

THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS

November 6-12, 2019

Day One: Devotional

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23, focusing especially on what the Spirit brings out in our lives. Notice all mentions of power and what that looks like in this passage. Write out any reflections below.
2. Pray. Today, spend some time in prayer asking God for the very thing which Paul was praying for the Ephesians: Lord, give us a Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know Him better. Pray this prayer, repeating this request to God.
3. Continue in prayer... Lord enlighten the eyes of our hearts to know the hope you have called us to. What is that hope?
4. Read Romans 8:26-27. The Spirit intercedes for us. Where in your life do you long for him to intercede for you? Where do you just not know how to pray and need his leading?
5. Read Acts 1:8. How do you want to experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit more in your life? What would that look like?

Day Two: Observations & Color Code

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Observations:

Day Three: Method: Character Quality Study

1. Name the Quality: In a character quality study, you will be picking a quality in the Bible that you want to study. It should especially be something you want to incorporate more in your life, or perhaps the opposite— something you want to get rid of in your life. For the purpose of our study, we are going to be looking at **faith**. Especially keep in mind, we are looking at faith resulting from the power of the Spirit. Now, look up faith in a dictionary, and write out the definition here:

List any synonyms or related words that might help you understand this quality. Here are a few, and you can add a few more.

Assurance

Trust

Boldness

Courage

2. Name the opposite quality. There might be several antonyms to the quality you are studying. Perhaps look those up in a thesaurus that includes antonyms. Some opposite qualities for faith would be **doubt** and **fear**. Can you think of any others? Then, look those up in a dictionary and write the definition here:

Doubt

Fear

3. Look up the Bible definition of the word you are studying. This can be done by using an exhaustive concordance. For our study, faith in the Bible means persuasion, credence, conviction, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation, constancy, truth itself, and/or assurance. Then, if you have one, it would be helpful to consult a Bible Dictionary to get an even better understanding of the quality. Write anything you find out here:

4. Find Cross References. Using your concordance, find some cross references for **faith**. Write the reference and then give a brief description of that verse. Here are a few to get you started. Find at least 3 more.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Isaiah 7:9b If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all

Luke 5:19-20 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Matthew 17:20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

5. Ask some of the following questions about the quality as you look at the cross references:
What are the benefits this trait can bring me?

What are some bad consequences this trait can bring?

What are some benefits that this trait can bring others?

What are some consequences this trait can bring others?

Is there any promise from God related to this trait?

Is there any warning or judgment related to this trait?

Is there a command related to this trait?

What factors produce this trait?

Did Jesus have anything to say about this quality? What?

What writer talked about this quality the most?

Is this trait symbolized by anything in Scriptures? Is that significant?

Is this trait listed with a group of qualities? What is the relationship between them?

What Scriptures tell me directly what God thinks of this trait?

Do I want more or less of this trait in my life?

Day Four: Character Quality Study Continued

6. Do a brief biographical study. For this step, go back to your Bible and try to find at least one person who shows this character quality in his or her life. For the study today, let's look back on Elijah from last week. Write down any Scriptures that display this quality in his life. Ask these questions:
What shows this quality in his life?

How did this quality affect his life?

Did the quality help or hinder his growth to maturity? How?

What results did it produce in his life?

7. Find a memory verse: Looking back at your cross references and your biographical study, find a verse that really spoke to you this week. Write it out on an index card or paper that you can stick somewhere you will see it each day. Try to memorize it this week.

Day Five: Application

1. Think of an area in your life in which God wants you to work on the quality of faith. Perhaps there is a situation you face in which you will need faith. Think of what you will do when that situation arises. Maybe it is a relationship where God has been encouraging you to speak out, but you have been fearful. Pray that God would give you the confidence and strength to say what He wants you to say. Look for an opportunity where you can practice the quality of faith, or boldness, in your daily life.
2. Plan a specific project: Now, make your application specific, giving yourself a goal that you want to hit. Make your application personal, practical, and possible.
3. Pray. This week is all about how the Spirit empowers us. Looking back on the verses from the first two days, ask for the Spirit's power to incorporate faith like Elijah's into your life. He did not do anything by his own power, but by the power of the Spirit, and it is the same with us. We will ultimately fall short if we do not allow the Spirit to work through us. Pray for that. Ask for His strength.
4. Illustration: Come back to this study a week later, writing out a personal illustration of how you incorporated faith into your life this week. What did you do differently? This will help when you look back one day and see how God has worked in your life, building character.