

Empowered by Whom?

Acts 1:1-12 – April 19, 2026

- 3 ideas common to all superhero stories:
 - Superpowers
 - Origin Stories
 - Alter Egos
- One superpower I wish I had is: _____
- I was intended to live a life of supernatural empowerment
- We tend to think of Jesus like we think about superheroes.
 - God's alter ego
 - Human, but not quite
 - This is the mystery of the incarnation
 - Jesus is 100% God, 100% human
- Jesus did nothing by Himself.
 - *John 5:19*
- Jesus didn't cease to be God in the incarnation
 - Jesus also didn't use His own power to accomplish His ministry
 - *Philippians 2:6*
- The power for Jesus' ministry came from the Holy Spirit
 - Through spiritual gifts
- Jesus is not a superhero
 - He is the perfect human
 - Surrendered to the Father
 - Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Jesus encountered God the Father through spiritual practices
 - Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit through spiritual gifts
 - We are called to live the same kind of life as Jesus
- The Spirit would bring power to the disciples' lives
 - *Acts 1:8*
 - Power to be God's witnesses
- Jesus said His disciples would do even greater things
 - *John 14:12*
- Through spiritual practices we encounter God and we are formed into people He can entrust with His presence and power
 - Through spiritual gifts we are empowered by the Spirit to build up the church, serve, and witness to the world.