



WEEK 2 - THE SPIRIT OF POWER OVERVIEW

One of the surprising outcomes of God's Spirit taking up residence in the hearts of Christ-followers is that otherwise ordinary people began developing extraordinary power – power to heal, to serve, to teach, and to speak truth about the very heart of God. This power, otherwise known as the "spiritual gifts" given to believers, is one of the primary ways that God grows, supports, and guides his Church. As we use our Spirit-given gifts to serve, His power shapes the community of faith around us in unexpected ways.

In a time when the brokenness of our world seems insurmountable and the Church struggles with division, it can be tempting to allow our faith to become little more than an individualistic relationship between us and God. However, with the Spirit empowering us, we can recover the vision of the Church as the body of Christ in our world and recapture the self-giving love we were created to demonstrate as a community. What might it look like to explore and live into our spiritual giftings in new ways this year as the Spirit empowers us to become the Church God desires?

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

1 Corinthians 12:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever received a gift or ability that had no explanation other than the Holy Spirit empowering you to do his work, like Barry's strong stomach? Share your story with your group.
2. Read Isaiah 11:2 and Joel 2:28-29.
 - a. In what ways does the Spirit empower people in the Old Testament?
 - b. To whom does the Spirit give gifts?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1, 7-11, Ephesians 4:11-12, 4:16.
 - a. Why does the Spirit empower people with gifts?
 - b. What gifts does the Spirit give?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:24-27 and Romans 12:4-8.
 - a. Describe the body of Christ in your own words.
 - b. How does considering the body of Christ help us understand and use Spiritual gifts?
5. Barry referred to people like Peter (Acts 2:37) and Stephen (Acts 6:5) in the New Testament using their Spiritual gifts. What are some other examples of people using Spiritual gifts in the Bible or in your own life?
6. How does the Holy Spirit empower you? What Spiritual gifts have you (or others) identified in yourself?
7. How are you using your spiritual gifts to help others grow? Are you in touch with how the Spirit has uniquely empowered you to build Christ's Church?
8. Consider the question asked above: What might it look like to explore and live into our spiritual giftings in new ways this year as the Spirit empowers us to become the Church God desires?