



Key References:

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (ESV)

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

“By faith all things become possible to us; yet the power is not in the faith, but in the God upon whom faith relies.” - Charles Spurgeon

“We all tend to shrink our concept of who Jesus really is & what He promised to do in and through us to the size our circumstance. [...] Any God who fits the contours of me, will never really transcend me, and therefore never really be God” - JB Phillips

1 – OPERATING IN JESUS’ AUTHORITY & POWER

Read Matthew 28:18-20. **Why did Jesus include verse 18 in the great commission & why is it vital to it?**

As we’ve been thinking about being outward focused recently, can you say you’ve been operating from the truth of verse 18, or more relying on your own abilities?

Mike said: “When we try to fight spiritual battles with physical weapons, we’re in trouble”. **What did he mean?**

Later Jesus promises the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8. **What is the connection between the Holy Spirit and us becoming effective witnesses?**

2 – HOW THE ENEMY TRIES TO DISCOURAGE US

Mike reminded us that the battle between God and the enemy is not fought by two sides of equal strength like Star Wars. **Why is this important for us to be reminded of? What can we do to remind ourselves of the bigness of God on a regular basis?**

The enemy often accuses us of having a lack of faith. **Discuss the change in perspective that is given in the Charles Spurgeon quote.**

Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7. **How is power, love and self-control needed supernaturally as we witness to the world around us?**

3 – WHAT IF SYNDROME

Mike used the term “The What-If Syndrome” to describe the doubtful thoughts that come to us when we start stepping out. **What are common negative “what-ifs” that come up for you witnessing?**

What are the opposite, positive and supernatural what-ifs that we should be concentrating on instead?

Discuss the quote that Mike gave from JB Phillips.

Mike said that Colossians 1:14-20 is a scripture that always brings him back to a proper perspective of power and position of Jesus. **What in this scripture gives him that?**