

The Evolution of the

12 Powers of Man

A Spiritual Legacy Rooted in New Thought Christianity

Sources: The Twelve Powers of Man – Charles Fillmore (1930) • TruthUnity.net • Unity Magazine

Roots of the Teaching

Emma Curtis Hopkins

"Teacher of Teachers"

Hopkins taught that twelve jewels of High Mysticism correspond to faculties of the soul — an idea she called the Science of Twelve Truths. Her 1886–1895 classes in Chicago ordained both Charles Fillmore and Annie Rix (Militz), planting the seed that twelve could be the sacred number of human spiritual development.

Annie Rix Militz

Co-Ordainer of Fillmore (1890)

Militz co-signed Charles Fillmore's ordination certificate in 1890. As early as 1893, Unity Magazine published her article "Manifestation of God Through Judas Iscariot," interpreting a disciple as a metaphysical generative center — the very concept Fillmore would later systematize as one of the Twelve Powers.

New Thought Confluence

Eastern & Western Synthesis

Fillmore openly drew from Eastern spirituality, Transcendentalism (Emerson), and esoteric traditions. He wrote: "I take Truth from any source and make it a fundamental rule of action." Occult and yogic traditions linking bodily nerve centers to spiritual faculties pre-date Fillmore; he updated them for practical Christian metaphysics.

Fillmore's Systematic Vision

The Twelve Powers of Man
Published 1930
Unity School of Christianity

"The subconscious realm in man has twelve great centers of action, with twelve presiding egos or identities. When Jesus Christ had attained a certain soul development, He called His twelve disciples to Him."

— Charles Fillmore, *The Twelve Powers of Man*

① Twelve Disciples as Archetypes

Fillmore mapped each of Jesus's twelve disciples to a spiritual faculty. Peter = Faith; John = Love; James = Wisdom; Philip = Power; Andrew = Strength; Matthew = Will; Thomas = Understanding; James (son of Alphaeus) = Order; Simon the Canaanite = Zeal; Thaddaeus = Elimination/Renunciation; Bartholomew = Imagination; Judas = Life.

② Nerve Centers & the Body

Fillmore correlated each power with a physical nerve center — ganglionic plexuses he viewed as spiritual receivers. He acknowledged this idea predated him, existing in esoteric, yogic, and occult traditions. He "updated the idea and connected it with his understanding of Christianity" (TruthUnity Metaphysics 1).

③ Regeneration & Soul Growth

The purpose of activating the Twelve Powers is regeneration: "Man expands and grows under divine evolution." Fillmore taught that developing these faculties under Christ consciousness transforms both mind and body, moving from "personal" to "universal" expression of divine life.

The Twelve Powers at a Glance

Faculty • Disciple • Body Center • Fillmore's Key Concept

Power	Disciple	Nerve Center	Core Quality
Faith	Peter	Center of Brain	The perceiving power of mind
Strength	Andrew	Loins	Stability & endurance in soul
Wisdom	James (Zeb.)	Solar Plexus	Judgment guided by Spirit
Love	John	Cardiac Plexus	Harmonizing, unifying power
Power	Philip	Root of Tongue	Dominion, mastery of word
Imagination	Bartholomew	Forehead	Faculty of ideation & vision
Understanding	Thomas	Front Brain	Spiritual discernment
Will	Matthew	Front Brain Center	Man's director of mind
Order	James (Alph.)	Navel	Divine sequence & harmony
Zeal	Simon	Back of Head	Enthusiasm for the divine
Elimination	Thaddaeus	Abdominal Region	Release of the unlike-Good
Life	Judas	Generative Center	Vital energy & regeneration

Living Legacy: From 1930 to Today

1893–1910

Annie Rix Miltz & The Early Seed

Ordained alongside Fillmore by Emma Curtis Hopkins in 1890, Miltz published in Unity Magazine as early as 1893, reading Judas Iscariot as a metaphysical symbol for a generative center. Scholar John Simmons called hers "The Forgotten Contribution to the Unity School of Christianity." Miltz's interfaith framework helped establish the spiritual-faculty approach that Fillmore would systematize.

1940s–1980s

Cora Fillmore, Hausmann & The Educators

Cora Dedrick Fillmore (Charles's second wife) wrote *Christ Enthroned in Man* as a companion guide, providing practical exercises for activating the powers. Winifred Wilkinson Hausmann's *Your God-Given Potential* deepened the curriculum, and Ed Rabel's *Unity Metaphysics* courses standardized the teaching for Unity ministers worldwide.

1930

The Twelve Powers of Man — Published

Fillmore's landmark book codified decades of teaching into a single metaphysical framework: twelve innate spiritual faculties, each personified by a disciple of Jesus and anchored in a bodily nerve center. The first edition was published by Unity School of Christianity, Kansas City, Missouri — Unity Village.

21st Century

A Living, Evolving Framework

Unity.org today presents the 12 Powers as a core belief alongside the Five Principles. Rev. Linda Martella-Whitsett and Rev. DeeAnn Weir Morency extended them in *Discover Your Divinity* (2018). TruthUnity.net hosts the full 1930 edition, courses, and study guides — ensuring Fillmore's vision continues to evolve in dialogue with contemporary spirituality.