who is it that overcomes the world? He who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. And I am sure that all of us believe that Jesus is the Son of God. That means that you and I, that we all have to overcome a world and that is hope for the world, the best is yet to be.

Jesus is coming and He has said, I will make everything new and then this world, yes, this sick, ill world will be covered with the knowledge of God like the waters cover the bottom of the sea. What a joy to know from the word of God that God has no problems, only plans. There is never a panic in heaven.

And we have to be right with God and we know it, that is because of the finished work of Jesus at the cross. And we have to be right with men also because of Jesus' presence, the love of God He will bring into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who is given to us, Romans 5, 5. I love the Germans. There is not a country where I work with such a great joy.

And my greatest friends live in that country. But sometimes I find people who have been cruel to me in the concentration camp. Once I saw a lady in the meeting and suddenly I thought, that woman was the nurse who was so cruel to my dying sister.

And there came hatred and bitterness in my heart. But when I felt that there was hatred and bitterness in my heart, I knew I have not forgiven her. And I know, and you know, that Jesus has said, you can read it in Matthew 5, If you do not forgive those who have sinned against you, my heavenly Father will not forgive you your sins.

But I said, Oh Lord, I cannot, I am not able. And suddenly I saw it. I cashed the check of Romans 5, 5. I said, Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have brought into my heart God's love through the Holy Spirit who is given to me.

And thank you, Father, that your love in me is stronger than my bitterness and hatred. And I could go to that nurse and I could shake hands with her. And I had the joy to be used by the Lord to bring her to this decision for the Lord Jesus.

What a joy! It is so good to know that it is not a trying and trying heart. John Bunyan made a very good little poem, Run, John, run, the law commands. But gives us neither feet nor hands.

Far better news the gospel brings. Abids us fly and gives us wings. Isn't that good? I love that.

When the Lord says, Love your enemies, He gives you the love that He demands from you. There is an ocean of God's love. And that love is available for you.

And that can make that we love our enemies and that we really become mashed potatoes. Hallelujah! One of the most cruel things I have suffered was when in the concentration camp we had to stand naked. They stripped us of all our clothing.

And I said to Betsy, my sister, I cannot bear this. This is so terrible. But it was suddenly as if I saw Jesus at the cross.

It was the Holy Spirit who turned my eyes to Jesus. And the Bible tells that they hanged him naked. They stripped him of all his garments.

And he hanged there for me. And by my suffering I could understand the friction of the suffering of Jesus. And it made me so happy, so thankful that I could bear my suffering.

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul, my all. The Holy Spirit will turn your eyes to Jesus. Whatever happens.

And then we are ready. We are even willing and we are able to suffer. Emmet Carmichael has written, We have a starred captain, should not we have stars? Under his mighty banish we have gone to the wars.

Lest we forget, Lord, when we meet, show us your hands and feet. And may the love, mercy, and power of Jesus Christ be multiplied to you during this time of titanic spiritual warfare. The Lord wins and is able to hold us up and cause us to triumph in all situations that we may have to face.

Hallelujah. Jesus was victor, he is victor, and he will be victor. Amen.

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