

Day 6: Pouring Out Power

The Passage: 2 Thessalonians 1:3–12

The Focus: *“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11–12)*

The Meditation: *“By his power he may bring to fruition . . . every deed prompted by faith.”*

Empowering Truths: Our faith gives God a container to fill with his power.

In our Focus Scripture today, Paul connects the dots for us. The New Living Translation renders 2 Thessalonians 1:11b: “May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.” Paul says your faith prompts you to do “good things” for God, and the only way you will accomplish them is through God’s power. We must, by faith, keep giving God something to work with, something to fill with his power.

For the New Testament church, walking in the fear of the Lord meant living in white-hot faith in the Lord (Acts 9:31). They took radical actions of faith because they believed God would act supernaturally on their behalf. Their steps of faith provided a container for God to fill.

In 2 Kings 4 the widow of a prophet is broke, and the debt collector is at the door to haul her two sons into slavery to pay her husband’s debt. Elisha comes to the rescue. The miracle, however, will require faith on the widow’s part. All she has is a small jar with a little oil in it. But Elisha commands her to gather empty jars from neighbors. It seems ridiculous to borrow empty jars when you can’t even fill the jar you have. But faith gives God a container to fill.

As the widow begins to pour out what little oil she has, it keeps flowing, and flowing, and flowing. It flows until it fills up every empty jar they can find. The miracle provides for her family, pays her debts, and probably blesses her neighbors too.

When was the last time you let your faith initiate an action that was beyond your ability to accomplish unless God intervened?

When our church made a monumental shift from addition (just growing bigger) to multiplication (giving people away to plant), it was a tough decision for our board. The turning point of those deliberations came when the chairman of the board wrote in big letters on a 3 × 5 card: “When we will dare to try something for God, that if God doesn’t show up, it will certainly fail?” Then he stuck it on the corkboard of the board room. Then we voted unanimously to daringly pursue church planting . . . by faith. Twenty-two years and thirty church plants later, that card is still posted there.

What is God calling you to that will require real faith to pursue? God’s power shows up when we begin to pour out . . . by faith

Power Truth: Our faith in God’s provision empowers us to take bold action for the kingdom.

Our Prayer: Lord, increase my faith. Forgive my self-sufficiency. Forgive me for praying like your power is not available. Empower me to take action that requires faith so that you can display your power on behalf of the mission. I pray this “so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in me.”