



STUDY GUIDE

Plug into Power: Your Desperation Is God's Opportunity

"And you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8)

I. Power Encounters with God Have Changed My Life!

Does God still invade peoples' lives with the supernatural today? What happens when God gets hold of a person? How is a person's life changed by a heavenly power encounter? Certainly, as Scripture shows, nothing is ever the same again! Here are a few examples from my own personal journey of how God can empower you, even in times of weakness, to equip you to push back the enemy forces coming against you.

A. My Blind Bartimaeus Type Power Encounter

I reference this as my own personal Blind Bartimaeus type encounter as recorded in Mark 10:46–52. This is when I learned, "The depth of hungry was the length of my reach to God." While still living in Kansas City, I heard that Rodney Howard-Browne, revivalist from South Africa, was ministering in Saint Louis, MO. At the last moment, I drove over to the special meetings. While there, I saw a raw tangible anointing resting upon a man of God. I began crying out like blind Bartimaeus of old, *"Over here, right now!"*

Eventually the man of God made it my way as I sat on the aisle seat, a long way from where he was standing at the front ministering. He said nothing, but laid his hand upon me, and an electric presence flooded my being and I fell into a trance for about 20 minutes. I was caught up into the presence of God

and this is when the voice of the Holy Spirit came to me, commissioning me to write. Up to that point in time, I had only composed one article for one magazine. Today, if you have read even one of my 40-plus-some books, it is a result of a depth of hunger that reached out to God to receive an impartation. Yes, power encounters have changed my life. And as a result, they have impacted yours as well!

B. A Personal Divine Appointment in Wales

I was commissioned by God in a dream to redig the wells of “Crisis Intervention through Intercession” and to go to the Swansea Bible College in Wales for these purposes. I knew no one there, and I told God He would have to open the doors. And open the doors He did!

I was invited to meet with Samuel Howells, son of Rees Howells, of the Swansea Bible College of Wales. It was there while visiting the historic “blue room” where the prayers of intervention had been offered up before that I had an unusual divine appointment that exceeded my expectations. After much persistence and inquiry of the key to the authority his father had in prayer during World War II, Samuel Howells then told me the key, “*The Lord’s servant was possessed by God!*” As I knelt in humility, he then proceeded to lay hands upon me and pronounced the mantle of his father, Rees Howell the intercessor, upon my life. It was a defining moment and a day that marked my life forever.

C. A Needed Heavenly Visitation

It was a time when I was quite weak physically and seemed to be fading away. Three organs had already shut down and my kidneys were half shut down. As I laid there in utter weakness, I suddenly found myself in heaven. I saw my parents holding hands, looking at me with eyes of love, care, and compassion. They seemed so young, vibrant, and full of life. Then over to the left-hand side, I saw Michal Ann Willard Goll, my late wife, dressed in an emerald green dress like the one I had bought her on her 29th birthday. She was gorgeous and radiating the presence of God.

Next thing I knew, Michal Ann had slipped through the translucent veil and was standing in my bedroom, but I was still in heaven. I heard these words spoken to me. *“You must stay on this earthly side. Your job on this side is not yet complete. Your assignment is not yet complete. You must stay on this side.”* Then Michal Ann flew away, and I found myself soaring through time, space, and the heavens, and my spirit man hit my body lying there in my bed. I was left pondering, *“My job is not yet complete. I must remain here. My assignment is not yet complete.”*

D. From the Passionate Words of Michal Ann Goll

“Do you long for a genuine “God encounter” in your life? Do you wonder whether or not such experiences still happen today? Do you wonder whether it could happen to you? Then take heart! God encounters do happen, and not just to “super-Christians.” They also happen to ordinary people. How do I know? Because God encounters have happened to me and to my husband, Jim (as I fondly refer to him), and we are ordinary folks raised in the rural USA. Believe me, if God encounters can happen to us, then they can happen to you. Cry out to Him and make yourself available to Him; He will not ignore you.

“One word of caution, however: A God encounter changes everyone it touches. Once you receive the fire of God’s visitation in your life, then you too will be forever changed. Let the presence of the Holy Spirit flood your being just as He has graciously impacted the Goll household.”

II. Defining Moments: Power Encounters of Others

The annals of history demonstrate that one heavenly God encounter can forever transform the course of a person’s life. At times we refer to these as “Defining Moments.” The following is a sampling of how power encounters changed the lives of many ordinary believers to become some of our “Heroes and Heroines of the Faith.”

A. An Overview of Transformed Lives

1. Jacob's encounter with the living God—in a dream in the wilderness at Bethel—changed him from a deceiving schemer and trickster into Israel, “prince of God,” and father of a nation of the people of God.
2. Moses' encounter with the living God—in a burning bush—changed him from a stuttering backcountry shepherd into a bold leader and deliverer of a nation who could confront the Pharaoh of Egypt, the world's most powerful leader.
3. Deborah's encounter with the fierceness of God changed a respectable judge into the deliverer of a nation who rendered courageous counsel to those in authority and vanquished the enemy's army.
4. Saul's encounter with the risen Christ—in a vision on the road to Damascus—transformed him from a fire-breathing persecutor of the Church into Paul, a fire-igniting apostle and evangelist who carried the gospel of Christ throughout the Roman Empire.
5. Augustine's encounter with God—through a voice that said, “Take and read, take and read”—led him to Romans 13:11–14. That passage changed him instantly from a doubting skeptic into a confirmed believer in Christ, and bequeathed to the Church one of its greatest theologians and thinkers.
6. Joan of Arc's encounters of visionary guidance from the Lord changed the life of an uneducated peasant girl into that of a renowned counselor, strategist, military leader, and consecrated martyr for the purposes of God and France in her generation.
7. Bertha Smith's encounter with the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the healing presence of God catapulted an obscure Baptist missionary into a preacher of historic revival in China.
8. Dwight L. Moody's encounter with the calling God—during a prayer meeting in a hay field—changed him from a poorly educated, unconfident shoe salesman into one of the greatest evangelists of modern times. He preached revivals across England and the United States where tens of thousands came to know Christ as Savior.
9. Kathryn Kuhlman's encounter with the relentless love of God changed an ordinary, red-headed country girl into a world-impacting, miracle-working minister—all for the glory of God.
10. Billy Graham had an encounter with the Holy Spirit's empowering presence—over 70 years ago, in a hotel room in Los Angeles, California—

and was thus transformed into one of the Church's all-time great evangelists who ushered hundreds of thousands of souls into the Kingdom of God.

B. From the Life of John Wesley

The Aldersgate Experience—A Heart Burning Warmly Within

"I put myself wholly into Thy hands: Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for Thee, or laid aside for Thee, exalted for Thee or trodden for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily resign all to Thy pleasure and disposal."

C. From the Life of Charles Finney

Conversion in the Woods—A Baptism on Liquid Love

"As I closed the door and turned around, my heart seemed to be liquid within me. All my feelings seemed to rise and low out; and the utterance of my heart was, 'I want to pour my whole soul out to God.'"

D. From the Life of Smith-Wigglesworth

The Fire Falls—A Double Portion Anointing

"Fear looks; faith jumps. If I leave you as I found you, I am not God's channel. I am not here to entertain you, but to get you to the place where you can laugh at the impossible, to believe and to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

E. From the Life of John G. Lake

The Electric Spirit-Baptism Encounter

"By the end of the year, I believe I was the hungriest man for God that ever

lived. ... It was the yearning passion of my soul, asking for God in a greater measure than I knew. ... My soul demanding a greater entrance into God, His love, presence, and power.”

F. From the Life of Heidi Baker

The Always Enough Vision at a Point of Utter Dryness

“Anyone who discovers who He is would give everything. He’s the pearl of great price, He’s the lover of our souls. ... Once you see Him, you give anything.”

G. From the Life of Randy Clark

Impartation that Led to Greater Hunger

“The impartation experience that I am speaking about is not just receiving a ‘blessing’ from God. Neither is it a matter of being strengthened by the Holy Spirit of an angel of God; it is way more than that. There is a destiny connected with the ‘impartation.’”

III. How You Can Plug into God’s Power Source

A. From the Life of Elisha, As Found in 2 Kings 4:1–7

“The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, ‘Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.’ Elisha replied to her, ‘How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?’ ‘Your servant has nothing there at all,’ she said, ‘except a small jar of olive oil.’ Elisha said, ‘Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.’

“She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son,

'Bring me another one.' But he replied, 'There is not a jar left.' Then the oil stopped flowing. She went and told the man of God, and he said, 'Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.'"

1. Invest in the next generation.
2. Bring whatever you have.
3. Get empty vessels, and not a few.
4. Shut the door behind you.
5. Pour out the oil you have.
6. Set each one apart.
7. Obey when you do not understand.
8. The flow stops when the need is met.
9. Don't keep the anointing only in the house.
10. God will remember you, not just your assignment.

B. From the Life of Randy Clark as in Lighting Fires

Remember that it is out of relationship that a powerful new move of God is born. As He continues to shape and perfect your relationship with Him, He will increase accordingly the anointing He has placed upon your life. I would like to provide the following guidelines as encouragement to those of you who wish to be used of God:

1. Cultivate an attitude of humility.
2. Pursue unity within the Body of Christ.
3. Develop a secret prayer life with God.
4. Become grounded in His Word.
5. Pay attention to the promptings of your heart.
6. Fast and pray.
7. Visit those places and people where, and in whom, God is pouring out His Spirit in an unusual manner.
8. Have the patience necessary to wait for the fulfillment of prophetic words with which your spirit bears witness.
9. Accept the sovereignty of God.

IV. By This We Overcome

A. By “It Is Written!”

To push back darkness, we must do it the way Jesus did, “*It is written!*” Part of the full armor of God is taking up the two-edged sword of the Spirit, which is also the (spoken) Word of God. We must know the scriptures and have our heart and soul filled with the Word of God, and out of the abundance of the heart will flow the issues of life!

Revelation 12:11 declares, “*And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when with death.*” This is how we overcome! We overcome by testifying what the blood of Jesus has already accomplished for us!

B. By Prayers and Proclamations

I was taught the following biblical proclamation about the power of Christ’s blood, **By This We Overcome**, by Derek Prince, many years ago. Pray it for yourself and for others:

1. Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil.
2. Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven.
3. The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, continually cleanses me from all sin.
4. Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous, just-as-if-I’d-never-sinned.
5. Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God.
6. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed by the blood of Jesus.
7. Satan has no place in me, no power over me, through the blood of Jesus!

C. By Personal Power Encounters with the Holy Spirit

I was given a startling visitation where in a vision, I was sitting at a family picnic table on a hill. Suddenly, Michal Ann comes and sits opposite of me and is shining brightly in the glory realm of God. She pierces me with her eyes as

she looked deep into my soul and declared three times, “*You are to terrorize the devil. You must terrorize the devil! You are called to terrorize the devil for the next twenty years!*”

Yes, by this we overcome!

V. Your Prayer for the Holy Spirit’s Power

My prayer for you today from the closing chapter of **God Encounters Today** by James W. Goll with Michael Ann Goll:

Father God, I present myself to You. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your great and only Son. I come to present myself, my family, and my future to You. I need You more than I have ever needed You before! Come, Holy Spirit! Come and invade my unholy comfort zones with the love of God. Change me. Shape me. Drive fear and unbelief out of me. Consume me with the fire of Your holy Presence. I welcome Your ambassadors—the angels of the Lord—to do Your bidding.

Take control of my life. Bring me close encounters of a heavenly kind. Release the prophetic power of the supernatural to change my life. I ask for life-changing encounters, Lord, as I seek You first, Your Kingdom, and Your righteousness, for Your holy name’s sake!

Amen and amen.

