

## Battle ready

### Ephesians 6

**18**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **19**Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20**for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

### *Joining the mission of Jesus can be difficult.*

In the Great Commission, Jesus left us with a significant task. We've been sent into the world to make disciples of all the nations through sharing the good news about who Jesus is and what He's done.

Honestly, it can be a bit overwhelming.

The world can be resistant to our message. Sometimes, it's even hostile to the gospel.

### Romans 8

**7**The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8**Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

We shouldn't be surprised that joining His mission and sharing the message of Jesus can be difficult. Fortunately, **God hasn't left you to do it on your own.**

### Acts 1

**6**Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**7**He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8**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.”

The book of Acts reports story after story of the early disciples being filled with that divine power and many people coming to put their faith in Christ.

**The same Holy Spirit that filled and empowered them is available to you today. When you put your faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit now dwells in you!**

### **Romans 8**

**9**You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. **10**But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life **d** because of righteousness. **11**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of **e** his Spirit who lives in you.

**One of the main reasons that Jesus gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit is to empower you to share the gospel with the people around you.** He told His disciples to start where they were, in Jerusalem. The strategy is the same today. You don't have to travel to distant places to be a witness for Jesus, you can start with the people closest to you.

Even with opposition he will be there and guide you.

## **1 John 4**

**4**You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

## **John 7 (NLT)**

**37**On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, **“Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! **38**Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”**  
**e 39**(When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given,**f** because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

## **1 Cor 12**

**4**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. **5**There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. **6**There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

**7**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. **8**To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, **9**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, **10**to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, **a** and to still another the interpretation of tongues. **b 11**All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

### **Unity and Diversity in the Body**

**12**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13**For we were all baptized by <sup>c</sup> one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **14**Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

***The. Gifts mean nothing if the fruit isn't evident.***

### **1 Cor 14**

**1**Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. **2**For anyone who speaks in a tongue <sup>a</sup> does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. **3**But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. **4**Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. **5**I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, <sup>b</sup> but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, <sup>c</sup> unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

Holy Spirit helps us with our weakness.

### **Romans 8**

**26**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **27**And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

### **Acts 19**

**1**While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples **2**and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when **a** you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

**3**So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

**4**Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” **5**On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6**When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues **b** and prophesied. **7**There were about twelve men in all.

### **1 Cor 14**

**18**I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. **19**But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Cuba, Haiti, Africa

**We don’t seek gifts, we seek Jesus!**

**Human availability has always been an essential part of the unfolding of God's plan.** Throughout Scripture there is an obvious blending of God's sovereign purposes and people's availability in implementing those purposes.

Spiritual gifts operate only with human availability. While the gifts are supernatural both in source and operation, they require willing and obedient hearts through which they might find expression.