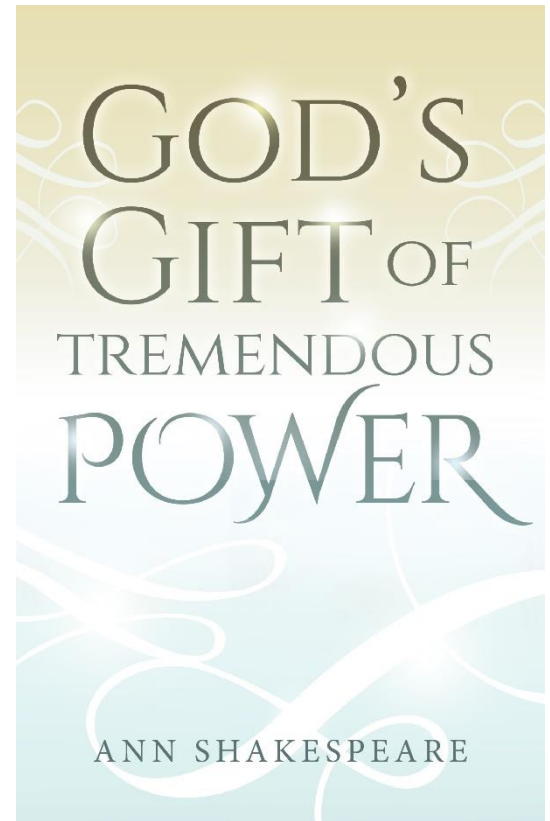


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# GOD'S GIFT OF TREMENDOUS POWER

ANN SHAKESPEARE



*God's Gift of Tremendous Power* presents a dynamic vision of what it means to live "in Christ Jesus" and to be empowered by Him. It is a practical and inspirational book, explaining how we can align with biblical truth to become channels of God's love and resurrection power.

Readers will gain a richer understanding of Christ and our position of authority in Him. Its pages inspire us to live purposefully in the flow of our true identity, and to discover how to pray more powerfully in union with the One who makes all things new.

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# About the Author

## ANN SHAKESPEARE

**Ann Shakespeare** has been captivated by the written and spoken word since she was a young girl. Her love for languages and literature took her to London University for a BA in French and Spanish. Along the way, she learned journalism, but never enjoyed chasing news headlines. Instead, she could be found across various continents writing features for aid and development organizations.



Some 30 years ago, Ann had a life-transforming encounter with Christ that ignited the fire of the Living Word within her. She experienced its effects in ways that defy human or scientific explanation. Ever since then, she has had a passion for seeing lives changed and renewed by the power of God through understanding and applying His Word.

She and her husband, Nicholas, live in a small village in Lincolnshire, with abundant wildlife and wonderful, star-rich skies.

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# *What Others Are Saying About* **God's Gift of Tremendous Power**

Ann Shakespeare generously shares with the reader the fruit of her own life and prayer experience. With a two-eyed vision she brings into a vivid focus the scientific knowledge of the Quantum Field (the subatomic dynamics of creation) with a dynamic faith in Christ as Creator, Redeemer, and Ascended Lord who “fills all things everywhere.” This a vision that can transform both the perception and experience of life in Christ.

Ann’s writing is concise, logical, and practical. It is built upon a firm scriptural foundation allied to personal and pastoral experience. It will certainly fulfil its main purpose: to enable individuals to have a transforming encounter with Christ and partake in a new ministry of prayer through the power of the Love of God in Christ.

—**The Reverend Canon Andrew Hawes SSC, Canon of Lincoln Cathedral with a particular ministry in spiritual direction and retreat work**

I was utterly enthralled reading this wonderful book, which explains Jesus Christ's “tremendous power” working in and through the whole of creation. The book is richly imbued with God's word and is deeply spiritual and prayerful. Ann Shakespeare highlights the central themes of God's love, the Spirit of the risen Jesus Christ, and the need to eschew worldly power and embrace our own weakness. She explains how together they form a prism through which God's all-embracing love can be channelled through us into the world. I also felt that the emphasis she places upon the transformative power of contemplation, prayer and praying for healing through God's word, is deeply compelling. Through contemplation and prayer we respond to God's call to '*put on the mind of Christ,*' and so pour out His love into the world. This inspirational book gives profound insight into Revelation 21:5, '*See, I am making all things new.*'

—**The Reverend Dr Lynda Pugh, Priest and Spiritual Director in the Diocese of Chester**

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# Suggested Interview Questions

For Ann Shakespeare, author of  
*God's Gift of Tremendous Power*

**Q: What was the springboard for writing *God's Gift of Tremendous Power*?**

**A:** A growing awareness of the awesome significance of Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of discoveries in modern physics that show the connectedness of all that exists – and that has ever existed – since the creation of the universe.

It is an astounding fact that all the subatomic particles and elements that now constitute you and me have been in existence since the beginning. To put it another way, all the particles in your body were already contained in Christ at the point of creation.

Up until relatively recently, the biblical truth that “In him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible” (Col. 1:16) remained at the level of mystery. Christians were able to engage with it through faith by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but they could not relate it to scientific fact. Now, over the last 100 years, scientific knowledge has started to catch up with biblical truth and to express it in factual terms.

My springboard, then, was an ever-increasing wonder at the majesty and power of God, and the uplift that this awareness has given to my own faith and to the faith of others whom I know.

**Q: Are you presenting a new theology in *God's Gift of Tremendous Power*?**

**A:** No, not at all! Rather than theology, I would use the word “vision”. This book attempts to put forward a vision of what it means to live “in Christ” and to live out His will in our daily experience.

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This vision includes a deeper understanding of the all-encompassing nature of the presence and the power of God which Christ makes available to every believer, as expressed in these verses: "Behold! I have given you authority and power" (Luke 10:19 Amplified) and "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do" (John 14:12).

This vision cannot be grasped intellectually or with our five senses – it is received and experienced through faith in Christ and His Word. We do use our brains to help us to internalize and meditate upon truth but we are not required to "understand" everything with the human mind in order to pray effectively. Instead, we can trust the Holy Spirit to empower our prayers, to keep enlightening us and to lead us into all truth.

**Q: In your book you talk about the "quantum field". How is that relevant?**

**A:** It is relevant for everyone because learning more about God's creation is a very practical way of gaining a deeper understanding of God and of biblical truth.

"Quantum field" is not an exact scientific term, but I am using it as helpful shorthand to describe the basic fabric of the universe. Quantum is originally a Latin word meaning "how much" —relating to size and amount. The word has since come to mean the smallest amount you can have. Therefore, by "quantum field" I am referring to the seamless fabric which comprises the smallest, most fundamental components—and from which absolutely everything in the universe has been fashioned.

A metaphor for this could be the soft clay from which God sculpted His creation into existence. This "clay," or vital energy, is the basic substance of everything that exists, including human beings. It is the invisible essence that connects and interconnects us all.

This understanding of connectedness throughout the entire universe can help us in our spiritual life because it illuminates God's Word. It sheds significant light on verses such as: "The one who fills the whole wide universe" (Eph. 1:23 Phillips) and

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“There is one body and one Spirit, ... one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6).

The Word of God is Truth and does not need human discoveries about the universe to prove it. However, it helps greatly when such discoveries enliven our understanding of scripture and help us to apply it more effectively in our own daily lives.

**Q: You talk about “oneness” and “union with God”. Isn’t that New Age philosophy?**

**A:** Well to answer succinctly, Christ spoke about “oneness” long before New Age philosophy came along!

It is indeed also a concept found in New Age philosophies, but there is a vast difference between those philosophies and New Testament truth. The New Age approach is based on the concept that everyone is inherently divine and that human beings simply need to “realize” their oneness with God.

However, the truth is that oneness or union with God can only be attained through faith in Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. No amount of meditating or declaring that we are all divine will overcome the chasm of separation that can only be bridged by the redemption of Jesus.

It is vital that we hold fast to the truth that the very reason Jesus came to earth was to redeem us and to bring us back into full union with Godhead. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, there is no more separation.

The truth of oneness is, naturally, foolishness to our human minds and to our five senses. However, discoveries in modern physics regarding our connectedness help to enlarge and enliven our faith and to step beyond that which is visible and tangible.

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**Q: You write in depth about the power of God. Does accessing the power of God come easily to you?**

**A:** No, it does not come easily. Much of the time I see no evidence of God's power in a situation for which I am praying, and I think that is very much a part of the Christian experience. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) and it is during those times of apparent fruitlessness that the muscles of our faith are strengthened.

At times like those, it is in digging deep for answers in the scriptures that the Word of God becomes implanted in us. At first, like a seed planted in the ground, nothing at all seems to be happening, but then we sense a little movement and then a tiny green shoot appears, life bursts forth, and we rejoice!

It is wonderful when that occurs. However, whatever happens, and whether or not a green shoot appears, our main focus should always be on our relationship with Christ and our identification with His death and resurrection. Everything else flows from that, including God's power.

**Q: What are the main things that would hinder the power of God from flowing through a believer?**

**A:** I can only really speak from my own experience and offer this tentative response, in case it might be helpful. I can identify these three broad areas of hindrance:

a) Lack of a scripture-based revelation of just how much God loves each one of us, and just how much He hates sickness, conflict, and all other manifestations of evil. I think that the more we become convinced of this at the heart level – not just giving mental assent – the easier it is to walk in the authority that Christ has given us.

b) A lack of understanding of how the sacrifice of Jesus applies to us, personally. God's power will not flow through our uncrucified souls. I believe we have to

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choose to keep active in our minds the fact that when Jesus died, we died with Him and that He is now living our life (Gal. 2:20).

It takes discipline to walk this out because it is completely contrary to the flow of the world and our flesh. Satan does not want Christians to walk by faith in their true identity in Christ because that is when God's power is most freely released.

c) A lack of knowledge and of faith in the scriptures that speak of the authority that Christ gives to all believers.

**Q: Why don't you mention the gifts of the Spirit and the laying on of hands as ways of displaying God's power?**

**A:** The gifts of the Spirit, such as gifts of healing and the working of miracles, are most certainly ways in which God's power can be made wonderfully manifest, as is the gift of healing through the laying on of hands.

They are a major area of study in themselves and many books on these subjects are readily available.

I thought it would be helpful to focus on other themes that perhaps receive less coverage and attention.

**Q: Do we need to have a lot of faith to see the power of God working in our lives?**

**A:** We do need some faith in order to release God's power. However, instead of thinking in terms of a lot or a little, the most important thing to know is that God has given to each of us His permanent gift of supernatural faith.

It took me many years to learn that faith has little, or nothing, to do with feelings. In fact, "feelings" of strength – and of weakness – can be very deceiving.

I can think of occasions when I was "feeling" weak and totally unprepared in the face of a difficult situation. I had no option but to stand (weakly, it seemed) upon

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the Word of God as best I could. Often, I later discovered that the thing looming over me had been dealt with, supernaturally, in a way that I could never have accomplished in my own strength.

So, I would say that no, we don't need to have a lot of faith to see the power of God working in our lives. But what we *do* need is a lot of willingness to surrender to Christ, believe in His faith working within us, and to stand and act upon His Word, whatever our feelings may be telling us.

**Q: You mention that meditation is important, but is this something that everyone can do?**

**A:** If we can spend some minutes thinking about something – as opposed to having a series of fleeting thoughts – then we are already meditating! The challenge is to choose to think about the things of Christ, rather than simply letting our mind travel without an aim. It does require attention and discipline because the “old Adam” mind resists the things of God and will wander off elsewhere if not kept in check. However, let us not listen to the lie that it's impossible to get our mind under control. God does not ask us to do something that is not possible! On the contrary, He provides us with all that we need to obey His command in Romans 12:2, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

The aim of meditation is to literally soak our minds and brains with the truth and the love of God. Then what will come out of us will echo the truth and the love of God. Our lives, our speech, our faith, and our prayers will reflect our consistently dominant thoughts.

**Q: Is there a particular formula or method for prayer that will release God's power?**

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**A:** No, I don't believe there is a set formula or method. I have included some sample prayers in this book but they are simply illustrations that I hope will inspire and help readers to develop their own prayers.

Much more important than the form of prayer used, is the believer's quality of relationship with Christ. If we take time to identify with the death and resurrection of Christ and to rest in the knowledge that our life is hid with Christ in God and that it is Christ who is doing the work through us, that is what frees the Holy Spirit to flow in greater power.

Knowing and abiding in our identity in Christ is the key. From there, the main thing is to make sure that our prayers are in line with the Word of God and with the teachings of Christ.

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