



# UNSTOPPABLE

## Unstoppable Power

#npunstoppable

Week 2

2 of 4

January 12, 2020

**Bottom Line:** God's purposes are unstoppable.

**Icebreaker:** Which commercial ad do you dislike the most? Which do you like best? What commercial has caused you to buy? Why?

**Key Verse:** *Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.* Acts 5:38-39 NIV

The church in Acts was powerful, bold, generous, loving, transformational. It grew daily and experienced the miraculous. Where did all the power go? 2 Timothy 3:1-5 records Paul describing terrible times when people became self-centered, professing a form of godliness but denying its power. That's because two specific things happen to good people that will sap the strength right out of them, a small group, and even a church.

The first is the temptation to pretend. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 4-5) illustrate the sin of pretending to be more devoted to God than we really are. It's the sin of portraying outward actions that don't correspond to inward reality. It's playing games with God and lying to Him, to others, and to ourselves. God doesn't demand that we be perfect, but He says we must be authentic. When we are not authentic, we are posing. It's a lack of purity that leads to a lack of power. Hypocrisy kills the authenticity of the message and the credibility of the messenger.

The second is the temptation is compromise. We all have the temptation to say it a little lighter, to say it a little softer, to "sorta" obey, but not really. It's the temptation to identify so much with people that we never get around to actually telling people the gospel truth. They don't see any difference between us and them. Courage in the face of persecution or rejection authenticates the validity of the message and the credibility of the messenger. It is the prerequisite for impact. In the same chapters, Peter and John showed incredible courage, and proved "they had been with Jesus."

Pretending and compromise are at the heart of power that has gone out. The result of courage is power, perseverance, and joy. These men had a connection with God that was unexplainable. That's what God wants for us.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you particularly from the message?

God's power is absolute. It's without limit and unrivaled. Nothing can stop God, thwart God, hinder God, delay God. God's power is infinite. And because God's power is unstoppable, His promises are unbreakable. Reflect and discuss. We SAY that, but what does it look like to LIVE that?

What do you think would happen if we truly embraced our mission to lead people to realize and reach their full potential in Jesus Christ?

Which of these words describe NewPointe? "Powerful, bold, generous, loving, transformational, growing daily, experiencing the miraculous?" Which of these drew you to Christ and NewPointe? What do you think needs the most prayer and improvement?

Where do you think they best describe you? Where do you need to grow?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Put yourself in Ananias's and Sapphira's shoes. Can you understand what tempted them to fake it? When have you been tempted to pretend you are more devoted than was real?

"Where there is no fear of God, the people sin" (A.W. Tozer). Reflect and discuss. How do fear of God and love of God both motivate us? Why are they each important?

We give each other a pass for hypocrisy because it allows us to feel better about ourselves. Agree or disagree? Why?

When have you exercised courage in a hard situation and found your impact and credibility increase?

The result of courage is power, perseverance, and joy, and a connection with God that is unexplainable. When have you observed or experienced this?

## NEXT STEPS

1. Examine your life for opportunities where you pretend or compromise.
2. Pray daily for God to help you increase your authenticity in your walk and witness, and for courage.
3. Encourage anyone you see standing up with courage.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** God's purposes are unstoppable.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: James 5:16

Tuesday: Matthew 22:29

Wednesday: Ephesians 3:20

Thursday: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Friday: 1 Corinthians 4:20

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*