



# WITH GREAT POWER

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## WITH GREAT POWER: COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Aloha everyone, I'm Mark if we haven't met, and I'm so excited you're here today! This week we are transitioning into a short mini-series called, "With Great Power". Over the next few weeks we are going to learn about both the uses and abuses of the Kingdom Authority God has given us. We will be looking at several key characters from scripture and how they either used or misused their authority so that we can learn how best to steward the authority God has given us.

If you've been with us from the start of this year you know that we've been meditating on one key phrase – an overarching theme for the whole year. What is our theme for the year? [Say it with me] Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_. At the start of 2022, we discerned that God wanted us to grow in our understanding and stewardship of **Kingdom Authority**, and we've spent the better part of this year learning how to walk in greater authority in our lives.

Remember, all authority in heaven and on earth belong to Jesus. He is the **Author** and creator of all things, so in all things we submit to Him and **Give God Control**. When God sees that our hearts are in line with His, He increases our influence and **Authority** and we partner with Him to contend for His Kingdom upon the earth – we call this **Owning our Role**. Through this partnership of bringing heaven to earth, living **Authentically** according to God's design and creating Kingdom Spaces we begin to **Make Life Whole**.

And there were four main spaces, or **spheres of authority**, that God has called us to bring His shalom – His peace to. Do you remember what they were? We talked about the **Individual Sphere, Church Sphere, Family Sphere**, and last week we wrapped up a series on the **Government Sphere**. Each sphere of authority has been given a specific role to bring God's Kingdom to the earth.

So God has taken us on an amazing journey this year! It feels like we've been sitting under a waterfall of revelation – immersing ourselves in His will for our lives and the best is yet to come. Turn to your neighbor and say, "The best is yet to come!"

### "With Great Power, Comes Great Responsibility"

So how are we doing? We just spent the better part of a year learning about our Kingdom Authority. We covered all four of the major spheres of authority and lived to tell the tale! We now have a new vision of what it looks like to walk in greater Authority and change the world! But in many ways, our journey begins now. Because, it's not what you say or know about Kingdom Authority, but what you do with it that matters. And there have been so many great testimonies and stories that have come out of this past season of people rising up and owning their role but maybe others of us are still taking it in.

*OG Discussion Question: What victories have you experienced in walking in your Kingdom Authority? What challenges do you still face?*



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Now that we have the big picture of what God is calling us to, we want to equip you to walk in your Kingdom Authority and avoid any pitfalls along the way. In this series we're going to look at a few characters in scripture who were called to walk in Kingdom Authority and we will learn from the good, the bad, and the ugly so we can properly use (not abuse) the authority God has given us. Because as our series title suggests, "With great power, comes great responsibility."

For many of us, especially fans of movies and pop culture, we attribute this quote to Uncle Ben from Spider Man.

Woah woah woah! Hold up Pastor Mark! We see what you're doing. You're using this message to try to shoehorn a *Blockbuster Lesson from the Movies!* First of all, I'm hurt that you would accuse me of such a thing. I respect the decision of my fellow Pastors. So please, this is not a *Blockbuster Lesson from the Movies*. This is a *Box-office Teaching from Cinema!*

When Peter Parker is bitten by a radioactive spider and inherits its powers, he finds himself at a crossroads. As a nerdy high schooler who was raised by his Aunt and Uncle, Peter sees these new powers as his big break. He can finally go toe-to-toe with his school bully and win the heart of his high school crush. But Peter becomes so enthralled with his new powers that he soon loses sight of the people and responsibilities that need him most.

In this scene, Peter forgets to pick up his Aunt May from work and his Uncle Ben teaches him an important life lesson. [Scene 1]

"With great power comes great responsibility." A quote made famous from Uncle Ben. But did you know that before Uncle Ben, Jesus said these words 2000 years ago? Listen to the words of Jesus in Luke 12,

*"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked," (Luke 12:48 NIV).*

*"Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!"  
(Luke 12:48 MSG).*

With great power comes great responsibility. To whom much is given, much will be demanded. How many of us know, as Christians living in America, we have been given much. We have been given greater influence and authority than any people in history ever. And the Bible says to whom much is given, much will be demanded. We will have to give an account for our lives.

Peter Parker had been gifted extraordinary abilities. But because of his circumstances, he couldn't see past his own immediate needs. Life revolved around him and his gifts only served his plans and purposes. He was in desperate need of a bigger vision for his life.



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It sort of reminds me of another super-powered individual from scripture – Sampson. Sampson wasn't like other people. He had an extraordinary calling on his life and the gifts to go with it. Sampson was born with supernatural strength but he lacked a God-vision for his life. His gifts were mostly squandered on going toe-to-toe with the school bullies – the Philistines and winning the heart of his crush – Delilah.

Church, there are two major pitfalls that we can fall into when it comes to walking in our Kingdom Authority. This week, we're talking about what happens when you have God-gifts but not a God-vision for your life (Great Power, no Responsibility). That was Sampson. Next week, Pastor Glenn is going to talk about what happens when you have a God-vision but you don't rely on God's gifts (Great Responsibility, no Power) That was Moses. Moses tried to accomplish the will of God in his own strength. Tune in next week to see how that turned out for him. Both of these pitfalls will render you useless for the Kingdom.

Do you have a God-vision for your life or are you using the gifts God has given you for yourself? Remember, to whom much is given, much is required. With great power, comes great responsibility. Or as Hawaiian Uncle Ben would say um, "Wit choke mana, come choke Kuleana!"

**OG DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Think about each sphere of authority in your life. How would you describe your God-vision for each of those spheres? If you haven't prayed about this, take it to the Lord and ask Him.*

## Our Uncle Ben Moment

So how do we get a God-vision for our lives? God! The closer we are to God the clearer His vision will become for our lives. Jesus was the ultimate example of someone who walked in Kingdom Authority. He had a clear God-vision for His life and He depended fully on God's power to fulfill it. Listen to Jesus describe the secret to His authority in John 5,

<sup>19</sup> "Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. Yes, and He will show Him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed," (John 5:19-20 NIV).

Did you catch where Jesus' authority came from? It came from the love of the Father! When God reveals His plan for your life it comes from a place of love! God's vision for your life isn't birthed from religious duty or moral obligation but love! And God will give us a vision for every sphere of our lives. He will give you a vision for your own life, for your family, for your place in the Church and in your community. God loves us so much that He'll even allow us to go through a difficult season so that we choose His vision for our lives over our own.

After his heart-to-heart with Uncle Ben, Peter is faced with a decision to either listen to his Uncle's words or go a different way. With one seemingly insignificant choice, Peter's life is changed forever. [Scene 2]



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"With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility" Without great responsibility there will be great consequences. In one life-shattering moment Peter learned the consequences of not owning his role. It not only affected him but his family as well. When we don't walk in the authority God has given us, our spheres of influence suffer. And sometimes God will allow us to experience an 'Uncle Ben Moment' in order to change the course of our lives toward Him.

Sampson also had his 'Uncle Ben Moment'. After years of living without a God-vision for his life, the consequences finally caught up to him. His first marriage ended in disaster, he left his people defenseless even though he was called to be their defender, his nation was in captivity, and his new girlfriend betrayed him into the hands of his mortal enemies. He was failing in every sphere of authority. Sampson was stripped of his powers, his vision, and his freedom. This was his 'Uncle Ben Moment'.

God loves us so much and believes in His vision for our lives so much that He will allow our lives to fall off the tracks so that we turn to Him. I love what Karissa shared a couple of weeks ago in our panel. It's not that God doesn't give us more than we can handle, it's that He doesn't give us more than He can handle. Karissa saw all of the challenges she faced as God drawing her unto Himself to depend on Him.

***OG DISCUSSION QUESTION: Have you experienced an 'Uncle Ben Moment' in your life? This is an experience that shaped your vision for your life.***

Have you come to your 'Uncle Ben Moment' yet or are you still clinging to your own vision for your life? I want you to watch this powerful testimony of a dear brother in our Church who had his own moment of realization and turned his life around. Watch this.

[Lance Llanto Testimony]

Can we thank Brother Lance and Sister Moana for sharing their story with us today! We love you guys!

How about you? Have you had your 'Uncle Ben Moment'? Have you discovered God's vision for your life? For your family? Your calling?

God has given you spiritual gifts, passions, abilities, and experiences that can change the world you live in. To whom much is entrusted, much more is asked. One day God is going to ask what we did with what He entrusted us with. Have you taken the time to ask Him why He made you the way He did? Why He gifted You the way He did? What He's asking you to do?

*"You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures,"*

*(James 4:2b-3).*



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A life lived for selfish and earthly pleasures will leave you empty and alone. God says ask. Turn to Him and ask for His vision for your life.

## Closing

It was the spring of 2006. I had just finished my second year at a prestigious academic institution, maybe some of you have heard of it – Leeward Community College. I was in need of a God-vision for my life. I had no idea what I was going to do. I'm sure my parents were praying for me but they never said, "You should do this or pursue that." They knew that decision needed to come from the Lord.

Over break some friends and I attended a Christian conference in Honolulu. The speaker that year was relatively unknown at the time, maybe some of you have heard of him – Francis Chan.

I remember sitting in a breakout session – room packed with young people. Francis was bringing his talk to a close. And he said, "I ask young people all the time, 'What's your vision for your life?' And they'll say, 'Oh, I want to finish school.' I'll say, 'Then what?' 'Get a job.' 'Ok, then what?' 'Maybe get married.' 'Then?' 'Then, I'll probably have some kids.' 'Ok, then what?' 'Then I'll probably keep working and eventually retire.' 'Ok, and then?' 'Um, I don't know. Die.'

At that moment I felt like he was speaking directly to me. Looking back I realize it was the Holy Spirit. I was having an 'Uncle Ben Moment.' God was asking me, "Is this the vision you want for your life? Do you want to just have a nice life here on earth or do you want your life to matter for eternity?" That was the first time I entertained the thought of going into full-time ministry. As soon as I let that thought enter my brain it's like the floodlights of heaven turned on and everything in my life up until that point came into alignment.

As I was walking out of the room I was calling my Dad telling him what I was going to do. He said, I know a perfect Bible College you can go to. It's like he had them on speed-dial or something. He was just waiting. That Fall I attended a Bible College in LA, graduated, and this year marks 12 years of serving in full-time ministry here at New Hope Central Oahu. It has been the greatest ride of my life. I honestly don't know where I'd be today if God hadn't shown up.

And maybe the outcome of your story won't be the same. Not everyone is called to minister from a pulpit. But everyone is called to minister. God just disguises some ministers as Nurses, teachers, Moms, Dads, students, mechanics, etc. My prayer is that you would walk in the God-vision for your life because it's the reason you're here and God has a great life in store for you.

***OG DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is the Lord saying to you about His vision for your life? Write it down and share it with a friend. Surround yourself with people who will contend for that vision in your life and continue to take your God-vision to prayer!***