

# POWER AND AUTHORITY TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

## 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word, “Power”?

### My Answers

- How about, one who is in control.
- Force and energy exerted over something or someone. One who exerts dominance.
- Are we not people who are attracted to power? We live in a society where we are trained to respect power as it relates sports figures, billionaires, and politicians.

When I think of the word, power, I think of men like Tom Amert who used the abuse of power as the Milwaukee County Supervisor to milk hundreds of millions of dollars for employment pensions. Or, men like Adolf Hitler, Mussolini and Ghangu Khan who all used their power and authority to rule the known world for their time.

But I want to unpack a different kind of power that Jesus and the cross teaches us.

- This kind of power even Satan himself could not comprehend. Our opening text tells us that if he did he would have never crucified Jesus.

### **You See the Power and Authority to Destroy the Works of the Devil Is Found In “Weakness”**

Yes, I said *weakness!!!*

- A) God releases power, authority, and anointing in our lives when we practice embracing the weaknesses in our personal lives.
- B) What this looks like is intentionally showing a trusting attitude in God’s power to perform in my life when I expose my weaknesses to others I am trying to love.
- C) This means showing what it looks like to be vulnerable and transparent when loving people all the while knowing they can hurt you.
- D) It’s the only answer to confronting our private fears that keep us from freely loving people and taking a risk to reach out towards them.

I call this the True Power of God. You see, demons are confused with love operating through weakness.

### **The Definition of Power According To Corporate America:**

1. It is by controlling others.
2. It’s competitiveness at the expense of hurting others
3. It is showing your best at my less and is considered humiliation. (you never show weakness)
4. We look good at all cost.
5. You never cry in the public. (especially if you’re a man)
6. Profitability and probability is more important than people are.

7. You run relationships by your title.

You see, demons are confused with love operating through weakness.

- The human face is fearful of love operating through weakness.
- But, those of us who will passionately, through worship and prayer, seek the mystery of weakness will find the power and authority to destroy the works of the devil.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-29

<b>Love by Weakness Activates God's Power and Authority in Our Personal Lives.</b>
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Weakness drew Robert Rhodes to help me when his company held onto thousands of dollars it owed me back in September of 1982. It has been love through weakness that gives my wife and I courage to obey God in relational love for each other.

Love by weakness only works when you intentionally decide I will make myself dependent on his superior love in prayer every day.

Read Hebrews 4:13-16 (AMP)

**Key words**

- Sympathize
- Shared feeling with our weaknesses, infirmities, and our liabilities to the assaults of temptation. (He is my great high priest)
- Let us fearlessly be confident and boldly drawn near His throne. Now we can receive and operate power and destroy selfishness, delusion, and personal fears.

So now, love is perfected and we experience real strength.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9

- He is showing you what love in weakness looks like. Therefore, we will not fear taking the risk to love.

Read Hebrews 2:18

- We are warned: if we continue in the stubbornness of trying to run our lives on our terms in Hebrew 3:11-14, 19. (AMP)

True power is love through weakness

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-14

- Love through weakness activates God's power and Authority to destroy the works of the Devil.