

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Promise of His Power: For the week of April 11 - 17, 2021

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Jesus' resurrection from the dead made it possible for us to have a restart in life, free from the power of sin and death. He then sent the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples to live unstoppably for Him. Like them, we must remain filled with the Holy Spirit if we are to live like Jesus and fulfill His purpose for us on earth.

"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... ⁸you 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 1:4–5, 8 NIV)

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly 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 2:1–4 NIV)

1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live unstoppably like Jesus.

2. Therefore, we must be continually filled with the Spirit through regular spiritual practices.

- **Through prayer.**

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31 ESV)

- These were the same disciples who were filled with the Spirit in Acts 2, now again being filled after a time of prayer.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..." (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

- **Through the Word.**

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit..." (Ephesians 5:18-19 NIV)

- People didn't own personal bibles in that day. Therefore, the Word was communicated orally from person to person. Today we can apply this by reading and encouraging one another in the Word to remain filled with the Spirit.

- **Through thanksgiving and worship.**

"...Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:19-20)

- Worship orients our hearts towards gratitude for who God is and what He has done, brings us into God's presence, and helps us to remain filled with the Spirit.

Discussion Questions: *(Select those that apply)*

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon and the main thoughts and scriptures listed above, what stands out to you the most and why?
- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit empower you to live like Jesus? What happened, and what did you learn through that experience?
- Which of the spiritual practices listed above do you find most challenging (prayer, the Word, worship)? What will you practically do to apply this discussion to remain continually filled with the Spirit?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to apply today's discussion and to remain filled with the Spirit.
- Pray for someone you are reaching out to.