



Where do you get the power to live your best life?

The Power For Your Best Life:

I. The Power of Persecution vs. _____ Acts 8:1–8 (NASB)

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. ³ But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. ⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. ⁶ The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷ For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much rejoicing in that city.

II. The Power of Sorcery vs. _____ Acts 8:9–13 (NASB)

Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰ and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." ¹¹ And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

III. The Power of Money vs. _____ Acts 8:14–24 (NASB)

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." ²⁴ But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Main point: _____



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. **Where do you get the power to live your best life?** What empowers your life? What do you turn to for help in your time of need? When you face setbacks in life, where do you find the power to carry on?
2. **What are the battles you are facing in your life?** What are the power struggles you are experiencing? At work? At home? In your family? In our nation? What are the spiritual elements beneath those battles? How can the power of grace and the power of the gospel answer that need?
3. When have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. **What keeps you from experiencing the power of Jesus in your life?** How do you experience the empowering presence of Jesus Christ in your life?

Take a step in faith this week:

1. **Let us know you are here today.** Fill out a Connection Card every Sunday through either the Christ Church app or the Connection Card tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform (LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG).
2. Come and bring the whole family to our **Wednesday Night Dinner** (5:30pm) & **Discipleship** (6:30pm). Join Pastor Todd's Apply Group in Room 160. Email him for info at pastortodd@christchurchva.org.
3. **Check out our online bulletin each Sunday.** Use the Christ Church app, or the Resources tab* in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform, to access.
4. **Join us for Midday Prayer** each weekday at noon on our Online Campus Platform (LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG).

*Quick link to Connection Resources: CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/CONNECT-WITH-US

ANSWER KEY:

- I. Persecution vs. **INVITATION**
- II. Sorcery vs. **GOSPEL OF GRACE**
- III. Money vs. **THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Main point: **THE POWER IS IN THE PRESENCE.**