

POWER: ACCESSING GOD'S POWER

Scriptures used: [Mark 5:27-29 \(NLT\)](#), [Mark 14:32:36 \(MSG\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon gave an incredible sermon about the power of prayer. God can immediately move in our lives, as He did by healing the woman in this week's Bible passage. Sometimes God works by redirecting us. Many years ago, Pastor Hurmon's mother-in-law almost moved her family into a home. The landlord broke the agreement, forcing the family to relocate at the last minute. They later learned that the house burned down! Sometimes God works more slowly than we want. Many years ago, Pastor Hurmon asked for support from a prominent Bay Area church to support his ministry in Boston. That Bay Area church was unable to help, because it had committed to assisting another small local church. 14 years later, that local church had grown and called Pastor Hurmon to the Bay Area, and out of that church, NBCC was founded. As we celebrate our 10-year anniversary, our own origin story highlights the surprising nature of God's power and the many ways it can bless us.

KEY POINTS

- 1. We have to "press through the crowd" to receive our blessings from God.** We learn this from the story of the woman who suffered from constant bleeding for twelve years. She had tried everything and her condition only got worse. Her belief in Jesus by itself was not enough. She had to push past many other people to touch his robe, then her healing was immediate. We are all in need of some kind of healing. It doesn't matter if it is physical, emotion, social, or financial. This same power is available to us!
- 2. God won't always say "yes" to our prayers.** There is a chance God's answer will be "no" but that is never the end of the story. Consider Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as described in [Mark 14:32-36 \(MSG\)](#). He was in "a pit of suffocating darkness" and asked His disciples to stay with Him. Jesus prayed to God to be spared His crucifixion.
 - a. We might pray for something that's not good for us.** It is not always obvious what to do in a situation. We may think we know what's best for us, but we rarely see the whole picture. God has bigger and better plans for us than we can imagine. We need faith in Him to avoid harmful or unhealthy situations.
 - b. We might receive an unfolding "yes" that seems to be a "no."** Sometimes the answer to our prayer takes much longer than we want. The change may begin immediately when we access God's power, or it may take months, years, or even decades to manifest in our lives.
 - c. We might receive a mysterious "no."** This is the hardest situation for any Jesus follower. We are tempted to despair when something we want so badly is denied to us and we never know the reason why. In these cases we must remember all the times God has said "yes" to us. We cannot allow what we don't understand about God to lead us to doubt what we already know about God!
- 3. Whatever God's answer, we will receive His strength.** Jesus ended His prayer in Gethsemane by asking God "what do *you* want?" His prayer didn't remove His doubt but it did give Him the strength to do what needed to be done. A few moments later, Jesus acted like a completely different person. When Judas arrives in [Mark 14:42 \(MSG\)](#), Jesus simply says "Get up. Let's get going. My betrayer has arrived." He clearly had the strength to fulfill His role in God's plan, and God redeemed the world through His sacrificial love expressed through Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - God's power is immediate. There is no need to wait between our prayer and the results. Unfortunately, sometimes that is not how we experience God's power. We do not always know how or why something happens the way it does. Jesus showed us the way to handle these difficult moments: take your doubts to God in prayer and then let Him strengthen you! What is your prayer in this season?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - God does not always say "yes" when we petition Him through prayer. Where is one area of your life where you feel like God is saying "no"? What might be the reason for God's answer? What are the times you can remember where God has blessed you by saying "yes"?
- 3) DO** - Come join us for NBCC's Mothers Day Celebration next Sunday, May 12th ([information here](#)). Bring your mother or a mother figure in your life so we can honor and celebrate them for all the wonderful blessings they unleash in our lives!