

How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,
and grieved Him in the desert!

Yes, again and again they tempted God,
and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 78:40-41

God's Training Manual for His Church

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Acts

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Looking at it with new eyes.

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“But you shall receive power (*dúnamis*) when (what) the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all (*pas*) Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

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Power (*dúnamis*)

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Why were they able to live in the power they received from the Holy Spirit to the extent they were?

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Did they have a different power than we do today?

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Did they have a different power than we do today?

Or was it the same power?

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And if it was the same power and the same Spirit, why were their lives marked by this unleashed power and ours don't seem to be so much today?

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What can we learn from them?

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Also, might, virtue, mighty and a few other
miscellaneous terms.

Power (*dúnamis*)

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“And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power (*dúnamis*)
and the glory forever. Amen.”

Matthew 6:13

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“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders (*dúnamis*) in Your name?’”

Matthew 7:22

Power (*dúnamis*)

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many **wonders** (*dúnamis*) in Your name?’”

Matthew 7:22

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Moses and the sorcerers of Egypt.

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Moses and the sorcerers of Egypt.

Water turned to blood.

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Water turned to blood.

Parting of the Red Sea.

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Burning bush.

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Water from the rock.

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Water from the rock.

Manna from heaven.

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Earth swallowing Korah and his family.

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The Jordon River divided.

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The fall of Jericho.

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Jonah in the great fish.

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Healings, demons cast out, and other miracles of Jesus recorded in the gospels.

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God's practice has been to authenticate His Word (and those who proclaim His Word) with signs, wonders, and miracles only He could do.

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There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; (how) for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

John 3:1-2

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So if this is the promise, where are the results?
Where is the power (*dúnamis*) manifested today?

Power (*dúnamis*)

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Reasons we don't see miracles (*dúnamis*) today.

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In essence, miracles died out around the end of the first century when the Scripture was complete.

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Ok, but can you show me that in Scripture?

Power (*dúnamis*)

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1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Power (*dúnamis*)

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

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What is the “perfect” referred to in this passage?

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When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For (when) now we see in a mirror, dimly, but (when) then face to face. Now (what) I know in part, but then (what) I shall know just as I also am known.

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When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For (when) now we see in a mirror, dimly, but (when) then face to face. Now (what) I know in part, but then (what) I shall know just as I also am known.

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1 Corinthians 13:11-12

What time does the “then” refer to?

Power (*dúnamis*)

Is there any possible way you would think this passage was speaking of the completed canon of the New Testament unless you were taught that is what it means?

Power (*dúnamis*)

Is there any possible way you would think this passage was speaking of the completed cannon of the New Testament unless you were taught that is what it means? Which, by the way, it doesn't.

Power (*dúnamis*)

Is there any possible way you would think this passage was speaking of the completed canon of the New Testament unless you were taught that is what it means? Which, by the way, it doesn't.

Or has God chosen to have His church function at only 60% of the spiritual capacity we saw so powerfully displayed in the Acts?

1 Corinthians 12:28

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And God has appointed these (where) in the church:

first apostles,
second prophets,
third teachers,
after that miracles,
then gifts of healings,
helps,
administrations,
varieties of tongues.

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1 Corinthians 12:29-31

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Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?

Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of
healings? Do all speak with tongues?

Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts.

And yet I show you a more excellent way.

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Are all apostles? No.

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Are all apostles? No. But some are.

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Are all apostles? No. But some are.

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Are all teachers? No. Again, but some are.

Ephesians 4:11

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And He Himself gave some (not all) to be apostles,
some (not all) prophets, some (not all) evangelists,
and some (not all) pastors and teachers.

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Why did God gift His children this way?

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And He Himself gave some (not all) to be apostles,
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Why did God gift His children this way?

Or, what is the purpose of apostles, prophets,
evangelists, pastors and teachers?

Ephesians 4:12-13

Ephesians 4:12-13

for the equipping of the saints (holy ones) for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (church), till (when) we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, (described as) to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

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For what ultimate purpose?

Ephesians 4:14-15

Ephesians 4:14-15

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, (contrast) speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ—

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And what is the end result in His church?

Ephesians 4:16

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from whom the whole body (church), joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body (church) for the edifying of itself (church) in love.

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So why is this so important?

Ephesians 4:16

from whom the whole body (church), joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body (church) for the edifying of itself (church) in love.

So why is this so important?

And why are we spending so much time on it?

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Power to Do

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Power to Do

VS

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Power to Do

VS

Power to Keep You from Doing

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Limiting the Holy Spirit

The most powerful force in you is not your faith...
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For your doubt and unbelief can make void all the
Holy Spirit came to make magnanimous in you.

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Think about it...

Mark 6:1-2

Mark 6:1-2

Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him.

And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying,

“Where did this Man get these things?
And what wisdom is this which is given to Him,
that such mighty works (*dúnamis*)
are performed by His hands!”

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Mark 6:3

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Note the doubt now creeping in that is stronger than what they had just seen with their own eyes.

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“Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?”
So they were offended at Him.

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For doing what?

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For doing what? Mighty works (*dúnamis*)?

Mark 6:4

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Familiarity breeds contempt, especially regarding spiritual truths that make us feel uncomfortable.

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Limiting the Holy Spirit

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Why was Jesus not able (could do no) mighty works (*dúnamis*) in their midst?

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Why was Jesus not able (could do no) mighty works (*dúnamis*) in their midst?

What was limiting the power of God in their midst?

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Why was Jesus not able (could do no) mighty works (*dúnamis*) in their midst?

What was limiting the power of God in their midst?

What is keeping Acts 1:8 from being true in your life?

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Why was Jesus not able (could do no) mighty works (*dúnamis*) in their midst?

What was limiting the power of God in their midst?

What is keeping Acts 1:8 from being true in your life?

What is keeping you from experiencing the Higher Christian Life?

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Why was Jesus not able (could do no) mighty works (*dúnamis*) in their midst?

What was limiting the power of God in their midst?

What is keeping Acts 1:8 from being true in your life?

What is keeping you from experiencing the Higher Christian Life?

Is it God?

Limiting the Holy Spirit

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Let's look at the same account in Matthew.

Matthew 13:57-58

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So they were offended at Him.

But Jesus said to them,

“A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.”

Now He did not do many mighty works (*dúnamis*) there (why) because of their unbelief.

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“A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.”

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It was their unbelief that limited the power of God among them... and among us.

Limiting the Holy Spirit

Limiting the Holy Spirit

How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,
and grieved Him in the desert!

Yes, again and again they tempted God,
and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 78:40-41

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Is it possible to limit what God can do in our lives
by sin, disobedience, doubt, and unbelief?

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Have you been limiting what God can do in your life?

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Have you been limiting what God can do in your life?

And if so, do you see how powerful your doubt is?

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So is your doubt and sin worth what it costs you?

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So is your doubt and sin worth what it costs you?

Do you realize what you are losing for nothing?

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And do you know it may be why you are not
experiencing the Higher Christian Life.

Our God is Without Limits

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Is your God without limits?

Our God is Without Limits

Is your God without limits?

Yes or no.

Our God is Without Limits

Is your God without limits?

Yes or no.

And if yes, you have to believe that truth in order for it to be activated in your life.

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Last one...

Our God is Without Limits

Is your God without limits?

Yes or no.

And if yes, you have to believe that truth in order for it to be activated in your life.

Last one...

Do you believe the following truth is true for you?

Our God is Without Limits

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power (*dúnamis*) that works (where) in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

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Do you see the possibilities of your faith, not made void by doubt and unbelief?

