

EMPOWERED FOLLOWERS

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Scriptures

Acts 1:8 - but you will receive power when [1] the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

John 14:25,26: These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Questions We Will Address

1. **What is the Holy Spirit?** First of all the Holy Spirit is not a “What” but a “Who”
2. **When does the Holy Spirit appear in the Bible?** Most people think that He appeared in the Book of Acts and not Genesis
3. **What is the Holy Spirit Purpose? In the earth and in the believer**
4. **Can an unbeliever have the Spirit of God since we are all made in the image of God?**
5. **What does the Holy Spirit has to do with Discipleship?**
6. **Is the Holy Spirit speaking in tongues?**
7. **How is One Led by the Spirit? Can you hear His Voice?**
8. **What is the Fruit of the Spirit? What are the Gifts of the Spirit? Can you have one without the Other?**

Defined – Ye Shall Receive Power

- **Empowered:** to give official authority or legal power to, especially by official or legal means
 - Luke 10:19 – Jesus delegated power to the Seventy to accomplish a work
- **Power** - strength power, ability; influence;
 - inherent power, power residing in a person or thing by virtue of its nature,
- **Mis-Application:** Many have taken the literal definition and have begun to apply it to their own power, their ability to create power of the self, from within.
 - This is why we have to be careful of this word, “Empowerment” ensuring that as believers our power comes from the Lord and not ourselves

Be Careful

- **Most of what is taught today regarding empowerment is about SELF Empowerment**
 - To Live From a Natural Way of Being
- Although the Approach Appears Biblical is operates under the guise of self-centeredness and self fulfillment. God is no longer in the picture. See portions of 10 Commandments of Self Empowerment below:
 - *Trust – In Yourself*
 - *Cultivate a New Mindset – acknowledging that you can control your mind and improve your state of well being*
 - *Releasing the Past – Inner Peace by living in the present and not the past*
 - *Live in Alignment with Truth – Put yourself first*
 - *Celebrate Your Greatness*

Empowered or Receiving Power

- Most people think of empowerment as one having knowledge to achieve things or a state of mind where one feels in control of his circumstances
- Remember the Christian Walk is about Reliance
- Jesus said that ye shall receive power not be empowered – Is there a difference?
 - **Through Him we are authorized to exercise God's Power legally in the earth**



Holy Spirit's Purpose

- **John 16:7** - "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."
 - **Jesus came to earth to fulfill God's Plan, However, he was still limited to time and space**
 - **The Church needed a presence that would be with them always, everywhere, constantly teaching, and empowering**
- **John 16:8** - "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;
- **John 16:13** - "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Example

Lord, Please send a perfect laborer to share the good news with Emmanuel. He's in another state now but he still needs Jesus.



Emmanuel, I feel impressed to share the message about Jesus with you

Wow! I feel so convicted. Maybe I do need to consider Christ



Through the Spirit we are not limited by time and space to be effective in witnessing and ministering to the Lost.

Purpose of the Spirit

- **Power to Make Disciples (Matthew 28:18/Acts 1:8)**
 - Jesus said that this power would assist in us in being Witnesses for Him
- **Revelation of God's Purpose (Acts 2 – Peter's Revelation)**
 - Peter preached his first sermon where 3000 were saved based upon a revelation of Christ's purpose received from the Spirit
- **Boldness and Perseverance (Acts 4: 29-31)**
 - The Early Church faced persecution and yet boldly preached the gospel
- **Direction: Acts 13:2**
 - As they ministered unto the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God provided direction – leading and constraining



The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- **The Holy Spirit came upon men and women in a measure** *(i.e. Samson wasn't super strong all the time, only when the Spirit of God came upon him)* ([Judges 14:6,19; 15:14](#)).
 - “The Spirit of the LORD” came on him “at times,” giving him supernatural strength (Judges 3:10)
 - “The Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him” ([Judges 6:34](#))
 - Upon Samuel: *1st Sam 10:6: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.*
- ***The Holy Spirit would come upon those God chosen for a purpose usually in terms of speaking prophetically to them, giving them hope, delivering them from the hands of the enemy, and warning them of things to come to deter them from disobedience***

The Spirit with Purpose

Isaiah 61:1,2- The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to
the afflicted He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;
2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord And the day
of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

- The Purpose of the Holy Spirit is to empower those who God chooses to do a work and its usually for His People
- Jesus repeats this same verse in Luke 4:18
- Luke 10:19: Jesus Empowers His Disciples

The Spirit Upon and the Spirit Within

- **Spirit Upon** – In the Old Testament it was temporal and upon requirement
- **For the New Testament Believer the Holy Spirit Indwells the Believer giving him Power to be an effective witness and disciple for God (John 20:22)**
 - The Spirit now indwells the believer forever
 - I believe that there are time that the Spirit endows the believer's spirit with certain gifts at different times for specific purposes (Acts 13:9)
 - Being Full of Faith and the Spirit: Acts 6:5; This means “saturated in the Spirit
 - 1st Corinthians 12:7: But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal (profit the body of Christ, not oneself)
- **Matthew 28:18/Acts 1:8 – Jesus speaks of a power given to him that will soon fill them**

The Holy Spirit

- **The Holy Spirit is not a Power used to Exalt Oneself or Control People and Circumstances**
- **The Holy Spirit always exalts the Father God**
- **The Holy Spirit Empowers us to become Witnesses (Acts 1:8)**
- **Brings us into Fellowship and not Fractions – The Unity of the Spirit (Acts 4:32)**
- **Produces Growth without Gimmicks (Acts 4:33)**

You Need the Holy Spirit

- **But didn't I receive the Spirit when I got saved?**
 - Upon salvation, we receive the Nature of God and we are made clean and whole
 - However, there is another aspect of the Holy Spirit which empowers us to do the work of God in the earth
 - We were made in the image and likeness of God, meaning we are to reflect God and also act like God in the earth
 - The Infilling or Power of the Holy Spirit allows us to act in dominion in the earth, empowering us for God's Purpose
 - Many Christians who become born again and even disciples can reflect the nature of God in their lives through God's Spirit abiding in them, however we can act in power through the empowering of God's Spirit in us.
 - The disciples already believed Christ, but Jesus said, "Ye Shall Receive Power – this means that there was something else they needed.

Have You Received Since You Believed?

Acts 19:1,2, 6: It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.

2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

- Read the first six verses. They were baptized unto repentance of sin (John's Baptism), but they required more.
- Paul knew they were under the converting and transforming power of the Spirit, but there was something missing – The Power that he and the others had previously experienced

God Desires to Empower You

Luke 11:13 - "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

- We never need doubt God's desire to pour out His Spirit. The problem is in our receiving, not in God's desire to give.
- **If you are not filled with the Spirit, go to the Lord asking to receive all that He has to offer you including His power to make you an effective Witness**