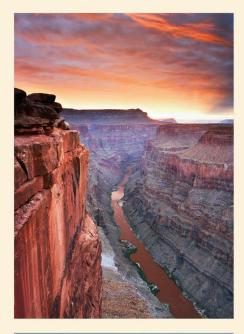






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12.	Do Not Lust
13.	Keep Your Word
14.	Go the Second Mile
15.	Love Your Enemies
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17.	Pray & Fast in Secret
18.	Lay Up Treasure
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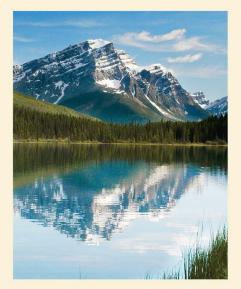
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"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21).

POWER FOR LIVING!

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Describing God

What one word best describes God? Many would choose the word *love*. Others would choose *mercy* or *wisdom*, but all these attributes are related to one word that He used to describe Himself to Abraham: "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Genesis 17:1).

God is a God of power. He sent out His disciples with power. He taught us to pray on the basis of His power, and He gave us a Gospel of power, which Paul affirmed when he wrote, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

Today, believers are living with an obvious absence of God's power. This is a tragedy because the world is desperately searching for answers, and they will tend to worship the God whom they perceive as most powerful.

The world measures our power in practical terms. Do we have the power to control our temper or our appetites? Do we have the power to keep our marriages together and to train up sons and daughters who are dynamic and grateful?

Tragically, the answer to these questions is a resounding "no!" Believers are having just as many problems as the world in many of these areas. Yet, we claim to serve a powerful God. The world will believe only when they see the reality of God's power in and through us.

Paradox of Power

God wants to demonstrate His power through our lives. Yet, He will not do it through our strengths, but through our weaknesses. Paul learned this when he tried to rid his life of his "thorn in the flesh." (See II Corinthians 12:7–8.)

When God explained that His strength was perfected in our weakness, Paul declared, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (II Corinthians 12:9).

Based on this, Paul observes, "How that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are



hen the nation of Israel tried to worship both God and Baal, Elijah set up a power contest. When God won, the people fell on their face and said, "The LORD, he is the God. The LORD, he is the God" (I Kings 18:39).



Apostasy is the state in which the world influences the Church.

Revival

is the state in which the Church influences the world.