

## **Ephesians 6:10**

**10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the **power** of his might.

### **Overview of Series**

#### **Part 1 - Connected to God.**

Being connected to God is like being connected to a power source. When you plug in an appliance, a lamp or any electronic device, it is able to function properly, operate and be used all because it's **connected** to a **power source**.

The same thing happens when we connect to God. It's like connecting to a power source. We are able to function properly as Christians, operate in the Spirit, and be used by God.

It's no wonder that Paul said:

#### **Acts 17:28a**

For in him we live, and move, and have our being:

Paul was saying, when we get **CONNECTED** to God, our lives function properly. He is our power source!

#### **Part 2 - Connected to the body.**

Being connected to the body of Christ is like being connected to a network. A lot of you have computers and/or devices that can access the internet, and we all know the frustration of not being able to connect to a network. The functionality of your device is severely limited because it's not connected. When you are finally able to connect to the internet suddenly all kinds of possibilities open up. You are able to communicate with other people, you have access to a wealth of information, your device stays updated, etc.

It is much the same when we get connected to the Body of Christ through a local church or youth group. When you get connected to the Body of Christ, it's like being connected to a network. We can share things with one another, we can strengthen one another, we have access to a wealth of wisdom from our elders, and we keep "updated" spiritually and hear what the Spirit is saying.

It takes being connected to both God and the body to be a successful Christian.

There is no such thing as a lone ranger Christian!

Some people have a connection with God but they aren't faithful to a local church and that's not good enough.

### **Hebrews 10:25**

**25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

On the other side you have people who attend church and come to youth service and they are faithful to the house of God but they don't have a personal relationship with God. They don't pray, read the Word, worship, fast, etc. and that's not good enough either.

You need to be connected to both: God *and* the body of Christ.

### **Part 3 - Don't get disconnected.**

Because he knows the importance of you being connected, the devil tries with all his power and might to get you **disconnected**. The devil is smart and knows he doesn't need to disconnect you from both, just one or the other.

There are people who are faithful to every single church service and event, they support their pastors and they pay their tithes and that's wonderful and necessary! But some of these same people don't connect to God **for themselves**, and the devil doesn't care how faithful you are to a building and how connected you are to the body if you aren't connected to God.

Inversely we have a group of people who have wonderful connections to God but not to His church. They fast and pray often, they read the Word every day, they have times of devotion and worship but these same people have no desire to go to church service. They feel that they can be a Christian without being faithful to the house of God and they couldn't be more wrong. The devil doesn't care how much you pray and fast if you don't go to church. In fact, the enemy will even allow these people to have pseudo-spiritual experiences so they feel confident as a Christian. It's deception. He knows they aren't connected to the body of Christ so it doesn't matter.

It takes **both**: Connected to God and the body.

### **Connected to God**

Through His Word, God let's us know His nature, and one thing God reveals about Himself is that He is Omnipotent.

Omni means all and potent means powerful.

God has all power!

### **Matthew 28:18**

**18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

### **Psalm 147:5**

**5** Great is our Lord, and of great **power**: his understanding is infinite.

### **Job 26:14**

**14** Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but **the thunder of his power** who can understand?

And because God has all power, he can do anything!

### **Matthew 19:26**

**26** But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

God has all power and He can do anything!

### **History of Electricity**

For many centuries, electricity marveled mankind but was never understood. People would recognize it but could never grasp its properties. They would notice that when they rubbed certain things together or pulled a wool garment over their heads too fast that they would be shocked, which we now know as static electricity. They would sit under stormy, lightning-filled skies and be mesmerized by the bright streaks but still be confused. Electricity would remain little more than an intellectual curiosity until the early 1600's. It was then that a man named William Gilbert conducted a careful study of electricity and magnetism. He would create static electricity and magnetic currents by rubbing pieces of amber together. It was Gilbert who coined the New Latin word "electricus" which means "of amber" or "like amber" which is where we get our words electric and electricity today.

Electricity was still quite an obscure concept for the next 100 years until a man by the name of Benjamin Franklin came along and began conducting extensive research in electricity. He cared so much for his work that he even sold all of his possessions to fund it. It was Benjamin Franklin, in June of 1752, who conducted the iconic experiment of flying a kite with a metal key attached to it, all of which was attached to a primitive battery.

Franklin's research inspired many other experimenters and inventors to try to fully understand and harness electricity's incredible power. Men like Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla were at the forefront of electrical discovery and invention and were both responsible in part for the commercialization of electricity.

Fast forward to today and electricity is in almost every building we see. It's in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, even in the youth chapel here tonight. It powers our lights, televisions, refrigerators, telephones, washers & dryers, computers and in part our transportation. It has impacted almost every facet of human life in our modern-day society and without it we couldn't function normally.

We have become so dependent on electricity and if it were to go out for an extended period of time or indefinitely our infrastructure would crumble. Imagine life without it. Stores and supermarkets, as they exist today, wouldn't be able to open their doors because delivery trucks wouldn't be able to run. Even if they did stay open, they wouldn't have any coolers, making it nearly impossible to sell any frozen, dairy, or meat products. The world would once again become large as many forms of travel would be gone. The fastest form of travel would be a train or if you couldn't access one, a horse. Everyone would have their own garden and would trade within their neighborhood, and the sense of community would once again become strong. The focus wouldn't be on climbing the corporate ladder and making money, it would be on feeding your family, accumulating livestock and land for farming and just staying alive!

The list could go on but the point is that life would be changed drastically without power.

Thankfully we probably won't ever have to deal with indefinite power outages, but once in a while we do have the power go out for a short period of time. Most of my personal experiences with power outages have been positive ones. We get out candles, there's no TV or computers, and we just talk or play games. However, there are some negative effects that come due to power loss.

They have conducted some research and they have found something rather interesting. The longer the power stays out, the higher the death toll climbs. People always lose their lives during power outages and this is due to various reasons:

- Heat or air conditioning going out.
- Pharmacies closed; people not getting prescriptions.
- Hospitals at limited functionality; emergency room backing up.
- Accidents due to unlit traffic lights and no street lights.
- Elderly people getting stuck in high rise apartments.

When the power goes out, the death toll goes up.

The same is true in our spiritual lives.

When the power goes out, the byproduct of that is deadness. When you get disconnected from God for extended periods of time, the result of that is deadness.

There are so many church-going Christians in our world today who have little to no connection with God and inside they are dead. Their passion is dead. Their praise is dead. Their involvement is dead. Their witness is dead. And the reason there is so much deadness is because they are disconnected from their power source.

When I see a person who:

- Doesn't worship - it's not a worship problem, it's a connection problem.
- Is more passionate about things in the world - it's not a passion problem, it's a connection problem.
- Doesn't witness - It's not a witnessing problem, it's a connection problem.

We preach lots of sermons about praise, witnessing, and being on fire for God but most of the time it's not about those things, those are just surface issues of a deeper problem. The real problem is that at the core we are disconnected from God.

It takes a daily connection to God to be filled up with His power.

Cell phone analogy.

I charge my phone everyday so that I never lose my charge. The days that I forget to charge it, I go around with half a charge at best and I use it sparingly.

When you don't connect to God everyday, you walk around half charged up and you tend to do spiritual things sparingly.

We need to stay connected to God if we want to stay charged up.

You want to know why the apostles were able to see the miracles and people saved in droves? Because they stayed connected to God.

### **Acts 2:42**

**42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

They stayed connected to the Word (apostles' doctrine), the Body (fellowship, breaking of bread), and God (prayers). And because they stayed connected, things happened!

If you just casually read through the book of Acts, you read of incredible things.

### **Miracles**

### **Acts 5:14-16**

**14** And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

**15** Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

**16** There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

The apostles were able to do and see great and many miracles not because they were great, but because they were connected to a great and powerful God!

They would lay hands on the sick and it's like electricity would flow through them.

### **Witness**

Philip went down to Samaria to preach the gospel.

### **Acts 8:6**

**6** And the people with one accord **gave heed unto those things which Philip spake**, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

The people sensed something different about Philip and they listened to what he had to say.

### **Acts 13:44**

**44** And the next sabbath day came **almost the whole city together** to hear the word of God.

Almost everybody in town came together because there was something different about those men and the God they served. They were connected!

### **Praise**

### **Acts 16:25-26**

**25** And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

**26** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

We use that verse and preach about praise a lot, but notice what they did before they praised. They prayed.

They took the time to connect to God, and I believe it empowered their praise.

If your praise doesn't seem to shake things in your life, maybe your connection is bad. We must get connected to God. He is our **power source!**

Someone once wisely said "Little prayer, little power. Some prayer, some power. Much prayer, much power.

If you want the power of God flowing through you everyday, you have to be connected.

**How do I connect? Pray and read the Bible everyday.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17-19**

**17** Pray without ceasing.

**18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**19** Quench not the Spirit.

**Hebrews 4:12**

**12** For the word of God is **quick** (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.