

One step in tapping into the power of God's Spirit, is to recognize our own weakness. There are times we really don't know how to pray for a situation. We might try to convince God to do what we would like to see happen, but what we really need is the power of the Spirit to help us align with God's will. (Rom 8:26-27)

What are the prayers you need to ask God's Spirit to intercede in on your behalf?

WRAP-UP

The gift of the Holy Spirit is our source of hope and strength. As you close, read this encouragement from Paul aloud and notice how the trinity is woven throughout the passage.

Ephesians 3:16-19 NLT - 16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Memory Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- Acts 1: 8 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- The Spirit also works in our lives to bring unity. Read through Ephesians 4:1-6 and notice what you are called to do in concert with the Spirit to promote unity in the body.

"Holy Spirit" David Hutsko- May 5, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Fifty days after Passover, on what we call Pentecost, the Holy Spirit arrived in Jerusalem in the midst of a gathering of disciples in the upper room. This third person of the trinity is a powerful gift to the believer. But many of us seem to try to live out our faith without tapping into His power and end up falling short. God has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us to do the work of the kingdom, and the more we understand the Spirit, the more effective our lives will be.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Which term are you most familiar or comfortable using- Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. What or Who is the Holy Spirit?

Attempting to understand the nature of the Holy Spirit can be confusing, or even frightening. Although we might not fully comprehend the Holy Spirit, we should attempt to understand what we can about Him. Let's begin with how the resurrected Jesus explained the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Acts 1:4-5 NLT - 4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

What is the image used by Jesus to describe how we would receive this gift? What do you think that means in terms of the extent of the interaction between the Holy Spirit the believers?

When the disciples were baptized, they were fully soaked with water, and when Jesus said they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit it should have brought to mind the extent of the change in their lives which they declared as the water of baptism had washed over them.

John 16:7 NLT - 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

In John 16:7 Jesus refers to the Spirit as the Advocate or Comforter¹. This word means one who comes along side to help, who advocates or pleads your case. ¹ *paraklētos*

Why do you think it is significant that the gift of the Spirit arrived after Jesus departed? Are there particular times in your life you recall the Spirit comforting you or felt He was pleading your case?

2. Power to do what?

Acts 1:6-8 NLT - 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" 7 He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

In Acts chapter 1 the disciples were asking when they would see Jesus free Israel and restore their kingdom. Jesus' answer redirected their focus from Himself, to the Spirit.

How were the disciples going to be impacted by the Spirit coming on them? What kingdom would they be pursuing then?

In this passage the word for Spirit is *pneuma*. The word is not only defined as spirit, but also wind or breath. The breath of God is a powerful force. He spoke the world into existence (Gen 1:2-3), and breathed life into Adam. (Gen 2:7).

How would the Spirit empower the disciples to advance God's kingdom to the ends of the earth? Do you see a connection to breath being used to bring new life to the unsaved here?

The Holy Spirit is indeed a remarkable gift.

What does John 16:13-15 tell us we receive from the Holy Spirit? How does this help us to be witnesses for God's kingdom?

John 16:13-15 NLT - 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

3. Living Supernaturally

We have been given power through God's Holy Spirit. But how does that translate into our daily lives? We might assume that whatever we do, now as Christians, we are naturally seeing the power of God at work. But you probably know it's not always the case.

Compare how effective Peter was in these two passages: one under his own passionate, determined strength, and the other after the Holy Spirit empowered him.

Luke 22:33-34 NLT - 33 Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you." 34 But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."

Acts 2:40-41 NLT - 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" 41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day--about 3,000 in all.

What steps can you take to shift from doing good in your own strength to allowing God to do His work through you? Have you ever experienced doing something that seemed like a good idea only to find it fizzled? Have you been part of something you felt was clearly God-driven? What helps you distinguish the difference?

Romans 8:26-27 NLT - 26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.