

VALUE 4 | EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

After the resurrection and before the ascension, Jesus instructs His disciples to stay put in Jerusalem and wait (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4). And so they did. Jesus rose from the grave and had given them the Great Commission. Why wait to tell that to the world? Because the *Paraclete* (Holy Spirit: advocate, intercessor, comforter) had not been given to them yet.

So they wait, and then the Holy Spirit comes and fills them and empowers them for the task that lies before them: telling the world about Jesus as they function as the Body of Christ, the Church.

Peter, a disciple who seemed to always say the wrong thing, now filled with the Spirit, preaches a sermon and 3000 people come to Christ.

Some of us come from contexts where the Trinity seems to be, "Father, Son, and Holy Bible", while the emphasis for others of us has been, "Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, and Holy Spirit". We neither want to ignore the Holy Spirit and His critical work in our lives, nor over-emphasize the Holy Spirit beyond His role of building up the church and magnifying of Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 12:7

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

BIBLE READING PLAN

MONDAY	JOHN 16:4b-15
TUESDAY	ROMANS 12:3-8
WEDNESDAY	1 PETER 4:7-11
THURSDAY	2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10
FRIDAY	GALATIANS 5:16-26
SATURDAY	1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-13

POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

1. Which descriptor describes your experience with the Holy Spirit best?
 - a. *"Father, Son, and Holy Bible"* (under-emphasis)
 - b. *"Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, and Holy Spirit"* (over-emphasis)
 - c. *"Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"* (balanced emphasis)
 - d. I'm still foggy on this Three-in-One Trinity thing and am new to exploring faith in God.
2. What are the circumstances in your faith and the things you've been taught (or lack thereof) that have contributed to your answer to Q.1?
3. Reread verses 4-7. Who is the giver of Spiritual Gifts and what is their purpose?
4. What is the difference between the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) and Gifts of the Spirit (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:8-10; 1 Pet 4:11)?
5. Who are the recipients of the Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit? Who determines who receive which gifts (v.11)?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Why is recognition of our personal weakness and poverty key in God's economy?

7. Describe the difference between a believer striving in their own strength and one who is empowered by the Spirit? Practically, how do we move from the former to the latter?

8. Noted theologian, J.I. Packer, illustrates the Holy Spirit's role as that of a floodlight. A floodlight does not call attention to itself but to the subject that it casts light upon. The Holy Spirit's role is to direct attention of believers to the person and work of Jesus, not Himself. How is that (along with gifts being for the common good in the church) a helpful image for us as we think through what it means to be *empowered by the Spirit*?