

A large, glowing lightbulb is the central focus, containing a detailed cityscape at night. The city lights are visible through the glass of the bulb. Overlaid on the scene is a digital grid of blue dots and lines, with several circular icons (a location pin, a mail envelope, a power button, and a crossed-out power button) scattered around. The text 'EXERCISING POWER IN THE MARKETPLACE' is centered over the lightbulb.

EXERCISING
POWER
IN THE MARKETPLACE

“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”
Deuteronomy 8:18

There are many books, theories, seminars, etc. on power and exercising in order to achieve dominance in the marketplace. While many of these may have some value, a number are largely focused on people being the ones fully responsible for driving the process of wealth creation. This is why we hear statements where people either describe themselves or are described as “self-made”.

The Bible has a different perspective on wealth creation and sustenance as the focus is taken away from self alone and recognises God as the One who gives us the power to get wealth. This doesn't in any way suggest believers shouldn't work hard, have structures, acquire skills, knowledge, etc. However, the focus is on understanding that God alone provide the power that generates results beyond what a person can achieve purely in his/her own capacity.

This means it's important to understand what this power looks like in real terms so we can partner with the Holy Spirit and recognise it when it's in action. This series we are focusing on four categories of power, trusting that the Holy Spirit will give us a working understanding of what this looks like and how to access and work with it as God designed.

Day 1

Power Source

“God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.” Psalms 62:11

Before we delve into power in the marketplace, today we’re exploring 5 main categories of power that people covet: military/political, social, economic, psychological and spiritual. People have gone, are going and will continue to go to great lengths to acquire at least one of these categories depending on what their main ambition is. The underlying objective for the acquisition of power is to control and influence people, things, situations to achieve a desired advantage. Regardless, the Bible tells us that all these categories and more belong to God.

If indeed we believe that power belongs to God, then we must also understand that He can give it to whomever He pleases. Unfortunately, some of the beings (human and spiritual) God allotted some power corrupted what was given to them and abused their use of power in the areas mentioned above.

“Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” Matthew 28:18

“Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4

“...the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” 1 John 4:4

When we look at the world around us, it often may not look like God is in charge, if anything many people (even believers) fear Satan more than God. The only reason Satan functions as the god of this world is because he deceitfully took the power that Adam was meant to function in. But by His death and resurrection Jesus took the power back. However, it’s only those who belong to Jesus that are no longer subject to the power of Satan. This is why the devil fights conversion from his kingdom to that of God through salvation, and also fights revelation because he doesn’t want believers to know that those in Christ are actually more powerful than him. As we go through this series over the coming days, let’s do so knowing that we who have been bought by the blood of Jesus have access to all His power.

Prayer: Lord thank You for the gift of salvation and the power You have given me. Help me to face each day knowing that I am already victorious through Jesus.

Day 2

Social Power

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” Luke 2:52

People are a critical part of life - be it as an entrepreneur or career professional. From a business perspective, people are needed to consistently patronise our product/service for our business to prosper. From a career perspective, we have to work with people in teams, hierarchies etc for our careers to thrive. This is where social power comes into play and one element of this power is favour.

People are influenced by other people for good or for bad. This is why companies seek out “influencers” to help push their brand’s acceptability in the marketplace as a critical tool for their business to succeed. This is also why people climbing the career ladder actively seek out promoters, godfathers and sponsors to help push them to the next level. While there may be merit to this approach, it’s possible to have the best strategy and still not experience business or career growth if a critical element called favour is missing.

“... And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.” Esther 2:15

“Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.” Daniel 1:9

When favour is present, there is a supernatural force in operation that compels people to act in a manner that will be to your advantage, regardless of how they may feel about you. In Esther’s case everyone who saw her favoured her, which means it’s possible for everyone who sees our product/service/output to favour us without us having to lobby. For Daniel those in positions of authority consistently favoured him even in the face of the schemes of his jealous colleagues. Which tells us that there’s no conspiracy that can take us out when favour is speaking for us.

“Awake, north wind! Rise up, south wind! Blow on my garden and spread its fragrance all around. Come into your garden, my love; taste its finest fruits.” Song of Songs 4:16

When the force of favour goes into operation on our behalf, it creates an “aroma” around us that draws people who have been designated to favour us to do so, whether they know us or not.

Prayer: Lord let the power of Your favour go into operation on my behalf. Cause the aroma around me to be that of a field that the Lord has blessed.



Day 3

God Orchestrated Network

“From the half-tribe of Manasseh west of the Jordan, 18,000 men were designated by name to help David become king.” 1 Chronicles 12:31

It's often said in popular culture that your network is your net worth, which alludes to the fact that the people we are connected to brings some level of power. This is why a lot of people put in effort to be seen at the right places with the right people and to get who they feel is important as part of their network.

People are indeed important and both the kingdoms of light and darkness recognise this. However, in God's kingdom the real power doesn't come from social interactions alone but a divine connection to the people God has assigned to us for the purpose of fulfilling our assignment in the marketplace. We don't need everybody, just the people God sends to us. David's life illustrates this clearly.

“One of the servants said to Saul, “One of Jesse's sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him.” So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, “Send me your son David, the shepherd.” 1 Samuel 16:18-19

Though a lowly shepherd boy, God sent Samuel to anoint him as king and orchestrated David's recruitment into Saul's household so he would have proximity to the king. When David was on the run the Lord sent him men who were appeared to be miscreants but whom David transformed to mighty warriors. When it was time to rule over Israel, there were men designated by name to help him. More importantly he partnered with God in working with the people he was sent. No amount of social climbing or networking would have helped David achieve all this on his own. Imagine if he'd despised the men that eventually became his mighty men? Or if he treated people shabbily and so people resisted helping him? God will always do His part but we must also do ours.

Prayer: Lord thank You for the gift of people who You've already designated by name to help me increase in the marketplace. I ask for the grace to discern them and not lean on my own understanding. I also ask for the grace to partner with Your to understand how to work with people so I don't frustrate Your agenda for my growth.

Day 4 The Power Pathway

“A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great.” Acts 8:9

“...a Jewish sorcerer, a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. He had attached himself to the governor, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man...” Acts 13:6-7

History and even our daily experiences show the great extent people are willing to go in the pursuit of fame and fortune as a means of being recognised as forces to be reckoned with in the marketplace. In the verse above we see two separate men who used witchcraft to gain prominence in their cities for some time. But when true power showed up as the apostles preached the gospel and demonstrated the power of the Holy Ghost, their false power had to take a backseat.

“For the love of money [that is, the greedy desire for it and the willingness to gain it unethically] is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves [through and through] with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:10 AMP

“The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.” Proverbs 4:18

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].” Matthew 6:24 AMP

God does not have a problem with either fame or fortune, the problem is if we start making idols out of them and putting them above Him. When we acknowledge the Lord as the source of all that we have or will ever need, it shifts our focus from ourselves to Him, finding out what matters to Him and how to please Him.

“Because I love him and treasure him, my faithfulness will always protect him. I will place my great favor upon him, and I will cause his power and fame to increase.” Psalms 89:24 TPT

When pleasing God becomes our main priority, everything else falls into alignment. Not everyone is designed for global or national fame, but we are all called arise to shine our light wherever we are and God will magnify us and our output where He’s placed us as we point people back to Him.

Prayer: Lord give me a revelation of You as the source of everything I’ll ever require. Help me to prioritise and magnify You wherever I function today as I trust that You will make my path shine ever brighter as I do

Day 5

Above Always

'If you listen to these commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom.' Deuteronomy 28:13

God is a generous rewarder and the only one who has a clearly defined, well thought out reward and recognitions strategy for our lives from birth to death and beyond. Because we're operating from a limited perspective, we ascribe more importance than deserved to our jobs/businesses and the benefits we believe we're getting from them. So, we end up pursuing the things that should be pursuing us.

'Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.' Psalms 23:6

God's system defines what, where, how and why we should be doing whatever is required of us at the time. He takes us from stage to stage, giving us what we need and are able to handle at that stage so we don't destroy ourselves by disobeying him and creating idols in our pursuits.

'Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.' Ephesians 3:20

There is a god of this age (2 Cor 4:4) who ensures that pressures of life and the things that seem to be celebrated and elevated in the world's systems drive the impression that the world starts and ends here, making people (even believers) go to great lengths to "make it". But divine wisdom helps us place things in perspective, showing us what really matters such that we don't have to struggle for relevance if we ensure we stay connected to God and do what we have been designed and assigned to do per time. God's way doesn't negate hard work or suggest things will always be easy, but there is grace available to us on the journey as the Lord Himself lifts us and helps us to excel beyond our own expectations.

Prayer: Lord help me keep my eyes fixed on You and not the things around me. Let obeying You and walking in purpose be my priority and give me the grace to excel in the areas You've assigned me to.

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Or send us an Email: aheartofwisdom@gmail.com

©Aheartofwisdom

