

# Empowered By the Spirit

## **Empowered By the Spirit**

### **Key idea:**

We are to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, Who empowers us for the mission of God in the earth today.

### **Key text:**

Acts 1:8

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.

### **Key points:**

1. The promise that the Holy Spirit would come to the people of God in power to dwell in them was part of God's covenant promise and was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.
2. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit so that we can fulfill the mission God has given to us.
3. We are empowered by the Spirit with spiritual gifts/manifestations of the Spirit to help us serve others as part of the mission.
4. We are empowered by the Spirit to resist sin, embrace righteousness, and obey God.
5. We are empowered by the Spirit to engage in spiritual warfare to see God's kingdom expanded!
6. Being filled with the Spirit is not a one time experience but rather an on-going need for believers.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit is described as coming like a mighty rushing (or even violent) wind. Where else in Scripture is the Spirit likened to wind?
3. How is my experience of the Holy Spirit as a new covenant believer different than that of God's people in the Old Covenant? Why is it important for me to understand this? How often do I reflect upon this fact?
4. In John 3:6 Jesus makes a strong distinction between the Holy Spirit and the flesh. What does this tell me about my need for the Holy Spirit to be born again? To engage in ministry? To live the Christian life? Is any of this possible apart from the Spirit?
5. Bret defined spiritual gifts as "concrete expressions of God's grace, manifested by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, in order to enable us to serve others in love." How are "spiritual gifts" related to God's grace? How are they related to the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit? Why am I given spiritual gifts?
6. Are spiritual gifts only for church gatherings, or should they be part of my whole life? How is the Spirit being manifested in my life? How is God's grace expressing itself through me?
7. In Galatians 5:16-18 Paul shows the work of the Spirit in my sanctification as He empowers me to overcome sin. Does the law help me overcome sin? Why or why not? How is sin overcome in my life?
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in spiritual warfare? In what ways am I tempted to attempt to overcome Satan and His work by my flesh rather than by the Spirit? What is the relationship between "praying in the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:18) and spiritual warfare? Do I engage in spiritual warfare in my prayer life? How can I grow in this area?
9. How often do I consciously ask God to fill me with the Spirit? How can I make this a regular part of my life?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?

### **Preview of next week: The Testing of Faith in God's Covenant Promises (Genesis 22)**