

THIS IS US

OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

Discussion Guide | Week 10: Spiritual Power | April 19, 2020

OVERVIEW The Christian life isn't just difficult to live. It's *impossible* to live. The Christian life is a supernatural life, which means you can't live it alone. We must live the Christian life out of the power & guidance of the Holy Spirit. Every good thing that God brings into your life, He brings by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I wonder what it would've been like to be with Jesus, but he said it was better that He ascend so that we could receive the Holy Spirit! Having a mind set on the Spirit is the most vital command in all of Scripture, resulting either in our ability to overcome OR utter failure & bankruptcy. When we keep in step with the Spirit, we're able to fulfill all the God asks of us – including the command to love one another. But when we rely simply on our own resources to live the Christian life, it brings nothing but disappointment & failure. Having a mind set on the Spirit is an intensely relational practice. Nothing is more important for you & your family than this single command.

KEY VERSES Romans 8:1-17, 2 Peter 1:3, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, Philippians 4:13

WE WILL DAILY LIVE OUT OF THE RESOURCES
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND LEAVE OUR OWN
WEAKNESS AND BROKENNESS BEHIND.

VALUE: SPIRITUAL POWER

REMEMBER Brad referenced a study where 1/4 of women & 2/3 of men chose to shock themselves with electricity rather than sit in silence & solitude for 15 minutes. Does that surprise you? Why or why not? Which option would you have chosen if you were part of the study? Explain.

REFLECT Putting our trust in Jesus requires us to realize that we can't do life on our own. Our human tendency is to condemn ourselves for our shortcomings & try to find our own way. But we're never told to do that! We're told to follow Jesus, to choose to set our minds on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5). Why? So that we can experience life & peace (Romans 8:6)! In our culture, what are some examples you've seen of how people condemn themselves & try to find their own way through life? What's usually the breaking point when they're finally willing to stop striving & start surrendering? Explain.

RESPOND Have someone read 2 Peter 1:3 (NLT) out loud. As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to live lives that honor our Heavenly Father. That means we have everything we need to thrive... even in the midst of a pandemic! Over the last few weeks, have you been living in moment-by-moment dependence on the Spirit's guidance, or have you had to battle a scarcity mindset that believes you won't have enough to endure this crisis? Share.

REAL LIFE Brad mentioned that the Holy Spirit is attracted to our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:8-9). Our brokenness is where he does some of his best work! What's one weakness that you're feeling convicted about in this season? What do you need to do this week to surrender it to Jesus? Share.

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PRAYER TIME Close your group time by praying this prayer of surrender from the Psalms together. Have everyone open to Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT) so that you can recite it together.

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”*

NOTES

- Mind set on the flesh = I’m looking out for me & deciding for me.
 - The Apostle Paul says that this is death.
 - This death means there’s a separation of relationship.
- Mind set on the Spirit = I have a moment-by-moment dependence upon the inner promptings & guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - This is what Paul is talking about in Romans 8!
 - This mindset is totally relational.
- We’re never told to find our way. We’re told to follow.

STUDY: When given the choice, 1/4 of women and 2/3 of men chose to voluntarily shock themselves with electricity rather than sit alone with their thoughts in silence & solitude for 15 minutes.

Truths about the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is attracted to my weakness & brokenness. (2 Corinthians 12:8)
2. The Holy Spirit traffics in truth (the truth of Jesus & the truth of God’s Word) to expose the lies that lead to sin & separation from God.
3. The Holy Spirit lives to magnify Christ in me, to form the character of Christ in me.

QUOTES

“It’s far better to be led somewhere than to follow directions. God gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us not a list of rules to follow.”

“Living a life that follows the Holy Spirit is like walking instead of crawling. And when obstacles come up, we can walk right over them.”

“You weren’t meant to spiritually crawl, but to walk. Living a life that follows the Holy Spirit is like walking instead of crawling. And when obstacles come up, we can walk right over them.”

“The Spirit leads us with subtle prompting, not yelling loudly.”

“Living a life led by the Holy Spirit means living a life with a moment-by-moment dependence upon the inner promptings & inner power of the Holy Spirit.”

“Character trumps giftedness.”

“The Holy Spirit is attracted to your weakness & your brokenness. A self-sufficient heart will never follow its leading.”

“God does his best work in your weaknesses.”