



BETTER THIS WAY, PART THREE: THE GOD WHO EMPOWERS US

After the resurrection, the disciples were completely different people. They were so bold and inspired to spread the message of the Gospel, even in the face of death. As Christians, we have the exact same Spirit of God in our lives, so why don't our lives look more like Peter's or John's? Is it even possible to experience the Holy Spirit in the same way?

BIG IDEA: When you choose courage over comfortable, the Holy Spirit does his best work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What situations make you most afraid? Have you ever seen someone respond courageously to that same situation? What did you observe about them?
2. Have you ever had an experience where following Jesus made you feel uncomfortable? What was that like?
3. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 1:3-9.](#)

³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. ⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁸ "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

[Acts 1:3-9 \(NLT\)](#)

4. Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. Do you think the disciples knew what this meant? Do you know?
5. In Acts 1:8, Jesus gives them the mission of the church: they will become witnesses. What is your definition of witness?
6. Would someone observing your life know that this your mission? Why or why not? What is one thing you can do this week to obey Jesus' final command to His disciples?
7. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 4:1-13.](#)

¹ While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. ² These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. ³ They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. ⁴ But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000. ⁵ The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. ⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, ⁹ are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? ¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the

dead. ¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' ¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." ¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

[Acts 4:1-13 \(NLT\)](#)

8. When you hear that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, what do you picture?
9. What is your reaction to the type of boldness Peter displayed? If you were to suddenly become "bold" for Christ, what about you would change?
10. If you are a follower of Jesus, the same Holy Spirit that lived in Peter lives in you. What does that mean to you?
11. What do you think keeps us from experiencing the Holy Spirit in a similar way?
12. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Galatians 5:25.](#)

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

[Galatians 5:25 \(NLT\)](#)

13. Chris said, "To experience the Spirit's power in our life, then we must follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our life." What are some areas in your life that you know you aren't following the Spirit's leading?
14. The Holy Spirit's role as the "Helper" and "Comforter" implies that following the Spirit's leading may require some discomfort. How does that make you feel?
15. Is there any area of your life where you tend to prioritize comfort over courage? What would you do if you were absolutely certain the Holy Spirit lives in you?

MOVING FORWARD

Sensing where the Spirit is leading us in every part of our lives is often the easy part. Actually taking the step? That's the hard part. Sometimes the step is life-changing; sometimes it means just doing something slightly out of your comfort zone. But on the other side of that step is greater faith, a greater experience with God.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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[Galatians 5:25 \(NLT\)](#)