



EMPOWERED | WEEK 5: COME, HOLY SPIRIT

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:

- “[Am I Desperate?](#)” – sample message by Christina Lowery, Crossroads Vineyard Church
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BIG IDEA: When we acknowledge our desperation for the Holy Spirit, He will come alongside us to help.

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another [advocate](#), who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. | John 14:16-17

- In the midst of the disciple's uncertainty, and anxiety over his coming death, Jesus promises to send another Advocate, or helper to take his place.
 - He tells them that he will be leaving, but the Advocate that is coming would never leave them.
- The Greek word for “advocate” is parakletos
 - Parakletos = One who is summoned to come alongside and aid.
 - This is why we often pray, “Come, Holy Spirit.”
 - In our distress, when we are desperate – we can call on Him to come and help.
- When you call, He will come.
 - Are you fearful or anxious? Pray, “Come Holy Spirit,” and He will comfort and bring peace that passes all understanding.
 - Are you isolated or lonely? Pray, “Come Holy Spirit,” and He will be your friend and your teacher.
 - When you’re stressed or overwhelmed – Pray, “Come Holy Spirit,” and He will carry your burden and guide you along the right path.
 - Are you feeling guilty or ashamed? Pray, “Come Holy Spirit,” and He will convict you and forgive you and wash you and heal you and set you free!
- This is GOOD NEWS! But unfortunately, instead of praying, “Come Holy Spirit,” we call on just about anything else that might aid us in our distress.
 - We’ll numb the pain, cover it up, excuse it away, OR we may even expect our spouse, parents, pastors, or friends to fix it and rescue us.
 - And the Holy Spirit stands by patiently, waiting for us to call on Him.

- Instead of trying to avoid our desperation, perhaps we need to embrace it.

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. | Psalm 63:1

- This is a prayer of desperation.
- Are we searching and longing for the Holy Spirit in a way that is like walking through a desert with no water in sight?
- The Holy Spirit is drawn to those who are desperate.
 - If I put you in a room with your own child, and a starving child from Haiti, and they are both crying out for food, which one would you help first? The weak, desperate, and dying one, of course.
 - Does this mean that you don't love or want to care for your own child? Of course not! Just the same – God will always love and provide for His kids. But He will come *running* for those who are desperate.
- As we've been exploring the person, presence, and power of the Holy Spirit leading up to Pentecost next week, my prayer for you today is that desperation is stirred up in your heart.

Prayers of Desperation

1 - "Come, Holy Spirit. I NEED YOU."

- This prayer tells the Holy Spirit, "I can't do this on my own. I don't have what it will take to make it through this moment."
 - When our child cries out for us in the middle of the night, saying "Mama, Daddy, I need you!" We come running! The Holy Spirit is drawn to and attracted to those who recognize their need for Him.

Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners. | Mark 2:17
 - Those who recognize that they are nothing without Him are the ones who get to go to the front of the line...VIP access to Him.

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. | Matthew 5:3
 - Do you guys realize what this implies? When we realize that we have nothing and are nothing, in exchange, God gives us *everything*. The King of Heaven. All that Heaven has to offer us... is ours when we recognize how much we need Him.

2 - "Come, Holy Spirit. HELP ME."

- As we discussed in week 2, one of the pitfalls of this prayer is when we attach expectations on *how* God helps us.
 - Remember? Real faith, according to Jesus asks for a "yes" but is prepared for a "no."

- Sometimes, the way we pray this prayer is like hanging off a cliff and having specific expectations of how we are rescued.
- We don't get to make the calls about *how, who, or when* He helps us. When we pray, "Holy Spirit, help me," we shouldn't be asking for a method. We should be seeking the Master. The person of the Holy Spirit who is our parakletos, the One who comes alongside and aids.

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. | James 1:5-8

- When we ask the Helper for help, we need to trust the Helper to do what is best. The key to this prayer is TRUST.

3 - "Come, Holy Spirit. I AM WEAK."

- I am not strong enough to carry this burden on my own. I can't carry myself or my family through this. I'm not strong enough to do this work and finish well.
- Friends, THIS is a prayer that rattles heaven.
- When we come to God in our weakness, He says, "*Perfect!* Best case scenario!" The Apostle Paul tells us about taking his own weakness to God:

I was given a thorn in my flesh...three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." | Corinthians 12:7-9

- Paul was desperate! Three different times he *begged* the Lord to take his thorn away.
- God's answer did not come in the form of relief. And He didn't remove the thorn. God allowed the thorn to stay in his flesh.
- The Holy Spirit was teaching Paul that even with a thorn in the flesh, HE IS ENOUGH. He is *more* than enough. He is saying, "I am strongest in your weakness."
- Sometimes, the Holy Spirit calms the storm. But other times, He calms His child.
- When we pray, "Holy Spirit come," regardless of the timing or His method, He *will* come and walk us through the storm, the mountain, the desert that we're facing.

PRAY: *Holy Spirit, Come. I Need You. I Need Help. I Am Weak. EMPOWER ME in my desperation.*
