

The Signs of Spiritual Power

How are the signs spiritual power expressed in the different contexts of our lives?
And How is God challenging us to grow in these areas?

Contexts e.g. Individual, Home/family, Marriage, Workplace, School, Church, Community

Contexts — — — —>			
LOVE (Power for the good of others) <i>How are we using our influence for the good of others?</i>			
HUMILITY (Power under control) <i>Who are you learning from?</i>			
SELF-LIMITATION (Power held back) <i>What power are deliberately not using?</i>			
JOY (Power that celebrates) <i>What are you celebrating today?</i>			
VULNERABILITY (power that admits weakness) <i>How do you make yourself vulnerable?</i>			
SUBMISSION (Power that yields to another) <i>Who speaks into your life?</i>			
FREEDOM (Power that sets people free) <i>So, how is freedom expressed in you & those you influence?</i>			

Contexts in which Power is Exercised:-

- As an **INDIVIDUAL** power is to promote self-control and not self indulgence
- In the **HOME/FAMILY** power is to nurture confidence not to force subservience
- In the **WORKPLACE** power is to facilitate competence & not promote inadequacy
- In a **SCHOOL** power is to cultivate growth not reinforce inferiority
- In a **CHURCH** power is to inspire faith not conformity
- In a **MARRIAGE** power is to enhance communication and not isolation
- In a **COMMUNITY** power is to bring about hope & life

Signs of Spiritual Power in our lives:-

1. Love (Power for the good of others)

- Power without love can be dangerous. (1 Cor 13:1-2)
- Any power or influence or authority we have has to be exercised from a place of love (& being loved), knowing our security & identity in Father God.
- Hurt people hurt people, Loved people love people

2. Humility (Power under control)

- Power without humility just looks like arrogance
- Apollos (Acts 18) was eloquent, competent in the scriptures and yet teachable
- "If you're the wisest person in the room, go & find a bigger room"

3. Self-Limitation (Power held back)

- Jesus deliberately held back his own power; In the wilderness (Matt 4:4); With the Pharisees (Matt 12:39) At his arrest (Matt 26: 53)
- Structural vs Spiritual Authority

4. Joy (Power that celebrates)

- The spontaneous praise of a lame man who had just encountered the living God (Acts 3:8)
- (Ps 16:11) *You will fill me with joy in your presence*
- Those who carry spiritual power will be found in God's presence regardless of the circumstances and will know a deep joy

5. Vulnerability (power that admits weakness)

- Jesus whole life bore the marks of vulnerability - and yet this perceived 'weakness' was ultimately the source of his greatest power
- Brene Brown: "We should learn to embrace vulnerability"
- (2 Cor 12: 9) *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

6. Submission (Power that yields to another)

- (John 5:19) *"The Son..... can do only what he sees his Father doing."*
- The incredible power in submission - to God's word, to the Spirit, to each other (Eph 5:21)

7. Freedom (Power that sets people free)

- Jesus used his power to set people free
- (Matt 12:20) *"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out"*
- Free People Free People

Love Loves - Freedom Frees - Power empowers!