

Power 2018

Every other summer I embark on this journey through the 12 powers. There are always a few new people who don't know what the 12 powers are. It is a creative challenge for me to come up with new resources and a new context in which to demonstrate the powers embodiment. The traditional embodiment that Charles Fillmore used was to assign a power to each of the 12 disciples. What I find is that there is not always a lot of information available about each disciple's individual personality and it is not always easy to understand how that individual disciple embodies the spiritual power. So in the summers we explore these 12 powers I try to find some more familiar context, like characters in the Bible we know more about, or fictional people or historical people that can help us understand this mystery of the 12 Powers that Charles Fillmore created.

So what are the 12 powers? I like to use the imagery of a ray of sunlight passing through a prism and splitting into the rainbow of colors. The ray of light is Divine Light, pure Spirit. The prism is us, humanity. And the rainbow of colors are the 12 powers or the different gifts available to us. Fillmore also calls them "Spiritual Faculties". They are all aspects of One Spirit, expressing through us. They are all available all the time. We don't build them up or get more power, more faith, or more strength—we simply open ourselves to accessing more of what is available. Just as we become open to the flow of God's good through our lives no matter what shape or name we give it. Just as we strengthen our muscles through use. We don't manufacture muscles we didn't have but through exercise we learn to use the muscles we have more effectively.

What is the deal about the colors? Fillmore assigned disciples to each power and a location in the body for each power. I'm not sure who assigned the colors but it wasn't actually Charles Fillmore. It is just a fun way to layer a characteristic from the material world upon a spiritual attribute. Some people want to divide the powers into masculine and feminine. Which just reinforces how we seek to create God in our image and likeness. Over and over. So we can play with the colors and know it is just in fun. And we can abandon the idea that any of the 12 faculties can be tied up with a neat little bow. Every one of them is a mystery and just as our body contains many parts, we rarely exercise one faculty in isolation. For simplicity though, we will examine the powers one at a time. And this summer, our context will be expressions of the 12 powers associated with our country and history.

Since we just celebrated the 4th of July, how fitting to begin our journey through the 12 powers with the power of Power and the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence was ratified on July 4th, 1776. The Constitution didn't get signed until September of 1787. There were more signers from Pennsylvania on both documents than any other state.

So what is the power of Power? We contemplated it in our meditation. In the Revealing Word, Fillmore says Power is "One's innate control over thoughts and feelings. A quickening from on high must precede this realization of dominion." So power is our *innate dominion* over the spiritual energy coursing through us and manifesting through our humanity as ideas, desires and ultimately, actions. That passage in Genesis giving humanity dominion over all things does not say "Dominance" or "Control" but dominion. As we ponder the difference between Dominance and Dominion, we are immediately confronted with the dynamic of "free will". All of the spiritual faculties we speak about and all of the thoughts and actions we are capable of flow through our humanity. And we have "free will" or choice about that flow.

We can deny the flow or try to cut it off as we experience ourselves as separate from the Divine and devoid of our own divinity. We can direct the flow in alignment with what we know or feel through our senses and human experience. We acknowledge we may have a divine nature but our human nature directs our thoughts and actions in reactive ways. OR we can direct the flow in alignment with what we refer to as our "true nature" or "the Christ of our being." We can exercise our power of Power as **self-mastery**. Fillmore says, "Do not fear to develop your power and mastery. They are not to be exercised on other people, but on yourself." Spiritual powers are not silver bullets that offer a fool-proof guarantee of spiritual outcomes but they *are* tools available to gain spiritual outcomes **if that is our desire**.

The physical location Charles Fillmore assigned to Power was the throat and the area of the thyroid gland. It is the place where humans produce sound and typically that amazing gift of language. Signing and writing are also ways to produce language and we'll get to that in a minute. The gospel of John begins: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Power is spoken into manifestation through our words. Matthew, Mark and Luke all quote Jesus as saying, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." What does that mean?

I believe it references two of the ideas we included in our meditation affirmation of power: ***focused intention*** and ***spiritual authority***. When we distill our ideas into an articulated and focused intention; and we align and infuse our language with spiritual authority, we create something enduring. We have the ability to tap into something eternal that will exist beyond the physical changes.

For over two thousand years the words of the bible have inspired and instructed us. Not the only enduring words of wisdom, it is certainly one example. And words written over two hundred years ago continue to shepherd the governance of this land. Always subject to the variances of free will and those changing tides of human understanding and intellect, The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution have endured a great deal of error and foolishness in the interpretation and activation by individuals.

I also feel our founders were able to tap into ideas in the ethers that may have been beyond the worldly understanding of their current social context and yet they articulated ideas still evolving. What do I mean? The Constitution's preamble begins: *We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

“We the people” in the sense of the document's authors and decision-makers did not contemplate as being a part of the organic outworking of the ideas of governance a vast number of humans living in the land at that time. It did not envision including women, indigenous people, slaves and the vast number of immigrants who would come here. Today we continue to grapple with the idea of justice when we contemplate the injustices visited upon our people because of race, gender, ability, sexual orientation and religion. We struggle with the border between Liberty for all and infringing the rights of some. Yet “We the people” has expanded in ways far beyond anything the authors might have contemplated. It is the ongoing unfolding of “order to form a more perfect Union”. ***What if*** the founders had actually tapped into the idea of Oneness? Without a theology or name? Well that would be revolutionary! And honestly, that is the mystery of the idea of focused intention—it continues to manifest and evolve according to Spirit without us knowing every step in advance. We speak it into being with spiritual authority and allow it to unfold. We don't know how our intentions unfold in and through future generations.

The founders' words do not stop the atrocities against our own people. They do not anticipate every scientific advance. Yet the founders' words tap into a wisdom in the ethers that continues to move forward with the power of Power. Thurgood Marshall was the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court. He said this about the constitution, "Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving *government* the power to control men's minds." Remember last week we talked about spiritual freedom and the power to choose our attitude and beliefs. A fierce advocate for gender equality, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg observes, "We have the oldest written constitution still in force in the world, and it starts out with three words, 'We, the people.'" The idea that these two individuals would be interpreting the Constitution was beyond the imagination of the authors who created the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. And we continue to see the power of the **ideals** of freedom, justice, liberty, and a more perfect union evolving into manifestation.

So when we talk about "focused intention" or some places you'll read about "concentration", what level of energy are we really talking about? I found a parallel between two documents that was fascinating. The two documents were the Declaration of Independence and Charles and Myrtle Fillmore's Covenant. One document in 1776 drafted by many men after months and years of debate and one document in December of 1892 drafted by a couple just beginning to understand their ministry.

The end of the Declaration of Independence contains the vow: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." The Fillmore Covenant with the Divine states this: "We, Charles Fillmore and Myrtle Fillmore, husband and wife, hereby dedicate ourselves, our time, our money, all we have and all we expect to have, to the Spirit of Truth, and through it, to the Society of Silent Unity." If you were to write down and articulate an intention what might it look like? Where is your focus directed? What are you willing to commit as the energy of power flowing through you?

When we focus all that we have and all that we hope to have to the pursuit of discerning, and manifesting Spiritual Truth we create lasers that pierce through generations of humanity and endure beyond the gravest errors we can conceive and implement.

Wars at home and abroad; atrocities against humanity, the environment and our animal kin; failings and successes in the administration of justice, general welfare, economics and science; and through all manner of human endeavors for the last 200 years, our country remains. We look to our Constitution and our original Declaration of Independence for not only who we *were* in the beginning but *where we are headed*.

It is just as true today to say: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all are created equal, that each of us is endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Embracing all races, religions, ethnicities, gender identifications, sexual orientations, and abilities we stumble forward towards a more perfect union.

Cora Fillmore was Charles Fillmore’s second wife and she wrote a corollary to Fillmore’s 12 Powers entitle Christ Enthroned in Man. She says this, “We must watch our words and above all watch our thoughts. If we are careful to keep our thoughts right with God, we shall easily speak the right words.”

As we move forward, we are propelled by Power. With varying degrees of alignment with Divine Truth we continue onward towards truly recognizing and realizing our Oneness. We can believe in the separation of church and state as those exist in worldly institutions and yet our journey towards Oneness compels us to break down the barriers between our spirituality and our daily thoughts and actions until we live the truth we know.

Let us affirm once more: Divine Power expresses through me as self-mastery, focused intention and spiritual authority.