

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Prevailing Pattern: For the week of April 5 - 11, 2020

Main Thought and Scripture:

Experiencing what God has for us tomorrow will require a fresh infusion of His power. This power comes from receiving the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus. Jesus clearly explained to his disciples before ascending to Heaven to pause and wait for the Holy Spirit to descend upon them. The disciples were faced with a "new normal" as they were tasked to build His church amidst persecution and great uncertainty. As we navigate uncharted territory within the current global pandemic, let us receive and activate the power of the Holy Spirit. This power will give us the patience, perseverance, prayer and unselfish obedience to be the catalysts that will open doors for us as well as others.

"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.'" (Acts 1:4-8 NIV)

1. We receive God's power by waiting on Him in prayer.

"...Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about." (v.4)

2. We overcome trials and fulfill God's will for our lives by activating the Holy Spirit.

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:2-4 NIV)

3. We reveal God's glory by demonstrating His power in service to others.

"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." (v.8)

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above?
- What would you need to do to reorganize your life so that you have daily time to wait upon Jesus for His power and strength?
- Who is someone you can serve this week? What is one practical thing you can do to serve them?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another that God will give and we will receive His power and strength to serve others well.
- Pray for one person God is calling you to call and share the love of Christ with.