

THE POWER OF ONE

REACHING EVERY PERSON ON EARTH

STUDY GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

[Read Introduction in The Power of One]

Thank you for joining this study through *The Power of ONE: Reaching Every Person on Earth*. The task to reach all eight billion people in the world with the good news of Jesus is monumental. However, together, I believe we can fulfill the Great Commission in our time by wielding the power of one.

The concept behind the “power of one” is two-fold: 1. Each born-again-believer is “one” who has been saved by God and is able to make an impact. 2. We are called to reach the “ones” around us, and when we do so, we unlock the potential for a harvest of multitudes. When one person is saved, not only is great joy released in heaven, but great potential is also released on Earth. We must never underestimate the latent potential in one.

In 2013, Empowered21 adopted its vision: “that every person on Earth would have an authentic encounter with Jesus Christ through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit by...Pentecost 2033.” The year 2033 will mark the 2000-year anniversary of Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, the giving of the Great Commission, ascension, and the birth of the church at Pentecost. Our efforts in the years leading up to 2033 are focused on making sure every person on Earth has a real chance to know Jesus.

The Power of One presents a plan forward through the re-personalization of the Great Commission and a renewed focus on the potential of everyONE. A new era of evangelism is dawning, and the most significant days of Great Commission effort in human history are before us.

I invite you to join this journey of partnering with the Holy Spirit to reach the ones in our lives. You are one who can make an enormous impact!

CHAPTER 1

THE POWER OF ONE

[Read Chapter 1 in The Power of One]

In November 2022, the world population reached eight billion people, and that number grows every day. As you think about reaching every person on Earth, it might feel overwhelming. It sure does to me! But what about reaching ten people? Five people? One person? As followers of Christ, we are called to see the world through God's eyes. A person is not just a number in a crowd but someone's son or daughter, brother or sister. They are deeply loved by God. Our mission is not just to reach the masses but to touch the heart of the one in front of us because, in God's kingdom, one is never just one. C.S. Lewis once wrote, [Jesus] died not for men but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less." I believe this is true. As the old adage goes, "If you were the only person on Earth, Jesus still would have died for you."

The predominant plan Jesus modeled for changing the world was one-on-one interactions. And the plan for reaching the world is still the same today: "If we focus on ONE, God will help us reach EveryONE." One is the smallest cardinal number but has great power. One action, one decision, or one person has the power to affect change and impact millions of people for generations to come. When a person is saved not only does heaven rejoice, but a dramatic, tangible, and powerful potential on Earth is also released.

Who is one in your life you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to reach? Commit to praying for them throughout this journey, and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

CHAPTER 2

THE RESTLESS SHEPHERD

[Read Chapter 2 in The Power of One]

The three parables Jesus told as recorded in Luke chapter 2 demonstrate God's heart for the lost: the parable of the lost sheep, the parable of the lost coin, and the parable of the lost son. When the sheep wandered off, the shepherd went and found him. When the coin was lost in the house, the woman remained and searched diligently. Finally, when the son left his father and squandered his inheritance, the father waited with anticipation for his return.

The message of these stories was underscored in Jesus' final moments on Earth, as He left His disciples with a call to action that has reverberated in the hearts of believers ever since: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

From David Brainard to Elisabeth Elliot, history is rich with stories of individuals who shared the heart of the "restless shepherd." Still today, God's relentless passion for the lost is just as urgent as ever before. This call to action now extends to us—to you.

Not everyone is called to be a missionary, to move across the world, or to preach to the masses from a stage—but we are all called to pursue the ONE. God's heart is restless for the lost, and He is inviting us to share His passionate burden for people, especially those right in front of us: Your co-worker or classmate. The barista who makes your coffee every morning. The homeless person you see on the street corner. Your neighbor or even a family member.

Do you share God's burden for the lost?

CHAPTER 2

THE RESTLESS SHEPHERD

Read the following verses: Luke 15, Luke 24:47

Reflect on the following questions:

1. To which of the three parables recorded in Luke 15 do you most relate and why?
2. Think of your own testimony. How did God pursue your heart, and how does that reflect His?
3. Do you have any examples from your own life or ministry that demonstrate how God's heart is restless for the one?

CHAPTER 3

REACHING THE MULTITUDES BY REACHING ONE

[Read Chapter 3 in The Power of One]

In 1963, Edward Lorenz coined the term “butterfly effect,” by presenting a theory that stated the flap of a butterfly’s wings could set molecules in motion that would cause a hurricane on the other side of the world. Years later, the theory was proven true, and it doesn’t just apply to butterflies but all matter, including people. The “butterfly effect” illustrates how one life and one action can set in motion more than we realize, making an enormous impact for generations to come.

We see this concept in Jesus’ earthly ministry. Time and time again, Jesus would concentrate His complete attention on one person, engaging with that individual as if they were the only person in the world. From the demoniac in Gadara to the thief on the cross and the woman at the well, Jesus often went out of His way to focus on the one. And we know the story didn’t just stop with these individuals. From these encounters, a harvest was released among many as their testimonies touched lives and drew others to Jesus. Their stories still minister to people today.

Examples of these kinds of interactions continued throughout the early church, such as Philip’s ministry to one Ethiopian eunuch and Peter’s ministry to Cornelius. From these encounters, a harvest was released in Africa and among the Gentiles.

I believe Jesus’ plan for reaching the world is the same today. Let us follow His example by focusing on the one.

CHAPTER 4

THE RE-PERSONALIZATION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

[Read Chapter 4 in The Power of One]

As we look around us, it is not hard to recognize the growing individualism in our world. We spend more time looking at our phones than we do engaging with one another face-to-face, and we spend countless dollars on personalized products and experiences. The phenomenon of individualism is on the rise, and it may seem like terrible news if we are going to reach everyone; however, while we have reasons to be concerned, I believe we have much hope: Behind the devices and unique trends lies a generation that can completely change the world. Generation Z (born roughly between 1995-2015) is the largest generation on Earth today, and I believe they have the greatest potential to change the world.

With their unique worldviews, introverted tendencies, and desire to be seen, we must reach Gen Z-ers personally, not categorically. If we are going to reach this generation, we must focus on them as individuals. At the same time, this tech-savvy, creative, entrepreneurial, racially diverse, and globally connected generation wants to change the world. Can you imagine the potential of a passionate generation using technology and creativity to share Jesus with individuals all over the world? The impact will be massive!

I believe God is calling today's church to re-personalize the Great Commission and once again focus on individual people. God's heart is for everyone, and He invites each into a relationship with Him through His son. By focusing on one we can reach everyONE!

CHAPTER 5

THE WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE MUST BE REACHED

[Read Chapter 5 in The Power of One]

The 21st century will be the most volatile in history. If we are going to reach everyone on Earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we will do so amid the drama and trauma of our time. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus predicted days of extreme volatility at the end of the age. Yet, Jesus promised, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

We are being tossed about in some of history's most turbulent times, but still, God's call remains. Like the prophet Isaiah, who received his call to ministry as recorded in Isaiah 6, we are called amid crisis. Isaiah did not shrink back or allow fear to restrain him but accepted the challenge and, despite the drama and trauma of his day, and even his own weaknesses, became a bearer of good news.

In Acts Chapters 1 and 2, Luke shares an account of the days following Jesus' ascension to heaven and the birth of the church. The disciples, once afraid and scattered after Jesus' crucifixion, were huddled together, praying in the upper room in Jerusalem. The world outside their door was a storm of hostility and uncertainty after Jesus' execution. Yet, these ordinary men and women waited with anticipation for Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5).

Fast forward approximately 2,000 years, and here we are today with new drama and trauma surrounding us. The velocity and moral emptiness of our age have prepared the hearts of billions for the good news we are called to share. Everyone needs this message, and we are called to share it.

CHAPTER 5

THE WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE MUST BE REACHED

Read the following verses: Isaiah 6:1-8, Joel 2:28-32, Matthew 24:1-14, Acts 1:4-5

Reflect on the following questions:

- 1. Consider the Dead Sea illustration. Have you experienced “pouring out” being life-giving or not “pouring out” being detrimental to your walk of faith?**
- 2. Have you ever experienced significant resistance in your ministry? What happened?**
- 3. Do you ever feel inadequate to fulfill God’s plan for your life? What does God’s word say?**

CHAPTER 6

A NEW ERA OF EVANGELISM

[Read Chapter 6 in The Power of One]

The Holy Spirit's work and calling in the lives of Jacob DeShazer and Mitsuo Fuchida during and after World War II serve as an example of God's grace. The call to reach people with His good news transcends every human difficulty, even war, and He has commissioned us to reach all people everywhere and to do it together.

When God spoke to me about the "new flood" that would cover the Earth, He impressed to me that there would be three water sources, one of which would be a convergence or "coming together" of spiritual movements that would bring a confluence of spiritual power. Where and when believers connect in unity, it will bring an overflow, and the power of the Holy Spirit will spiritually flood the Earth around these connection points. Movements and streams will converge in our day in new ways, and we will see a great flood of grace. Unity is powerful, and when God's people are united, they can do the impossible.

Reaching everyone will require everyone. We know how monumental the task is before us, and it can't be accomplished alone. One preacher can't reach everyone. One influencer can't reach everyone. One institution can't reach everyone. One denomination or movement can't reach everyone. And this call to reach everyone is not reserved just for full-time ministers.

The Holy Spirit empowers us all to be a part of this mission. It will take all of us working together in a united effort to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

[Read Conclusion in The Power of One]

After Jesus' ascension to the Father, His disciples knew what to do; following Jesus' orders, they gathered in the upper room, and waited for the promise of the Holy Spirit. From there, empowered, they went into all the world with the amazing news of Jesus' resurrection. As they did, the disciples obeyed, turning the world upside down for Christ.

Now, almost 2,000 years later, the baton of the good news is in our hands. The world population is larger than it has ever been, and our tools for sharing the knowledge of God's glory are also greater than ever. Our opportunity is extraordinary, and we are being called to make new efforts to reach every person on Earth in our generation.

I believe the next years leading up to 2033 will be those of unprecedented evangelism – in which everyone on Earth will be reached with the good news.

A new era of evangelism is dawning. God is realigning our focus, hearts, and efforts to reach the world one person at a time. This is the strategy God has given us for fulfilling the Great Commission. It starts with people like you and me. In this next decade, let's join together for a united purpose and reach every single person on Earth through the power of the Holy Spirit with the message of Jesus Christ!

Who will be your first or next ONE?

Consider committing to joining the mission to reach everyone on Earth by 2033 by visiting 2033.Earth and signing the 2033 commitment.



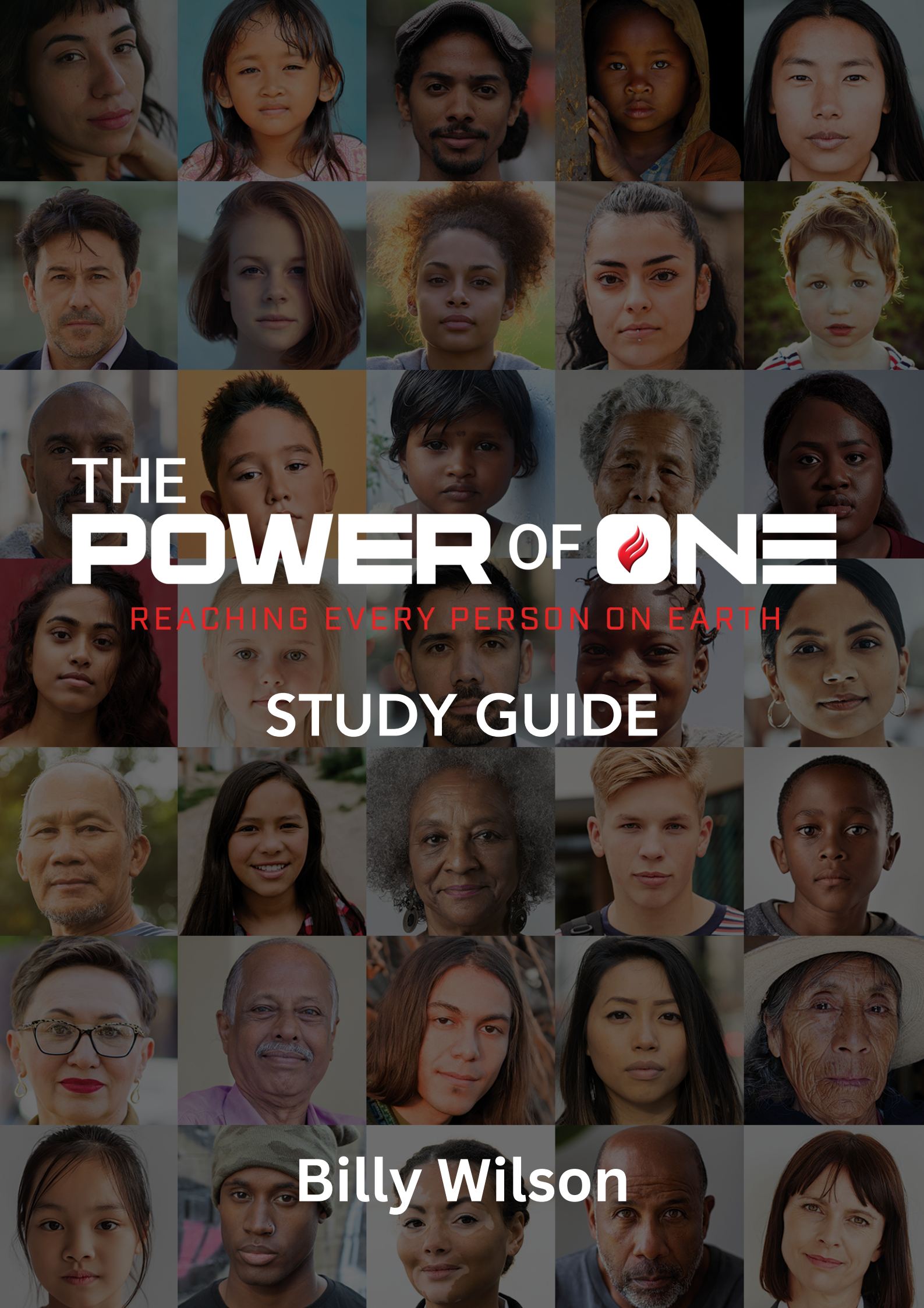
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