



Oct 9, 2022 - Pastor Rafael Aristy

Vision Statement

We live to see lives transformed through Jesus

Mission Statement

We are a family committed to seeing lives changed. We connect people to God and others, make disciples of Jesus, and are Spirit-empowered people who live out the Good News in our world. And we are each determined to fulfill our unique purpose in God's mission to everyone, everywhere, every day.

3 Pillars

Connect | Disciple | Empower

Last week Pastor Jason talked about our second Pillar, "Make disciples of Jesus", and today we will discuss the next part of our mission statement:

We are Spirit-Empowered people

EMPOWER

- *to give official authority or legal power to;*
- *to enable: to provide with the means or opportunity*

We are Spirit-EMPOWERED people. With this statement we are saying that the Spirit of the living God gives us official authority. He enables us! He provides the means for us to accomplish the MISSION God has for us.

How does the Spirit empower us?

Many of us are familiar with the empowerment of the spirit found in Acts 1:8.

NIV "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."

1. Holy Spirit is the ONE who provides us with the POWER

The Spirit empowers us by giving us POWER through God's ability.

Power [Dunamis]

- (miraculous) power, might, strength.
- From where we get our word "dynamite"
- It can mean the "Ability to perform"
- But more importantly it is "Power through God's ability"

Jesus did not release his followers to go after His mission until they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He told them to WAIT for the GIFT the Father PROMISED (ACTS 1:4-5)

We can't be about the *mission* of God without the *Spirit* of God.

Peter is a great picture of empowerment in the Bible.

- Peter was prone to violence. He cut the high priest's servant's ear when they came to arrest Jesus
- Then Peter denied Jesus three times after Jesus was arrested

Then, the Spirit comes upon Peter on the day of Pentecost, and suddenly we see a different Peter.

Acts 4:8-13 NIV

8 "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is

" 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

The man who denied Jesus and was hiding in fear is now filled with BOLDNESS, telling them 10 "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed."

A fisherman, a man they considered "unschooled", caused the rulers, elders, and teachers of the Law to marvel at what he was saying.

13 "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

There is perhaps no better compliment in all of scripture...they took note that these men had ***been with Jesus.***

- This is the essence of this part of our Mission Statement...we are Spirit empowered people who live out the Good News in our world
- It is our desire that when people come into contact with you and I, they take note: "THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS!"

The empowerment of Holy Spirit was not made available to the Apostles only. If you have come to faith in Jesus, you've been empowered.

Acts 2:38-39 NIV

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

REPENT and be BAPTIZED. To repent means to acknowledge you're a sinner who needs God's forgiveness, and to be baptized is to publicly identify with Jesus' death as the only way to receive NEW life.

This promise is YOURS!

- It's not only for the religious elite
- It's not only for those who are called to full time vocational ministry
- It's for ALL whom the Lord our God WILL call

2. The Spirit empowers us with GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

6There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8To one there is given through the Spirit a

message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means

of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another

distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and

to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Don't substitute
bad use for
no use of the
gifts of the Spirit.

- Doug Clay

Romans 12:6-8

6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

wisdom : knowledge : faith : healings : miracles : prophecy : discerning of spirits
tongues : interpretation of tongues

Romans 12:6-8

prophecy : serving : teaching : encouragement : generosity : leading : mercy

In the Good News Family, we believe in the GIFTS of the Spirit. Some of us perhaps have had a negative experience in the past because of the *bad use* of gifts of the Spirit, but this does NOT mean the gifts are BAD. Just because someone, somewhere misused the gifts doesn't mean we are going to stop using them.

We need EVERYTHING the Spirit has to offer in order to accomplish the MISSION.

Holy Spirit empowers us with POWER, GIFTS and...

3. Holy Spirit empowers us with FRUIT

He produces IN us things attributed to His character that are not naturally produced by our humanity.

Galatians 5:22-23 NASB 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Fruit of the Spirit

Love : Peace : Joy : Patience : Kindness : Goodness : Faithfulness : Gentleness
Self-control

Many times, it's the fruit of the Spirit in our lives that point people to the fact that TRANSFORMATION has begun in our lives.

"The FRUIT of the Spirit provides the necessary CHARACTER traits to accurately operate in the Spiritual GIFTS."

There's a purpose for us being Spirit-empowered people:

Acts 1:8 NIV 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 *fruit of the Spirit* provides the *character* traits necessary to accurately operate in the Spiritual *gifts*.

Witness - The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines witness as "*A person who has seen, experienced, or heard something; something serving as proof or evidence.*"

Some of you have SEEN something...

- You've seen a change in attitude/behavior caused by your relationship with Jesus
- You've SEEN someone's life transformed. You've SEEN someone healed
- You've SEEN God come through in a specific situation (for you or others)

Some of you have EXPERIENCED something...

- You've been in a service or meeting and you experienced the presence of God. You cried, laughed, and experienced something in that moment that you can't explain.
- You've experienced healing in your body. You've experienced peace, or inexplicable joy.

Some of you have HEARD something...

- You heard a small voice inside of you saying "DON'T DO IT"
- You heard a small voice saying "that's a lie"... "this is who you are..."
- You heard stories upon stories from people who have lived longer than you about how God has saved, healed, deliver, and restored

Your life becomes PROOF; your life becomes EVIDENCE of who God is and what He is able to do.

We are Spirit-empowered people who LIVE out the good news in our world.

If you are a WITNESS, if you are Spirit-EMPOWERED, you already have all that you need.

2 Peter 1:3 NIV" His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

Discussion Questions:

- Pastor Rafael said that the FRUIT of the Spirit is necessary to properly operate in the GIFTS of the Spirit. Why is that important?
- As the fruit of the Spirit serves as a witness (proof) of our transformation through Jesus, how have you seen this evident in your own life?
- Are there fruits of the Spirit that may need to grow or develop in your life?