

# Divine Power

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## Introduction

**Thomas** defines δύναμις [dunamis] as “from *dunamai* [to be able, to have power], meaning, “(miraculous) power, might, strength” [1411].

**BDAG** say it generally refers to “‘capability,’ with emphasis on function; (1) potential for functioning in some way, power, might, strength, force, capability; (2) ability to carry out something, ability, capability; (3) a deed that exhibits ability to function powerfully, deed of power, miracle, wonder; (4) something that serves as an adjunct of power, resource; (5) an entity or being, whether human or transcendent, that functions in a remarkable manner, power as a personal transcendent spirit or heavenly agent/angel; (5) the capacity to convey thought, meaning.”

**Strong/Thayer** say it refers to “(1) strength power, ability; (a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth; (b) power for performing miracles; (c) moral power and excellence of soul; (d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth; (e) power and resources arising from numbers; (f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts. For synonyms see entries *bia*; *energeia*; *exousia*; *ischus*; and *kratos*” [1411].

This Greek word occurs 119x in the NT. Our study of *dunamis*, while not exhaustive, focuses on the broad areas of application and relevance. Let us never forget that power belongs to the Lord (Matt. 6:13; 22:29; Rom. 1:18-20; etc.).

## Divine Power is Evidenced in the Person of Jesus Christ

His Birth (Luke 1:30-38, esp. vs. 35).

His Miracles and Message (Matt. 13:54; Mark 5:25-30; 6:2; Luke 4:14-15; 4:36; 5:17; 6:17-19; Acts 2:22; 10:38; 2 Pet. 1:16-18; etc.).

His Resurrection (Rom. 1:1-4; 2 Cor. 13:4).

## Divine Power is Evidenced in the People of God

The Apostles (Luke 9:1-2; Acts 19:11-12; 3:11-12; 4:5-10; 8:9-13; 19:11-12; Rom. 15:18-19; etc.)

The Seventy (Luke 10:17-20, esp. vs. 19).

The Disciples (Matt. 25:14-15; Rom. 15:13; 2 Cor. 4:7; 12:7-10; Eph. 3:20-21; 2 Tim. 1:7-8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; etc.).

## **Divine Power is Evidenced in the Church**

Its Establishment (Mark 9:1; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-4, 14-17, 22-24, 32-33).

Its Work (Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 5:3-5; 12:4-11, 27-31; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; etc.)

Its Message (Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 6:4-7; 2 Pet. 1:2-3).

## **Divine Power is Evidenced in Response to Adversarial Powers**

### ***Ancient Egypt***

Divine power is demonstrated through God's triumph over stubborn Pharaoh (Rom. 9:17).

### ***Apostate Israel***

Divine power is demonstrated through Jesus' triumph over rebellious Israel (Matt. 24:29-30; 26:63-64; Mark 13:24-26; 14:61-62; Luke 21:25-28; 22:67-70).

### ***Adversarial Rome***

Divine power is demonstrated through God's triumph over adversarial Rome. Yes, the Sea Beast, i.e., Imperial Rome possessed great power (Rev. 13:1-2; 17:12-13; 18:1-3). However, infinitely greater is the power of God the Father (Rev. 4:11; 7:11-12; 11:16-17; 15:5-8; 19:1-2), Jesus Christ the Son (Rev. 1:16; 5:11-12), and faithful disciples (Rev. 3:8-9; 12:7-12; cf. Rom. 8:35-39).

### ***False Teachers & Faithless Brethren***

Divine power is demonstrated through God's triumph over false teachers and faithless brethren (1 Cor. 4:18-21; 2 Thess. 2:7-12).

### ***Satan & Sinners***

Divine power is demonstrated through God's triumph over Satan and sinners (1 Cor. 15:23-26; 2 Thess. 1:5-12; Rev. 20:10).

## **Conclusion**

Just as divine power was seen in Christ's resurrection, it will also be witnessed in our own (1 Cor. 6:14; 15:42-44, 55-57).

Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16-17; Heb. 5:8-9)?