

POWER TO REPRESENT!  
ACTS 1:1-8

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY  
RODMAN STREET CHURCH 5.24.26

# **POWERED TO REPRESENT!**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**ACTS 1:1-8**

**5.24.26**

**Title: Powered to Represent: Living as Christ's Witnesses in the World**

**Sermon Summary:** This Pentecost Sunday message emphasizes that believers are not just called to be visible but to have a clear identity in Christ as His representatives on earth. Drawing from Acts 1, we're reminded that before the disciples received power at Pentecost, they were personally chosen and spiritually enlisted by Christ himself. The sermon challenges the congregation to understand that true representation of Christ goes beyond Sunday worship and emotional experiences—it requires Holy Ghost power to reflect Christ's character in every area of life. The pastor calls the community to recognize they have been spiritually enlisted, equipped, and empowered to transform their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and the city of Pittsburgh through the power of the Holy Spirit. The message stresses that God never calls people to an assignment without providing the necessary empowerment, and that this power enables ordinary people to do extraordinary things for the Kingdom of God.

The message confronts our culture's obsession with trending, followers, and viral moments by asking a deeper question: Are we empowered to truly represent Christ in every area of our lives? We learn that representing Christ means it's about reflecting His character in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and online spaces. The Holy Spirit doesn't just give us an emotional experience; He equips us with Dunamis power—

explosive, transforming power that turns ordinary people into world-changers. Just as Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised gift, we too must recognize that we cannot fight spiritual battles in natural strength. We need the full armor of God for these hard-hitting times. This message calls us to be the hands, voice, and compassion of Christ on earth, bringing hope to hopeless places and light to dark spaces, especially in our communities where violence, brokenness, and confusion seem overwhelming.

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction: The Call to Represent Christ**

We are called to represent Christ in every area of life, not just in church, reflecting His character through our actions, words, and choices in our communities.

### **Chapter 2: Spiritually Enlisted: Chosen by God**

Before we can represent Christ properly, we must understand that God has personally chosen us for His purpose, not by accident but by divine intention.

### **Chapter 3: Spiritually Equipped: Waiting for God's Power**

God never calls us into an assignment without providing the necessary equipment and empowerment through the Holy Spirit to accomplish His purposes.

### **Chapter 4: Spiritually Empowered: Receiving Dynamite Power**

The Holy Spirit gives us explosive, miraculous, transforming power that enables us to stand under pressure and represent Christ with authority in every situation.

## **Chapter 5: Living in Power: Representing Christ Daily**

We are empowered through the Holy Spirit to represent Christ in all circumstances, experiencing His strength, healing, peace, and victory in our daily lives.

### **Key Points:**

- Everyone represents something, but this generation has mastered visibility while struggling with identity
- Pentecost was about power, not just emotional worship experiences
- To represent Christ means to reflect His character in love, integrity, humility, forgiveness, and holiness
- Believers are called to continue Christ's mission of healing, serving, teaching, and restoring dignity
- We are spiritually enlisted—chosen by God before we chose Him
- We are spiritually equipped—God never sends people into battle without proper equipment
- We are spiritually empowered—the Holy Spirit gives Dunamis (dynamite) power for extraordinary ability
- Young people are not the future of the church but the right now
- Representation of Christ must extend beyond church walls into classrooms, neighborhoods, workplaces, and social media
- The Community of Hope vision reflects Christ-centered transformation in spirit, mind, and body
- We cannot do spiritual work without being spiritual—believers must stay plugged into God

- Holy Ghost power transforms fear into boldness, weakness into strength, and ordinary people into world changers

#### Scripture Reference:

- Acts 1:1-8 (primary focus)
- Jeremiah 1:5 (before I formed you in the womb)
- Ephesians 6 (whole armor of God)
- Psalm 23 (valley of the shadow of death)
- Various references to God's promises and blessings

#### Stories:

- Muhammad Ali airplane story: When a flight attendant told Ali to put on his seatbelt, he responded "Superman don't need no seatbelt," to which she replied, "Superman don't need an airplane either"—illustrating the need for divine power beyond human ability
- Personal football testimony: The pastor shared about his youthful dreams of playing for the Steelers, joking he would have played three positions—guard, end, and tackle (guarding the water bucket, sitting on the end of the bench, and tackling anyone who tried to get some)—to illustrate the importance of having the right equipment for spiritual battles
- The transformation of Peter and the disciples: From hiding behind locked doors in fear before Pentecost to boldly preaching with authority after receiving the Holy Spirit's power

### **Scripture References from the Sermon**

#### **Explicitly Mentioned or Read:**

1. **Acts 1:1-8** - The primary text of the sermon, discussing Jesus' instructions to the disciples and the promise of the Holy Spirit
2. **Jeremiah 1:5** - "Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I already knew you"
3. **Romans 5:8** - "Yet while we were sinners, he was willing to die for us"
4. **Ephesians 6:11** - "Put on the whole armor of God"
5. **Psalms 23:4-5** - Walking through the valley of the shadow of death; table prepared before enemies; anointing with oil
6. **Psalms 30:5** - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning"
7. **Isaiah 54:17** - "The weapons formed against me shall not prosper"
8. **Deuteronomy 28:3, 6** - "Blessed in the city, blessed in the field, blessed when I come and blessed when I go"
9. **Deuteronomy 28:13** - "The head and not the tail"

**Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:**

10. **Matthew 5:14-16** - Being light in dark places (theme of being light)
11. **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** - "You may be the only Bible that someone will ever read"
12. **John 13:34-35** - Loving like Christ
13. **Matthew 25:35-40** - Feeding the hungry, serving others
14. **Luke 4:18-19** - Jesus' mission to heal, restore, and bring good news

15. **1 John 1:8-10** - "We are not sinless, we just sin less"
16. **Genesis 6-9** - Noah and the blueprint (ark)
17. **Exodus 4:2-4** - Moses and the rod
18. **1 Samuel 17** - David's courage against Goliath
19. **Acts 2:1-4** - The Day of Pentecost (implicit throughout)
20. **2 Corinthians 12:9** - God's power in weakness (theme)

### **Suggested Verses for Main Themes:**

#### **Power and the Holy Spirit:**

- **Luke 24:49** - Promise of power from on high
- **Romans 8:11** - The Spirit gives life
- **Zechariah 4:6** - "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit"

#### **Representation/Witness:**

- **Matthew 28:19-20** - The Great Commission
- **2 Corinthians 5:20** - Ambassadors for Christ
- **1 Peter 2:9** - A chosen people to declare His praises

#### **Spiritual Equipment:**

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - Scripture equips for every good work
- **Hebrews 4:12** - The Word of God is living and active

#### **QUOTES:**

- Pentecost was not just about shouting. It was not about dancing. It's not about having an emotional worship experience. Pentecost was about power.

- You may be the only Bible that someone will ever read. You may be the only church that someone may ever visit.
- God never calls people into an assignment without providing them empowerment. When God gives an assignment, God also gives you the equipment to be able to carry out the assignment.
- You cannot do spiritual work without being spiritual. Everybody has plugged into something, but are you plugged in to God?
- When the Holy Ghost comes upon you, fear will lose its grip, weakness will lose its control, and purpose will rise up on the inside of you.
- Talent will get you on the stage, but only power can keep your character together. Looks will fade, popularity will shift, trends will change, but when you got the Holy Ghost power on the inside, you can stand under pressure.
- Before you got to Rodman, God already had His hands on your life. Before you joined the ministry, God already put a purpose in your spirit. Before you ever knew His name, He knew your name.
- We are living in a generation where everybody represents something. This generation has mastered visibility, but still struggling with identity.

**POWERED TO REPRESENT!**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**ACTS 1:1-8**

**5.24.26**

## **5-Day Devotional: Powered to Represent Christ**

### **Day 1: Chosen Before You Knew Him**

**Reading:** Jeremiah 1:4-8; Ephesians 1:3-6

**Devotional:** Before you took your first breath, God had already chosen you. This isn't about your performance or qualifications—it's about His sovereign love. The disciples weren't selected because they were perfect; they were ordinary people enlisted for an extraordinary purpose. You may feel inadequate or unworthy, but God's choice isn't based on your resume. He sees potential where others see impossibility. Today, reject the lie that you're here by accident. You are spiritually enlisted with divine purpose. God knew your name, your struggles, and your destiny before you knew His. Let this truth settle deep: you were chosen while you were still lost, loved before you could love back, and called before you could answer.

### **Day 2: Equipped for Your Assignment**

**Reading:** Exodus 4:1-12; 2 Corinthians 9:8

**Devotional:** God never calls without equipping. When He commissioned Noah, Moses, David, and Jeremiah, He provided exactly what they needed. The same is true for you. Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the promised Holy Spirit—don't move until you have what you need. Too many believers fight spiritual battles with natural strength, wondering why they're defeated. You cannot do spiritual work without being spiritual. Before you step into your assignment, plug into the power source. Prayer, Scripture, worship, and the Holy Spirit aren't optional accessories—they're essential equipment. God has given you everything necessary for life and godliness. Stop saying what you can't do and start accessing what God has already provided.

### **Day 3: Empowered by the Holy Spirit**

**Reading:** Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4

**Devotional:** Pentecost wasn't about emotion—it was about empowerment. The same Peter who denied Christ three times stood boldly and preached to thousands after receiving Holy Spirit power. This Dunamis power—explosive, miraculous, transforming—turns ordinary people into world-changers. You need more than talent, education, or charisma. Those things may open doors, but only Holy Spirit power sustains character and purpose. When the Spirit comes upon you, fear loses its grip, weakness surrenders its control, and divine purpose rises within. This power enables you to resist temptation, overcome peer pressure, endure hardship, and represent Christ authentically. Don't settle for powerless Christianity. Ask God for fresh anointing today—not yesterday's power, but fresh Holy Ghost power for your current assignment.

### **Day 4: Representing Christ Everywhere**

**Reading:** Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

**Devotional:** You are Christ's ambassador—His representative in the earth. This isn't just a Sunday morning identity; it's a 24/7 calling. People should encounter Jesus' love, integrity, humility, and compassion through you. You may be the only Bible someone reads, the only sermon they hear. Representing Christ means continuing His mission: healing the broken, serving the marginalized, speaking truth, restoring dignity. It happens in classrooms, workplaces, neighborhoods, and online spaces. When you enter a room, the atmosphere should shift because Christ is represented there. This generation has mastered visibility but struggles with identity. Don't just go viral—live victorious. Don't just gain followers—follow

God. Your assignment is to reflect Christ's character so clearly that people see glimpses of Jesus when they encounter you.

## **Day 5: Building Communities of Hope**

**Reading:** Nehemiah 2:17-20; Isaiah 61:1-4

**Devotional:** God has called you to be hope in hopeless places, light in darkness, and healing in hurting communities. This requires more than good intentions—it demands Holy Spirit power. Violence is too real, brokenness too deep for powerless Christianity. But you have power to heal hurting people, restore broken families, educate children, and strengthen communities. Like Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, you're called to rebuild what's been destroyed. This isn't the future—it's right now. Young people aren't just the church of tomorrow; they're Kingdom representatives today. Whether you're mentoring, feeding the hungry, praying for the sick, or bringing justice, you're building God's Kingdom on earth. You have power to make a difference. Stop waiting for someone else. You are chosen, equipped, and empowered to represent Christ and transform your world.

## **POWERED TO REPRESENT!**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**ACTS 1:1-8**

**5.24.26**

**Small Group Guide: Powered to Represent**

**Based on Acts 1:1-8 | Pentecost Sunday**

---

## **Opening Prayer**

Begin your group time by asking God to reveal how He wants to empower each person to represent Christ more fully in their daily lives.

---

## **Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)**

**Question:** What is something or someone you proudly represent (a team, school, company, family name)? What does it mean to you to represent them well?

---

## **Key Takeaways from the Sermon**

### **1. We Are Spiritually Enlisted**

- God chose us intentionally, not randomly
- Before we found God, He was already pursuing us
- We have been selected for a specific purpose

### **2. We Are Spiritually Equipped**

- God never calls us without providing what we need
- We cannot fight spiritual battles in natural strength
- Prayer, the Word, and the Holy Spirit are our essential equipment

### **3. We Are Spiritually Empowered**

- Holy Ghost power transforms ordinary people for extraordinary purposes
- This power enables us to represent Christ in every area of life

- Power is available for strength, direction, healing, peace, and courage
- 

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding the Message (15-20 minutes)**

1. **Acts 1:8** says, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." What is the purpose of this power according to the verse?
2. The sermon stated, "This generation has mastered visibility but is still struggling with identity." What does this mean? Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. How is representing Christ different from representing a brand, team, or social media page?

### **Personal Reflection (15-20 minutes)**

4. The pastor said, "You may be the only Bible someone will ever read." What does this statement mean to you? How does it challenge you?
5. In what specific area of your life do you find it most difficult to represent Christ? (workplace, school, family, social media, neighborhood, etc.)
6. The sermon emphasized waiting for God's power before moving into action. When have you tried to do something in your own strength instead of waiting on God? What happened?

### **Application and Action (15-20 minutes)**

7. What does it look like practically to be "plugged into God" in your daily routine?

8. The pastor listed several things we need power for: to say no, resist temptation, walk away from foolishness, survive peer pressure. Which of these do you need God's power for most right now?
  9. How can we as a group help each other represent Christ better in our community?
- 

## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose ONE area where you will intentionally represent Christ differently this week:

- **At Work/School:** Demonstrate Christ's character in a difficult relationship or situation
- **At Home:** Show Christ's love and patience with family members
- **In Your Neighborhood:** Serve or encourage someone who needs hope
- **Online:** Post or share something that reflects Christ rather than just seeking likes
- **In Your Habits:** Strengthen your spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, worship)

### **Accountability Partner**

Pair up with someone in your group and share:

- The specific area where you want to represent Christ better
- One practical step you'll take this week
- How they can pray for you

Exchange contact information and check in with each other mid-week.

---

## **Group Activity Options**

### **Option 1: Spiritual Equipment Check**

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 together about the armor of God. Have each person identify:

- One piece of armor they feel strong in
- One piece they need to strengthen
- One practical way to "put on" that piece this week

### **Option 2: Representation Audit**

Have group members honestly assess how well they're representing Christ in different areas:

- Rate yourself 1-10 in these areas: home, work/school, social media, community, relationships
- Share your lowest score and discuss what would help you improve
- Pray specifically for each person's area of struggle

### **Option 3: Power Testimonies**

Ask: "When have you experienced God's power helping you do something you couldn't do on your own?" Allow time for 2-3 people to share briefly, then celebrate God's faithfulness together.

---

## **Memory Verse**

**Acts 1:8** - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Challenge: Memorize this verse together and recite it when you gather next week.

---

## **Closing Prayer (10 minutes)**

### **Prayer Focus Areas:**

- Thank God for choosing and calling each person in the group
- Ask for fresh Holy Spirit power for the week ahead
- Pray for specific needs shared during discussion
- Pray for opportunities to represent Christ well
- Pray for the community and city to be transformed

### **Prayer Method:**

Consider praying in smaller groups of 2-3 or going around the circle with each person praying one sentence prayers focusing on "God, give me power to..."

---

## **Before Next Week**

1. Complete your personal challenge from the "This Week's Challenge" section
2. Connect with your accountability partner mid-week
3. Journal about one moment when you successfully represented Christ

4. Come prepared to share a brief testimony of how God showed up this week
- 

### **Leader Notes**

- **Time Management:** This guide contains more material than most groups can cover in one session. Select the questions most relevant to your group.
  - **Encourage Participation:** Make sure everyone has opportunity to share, but don't force anyone.
  - **Stay Focused:** Keep discussions centered on application, not just theological debate.
  - **Follow Up:** Check in with group members during the week, especially those who shared struggles.
  - **Celebrate:** Acknowledge when people share victories of representing Christ well.
- 

*"We are His hands on earth. We are His voice on earth. We are His compassion on earth. We are His witnesses in the earth."*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. In what ways does the concept of being 'spiritually enlisted' by God before we even sought Him challenge our understanding of salvation and purpose?
2. How can we distinguish between visibility and identity in our own lives, and what steps can we take to ensure our identity in Christ is stronger than our online presence?

3. What does it mean to be 'the only Bible someone will ever read,' and how should this reality shape our daily interactions with others?
4. The sermon emphasizes waiting for God's power before moving forward. In what areas of your life might God be calling you to wait rather than act in your own strength?
5. How can we practically equip ourselves with the 'whole armor of God' in an age of social media, political division, and cultural pressure?
6. What is the difference between talent and Holy Ghost power, and why is power necessary to maintain character even when talent brings success?
7. The disciples transformed from fearful followers hiding behind locked doors to bold witnesses after Pentecost. What fears or limitations might be holding you back from fully representing Christ?
8. How does the call to represent Christ in Pittsburgh specifically challenge us to engage with our local communities beyond Sunday morning worship?
9. In what ways can young people today understand that they are not just the future of the church but the 'right now' of God's mission on earth?
10. What does it look like to have power to forgive, power to endure, and power to overcome in the specific challenges you are currently facing?