

Five-Day Devotional: Empowered – Our Boldness

Big Idea

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to boldly proclaim the gospel.

This Week's Challenge - Each day, pray three simple prayers:

“Holy Spirit, FILL ME.”

“Holy Spirit, SHOW ME.”

“Holy Spirit, USE ME.”

Acts 1:6–11

DAY 1: POWER FOR THE MISSION

Scripture: Acts 1:6–8

Read These Scriptures Today:

- Acts 1:6–8
- Luke 24:49
- Zechariah 4:6
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Ephesians 3:16–20

The disciples wanted a calendar. Jesus gave them a mission. They asked, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” They wanted to know what was coming next. They wanted to know when everything would happen.

But Jesus redirected their attention.

Instead of giving them a date, He gave them a promise:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

The Greek word for power is *dynamis*, from which we get words like “dynamic” and “dynamite.” It describes strength, ability, and power.

The disciples were not superheroes. Peter was impulsive. Thomas struggled with doubt. James and John had earned the nickname “Sons of Thunder.” They had weaknesses, failures, and fears.

Yet Jesus chose them. And Jesus knew the mission was bigger than their ability.

That is why they needed the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we try to do God's work using our own strength. We think we need a better personality, more Bible knowledge, greater confidence, or the perfect words.

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But Jesus doesn't say, "You will receive power when you become more confident."

He says, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

You don't have to manufacture the power. You simply have to depend upon the One who provides it. Your responsibility is not to be impressive. Your responsibility is to be available.

Think About It:

1. When you share your faith, do you tend to depend on yourself or the Holy Spirit?
2. What makes you nervous about talking to someone about Jesus?
3. Where do you need the Holy Spirit's power in your life right now?

Today's Challenge:

Before you have an important conversation today, pray:

"Holy Spirit, give me Your power. Help me say what needs to be said and trust You with the results."

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, I confess that I often try to accomplish Your work in my own strength. Forgive me. Remind me that I don't have to manufacture the power. You provide it. Fill me with Your strength and help me become the witness You have called me to be. Amen.

My Response

DAY 2: POWER FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Scripture: Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:11–12

Read These Scriptures Today:

- Acts 1:8
- Ephesians 4:11–12
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–7
- 1 Peter 4:10–11
- Romans 12:4–8

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One of the easiest mistakes Christians make is believing that ministry belongs to somebody else.

“That's the pastor's job.” “That's the missionary's job.” “That's the evangelist's job.” “I'm not good at that.”

But Acts 1:8 wasn't spoken only to pastors, missionaries, or professional evangelists. Jesus was speaking to His followers.

The Holy Spirit is not God's special equipment package for professional Christians.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to His people.

The church is not a spectator sport.

Think about a football team. Imagine the quarterback walking into the huddle and saying:

“Okay, everybody stay on the bench. I'm going to do everything.”

The offensive line says, “Sounds good.”

The receivers say, “Works for us.”

The running back says, “We're good.”

Then the quarterback runs every play by himself.

That's not football.

And that's not the church.

God has placed you in relationships I will never have.

You talk to people I will never meet.

You work with people I will never work with.

You have neighbors I don't know.

You have family members who may listen to you differently than they would listen to me.

God has strategically placed you where you are.

You are not a spectator.

You are a participant.

The question isn't whether God can use you.

The question is whether you are willing to let Him.

How Do We Cultivate the Spirit's Power?

Prayer: “Holy Spirit, lead me.”

Scripture: “Holy Spirit, teach me.”

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Obedience: “Holy Spirit, I’ll follow.”

Availability: “Holy Spirit, use me.”

We don't become Spirit-empowered simply by knowing more about the Holy Spirit.

We become Spirit-empowered by **yielding ourselves to God**.

Think About It:

1. Have you ever thought, “Evangelism is the pastor's job”?
2. What gifts, experiences, or relationships has God given you that could be used for His kingdom?
3. Who is someone God has placed in your life that you might be able to influence for Jesus?

Today's Challenge:

Ask God:

“Holy Spirit, show me one opportunity today where You want to use me.”

Then pay attention.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You that You don't only work through pastors and missionaries. You want to work through me. Show me how You have uniquely equipped me. Help me recognize the opportunities You place in front of me. Give me the courage to participate rather than simply watch. Amen.

My Response:

God has placed these people in my life:

One way I can serve or encourage them is:

DAY 3: YOUR STORY IS YOUR TESTIMONY

Scripture: Acts 1:8

Read These Scriptures Today:

- Acts 1:8

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- John 9:1–25
- Mark 5:18–20
- 1 Peter 3:15–16
- Psalm 66:16

Jesus didn't tell the disciples to become lawyers. He told them to become witnesses.

A witness doesn't have to know everything. A witness simply tells what they have seen and experienced.

In a courtroom you aren't being asked to be the attorney. You're being asked to be the witness.

The same is true when we share our faith.

You may not know how to answer every theological question. You may not understand every difficult passage in Revelation. You may not know exactly how to respond to every objection. That's okay.

You know what Jesus has done in your life.

You can say: “I was lost, but Jesus found me.” “I was carrying guilt, and Jesus gave me forgiveness.” “I was afraid, and Jesus gave me peace.” “I didn't know where to turn, and Jesus became my hope.”

You don't have to know everything. You just have to know Jesus.

Your testimony doesn't have to be dramatic. It simply has to be honest.

Think About It:

1. What has Jesus changed in your life?
2. What is one situation where you have experienced God's faithfulness?
3. If someone asked, “What difference has Jesus made in your life?” what would you say?

Today's Challenge:

Write your testimony in three sentences:

Before Jesus:

How Jesus changed me:

What Jesus is doing in me now:

Then ask God for an opportunity to share it.

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Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for what You have done in my life. Help me remember that I don't have to know every answer to be Your witness. Give me courage to tell my story honestly and humbly. Holy Spirit, remind me of what You have done and give me the right opportunity to share it. Amen.

My Response:

My three-sentence testimony:

DAY 4: BOLDNESS DOESN'T MEAN FEARLESSNESS

Scripture: Acts 4:29–31

Read These Scriptures Today:

- Acts 4:23–31
- John 20:19–22
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Joshua 1:9
- Psalm 56:3–4

Evangelism can be intimidating: What if they reject me? What if they laugh? What if they ask something I can't answer? What if I say something wrong? What if they think I'm weird? What if they don't want to hear it?

Fear can stop us. But look at the disciples.

Before Pentecost, they had hidden behind locked doors. John 20:19 tells us that the disciples were together with the doors locked because they were afraid.

Locked doors. Fear. Hiding. But something changed.

Later, in Acts 4:31, we find those same followers of Jesus speaking God's Word **boldly**.

What changed? Their personalities? No.

Their education? No.

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Their circumstances? No.

The Holy Spirit came upon them.

Boldness doesn't mean you never feel nervous. Boldness means you trust God enough to take the next step even when you are nervous. Think about someone learning to swim. The first time they reach the deep end, they grab the side of the pool. But then someone stronger gets into the water and holds them. Suddenly they're willing to let go.

Why?

Because they know: Someone stronger is holding me.

That's what the Holy Spirit does. God doesn't necessarily remove every scary situation. He gives us His presence in the middle of it. You don't have to become a bold personality. You simply need to become a Spirit-dependent person.

Think About It:

1. What is your greatest fear when it comes to sharing your faith?
2. How does knowing the Holy Spirit is with you change that fear?
3. What would it look like to take one courageous step this week?

Today's Challenge:

When you feel nervous about witnessing, stop and pray:

“Holy Spirit, give me courage. I don't need to be fearless. I just need to be faithful.”

Then take the next step.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, I admit that I sometimes allow fear to keep me silent. Give me courage. Help me trust that I am not alone. Give me the right words, the right attitude, and the right opportunity. Help me remember that You are stronger than my fear. Amen.

My Response:

The person or situation I'm praying for courage about:

The next step I believe God wants me to take:

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DAY 5: LOOK UP—THEN GO

Scripture: Acts 1:8–11

Read These Scriptures Today:

- Acts 1:8–11
- Matthew 28:18–20
- Mark 16:15
- Romans 10:13–15
- Revelation 7:9–10

The disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven. They stood there looking upward. Can you blame them? If you watched Jesus physically rise into heaven, you would probably stare too.

Then the angels asked: “Why do you stand here looking into the sky?”

It seems like a strange question. They had just watched Jesus leave! But the angels were reminding them: Stop looking up. Go.

Jesus had given them a mission. Jerusalem. Judea. Samaria. The ends of the earth.

The mission started where they were, but it didn't stop there. That is still the mission of the church. Sometimes we can become so focused on church that we forget the purpose of church.

We like worship.

We like preaching.

We love prayer.

We like fellowship.

And we should.

But there comes a moment when worship ends and mission begins. The service is dismissed, but the mission isn't. The parking lot becomes a mission field. Your workplace becomes a mission field. Your school becomes a mission field. Your neighborhood becomes a mission field. Your kitchen table becomes a mission field. Your family becomes a mission field.

Wherever God has placed you, He has placed you there as a witness.

Think about a signpost.

A signpost doesn't say: “Look at me!”

It says: “Look that way.”

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That's what our lives should do.

When people see how we respond to difficulty: Look to Jesus.

When they see how we forgive: Look to Jesus.

When they see how we serve: Look to Jesus.

When they see how we have hope: Look to Jesus.

When they ask, "How are you still standing?"

You can say: "Because Jesus has been holding me up."

So ask yourself - who is MY Jerusalem?

Your Jerusalem is the person closest to you who needs Jesus. A spouse. A child. A grandchild. A parent. A friend. A coworker. A neighbor. Someone who knows your name but doesn't know your Savior.

Who Is Your Samaria?

Your Samaria is the person you might naturally avoid. Someone different from you. Someone difficult. Someone you don't understand. Someone you may have written off.

Jesus says: "They're part of the mission too."

Think About It:

1. Who is your Jerusalem?
2. Who is your Samaria?
3. Where has God placed you that could become a mission field?
4. What is one thing you can do this week to point someone toward Jesus?

Today's Challenge:

Pray these three prayers:

"HOLY SPIRIT, FILL ME."

"HOLY SPIRIT, SHOW ME."

"HOLY SPIRIT, USE ME."

Then ask: "Holy Spirit, show me one person who needs Jesus."

Not the whole city. Not the whole country. Not the whole world. **One person.**

You never know what God might do through one Spirit-empowered conversation.

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Prayer:

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your power. Show me the people around me who need encouragement, prayer, love, hope, and Jesus. Use my words, my story, my gifts, my home, my workplace, and my relationships. Help me look up to You and then go where You send me. Make my life a signpost that points people toward Jesus. Amen.

My Response:

My Jerusalem:

My Samaria:

One person I will intentionally pray for this week:

One step I will take:

MY 5-DAY EMPOWERED CHALLENGE

HOLY SPIRIT, FILL ME.

☐ I will ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower me.

HOLY SPIRIT, SHOW ME.

☐ I will ask God to show me someone who needs Jesus.

HOLY SPIRIT, USE ME.

☐ I will make myself available for God to use.