

POWER FOR LIVING

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Imagine someone gives you a \$40,000 automobile. You get the title and keys. You slip behind the wheel, turn on the ignition and nothing happens. You finally discover what is wrong. Your new car has not been filled with fuel. So, you do not go anywhere until you get fueled up. The power is there but if you do not put in the fuel there will be no power and you will not be going forward.

We have given too much attention to methods, machinery, and resources, and too little attention to the source of real fuel for our Christian life. The real fuel for our Christian life is the power of the gospel and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Every Christian is to grow spiritually. The following **POWER** acrostic will help you to remember the essential needed fuel for spiritual progress.

Pray. The Christian who wants to grow, communicates with God through prayer. They express their gratitude to Him, confess their sins, and come to Him with requests for themselves and for others. God promise to be near to all who come to Him in prayer (Psalm 145:18).

Obey. In John 14, Jesus said that our obedience to His commands is an indicator of our love for Him (15,21, 23). We cannot do it in our own strength, however. That is one of the reasons He gave us the Holy Spirit (16-17). As we yield to Him, the Spirit provides the power to walk in obedience (Galatians 5:16-25).

Worship. A Christian's devotion to God is to be continuous. Privately, Christians should worship God in their thoughts and prayers (Psalm 34:1). Publicly, Christians should unite with fellow believers in a local church to bring praise to God (Psalm 111:1, Hebrews 10:24,25).

Evangelize. The good news of the gospel is to be shared. As we tell others what Christ has done for us, we will find ourselves growing by spiritual leaps and bounds (Matthew 28:19,20).

Read. The most direct source of a Christian's spiritual growth is the Bible. It must be read regularly because it is the Christian's milk and strong meat. (I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14). The Bible tells us how to live (Psalm 119:105). It is God's word to us today. There is power in the Word of God.

When a Christian ceases to grow, decay begins.

Faith does not stand around with its hands in its pockets.

Without a desire to do the right thing, all growth and power will stop.

God wants us to be victors, not victims; to soar, not to sink; to overcome, not to be overwhelmed.

What kind of fuel are you trying to get the \$40,000 vehicle started with? Does it use coal, water, air? Is it diesel powered, electrically powered, or gasoline powered? If you want to grow physically, you will naturally eat food. If you want to grow spiritually, then you need to eat and practice spiritual food. While other books inform, and some offer reforms, the Bible is one book that transforms and empowers for living as God desires.