

LIVING IN THE IN-BETWEEN

THE WIND OF CHANGE

CENTRAL QUESTION: Why do we feel stuck between what God has called us to do and the power to actually do it?

I. THE PROBLEM: CLARITY WITHOUT POWER

Key Scripture: Luke 24:44-49 (Jesus opens disciples' understanding) "Then opened he their understanding that they might understand the scriptures..."

Hebrew Insight: Ruach (roo-akh) = breath, wind, spirit, power The disciples had the MESSAGE but lacked the POWER

What We Experience: • We know what God has called us to do • We understand the mission and the message • Yet we feel paralyzed, stuck, unable to move forward • We're "saved but stuck" - believing but not activated

The Reality of Being In-Between: • You know the right things but can't live them out • You've heard God's calling but haven't received the capability • You believe but your faith feels like mere emotion • You're existing, not thriving - "just trying to get by"

II. WHY WE'RE STUCK (THE TENSION)

A. THE DISCIPLES' PREDICAMENT Scripture Reference: Acts 1:8 and Luke 24:44-49 "You shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."

The Disciples Had: • Been with Jesus for 3½ years • Witnessed miracles, resurrection appearances, teachings • Peter's revelation: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" • Yet Peter still denied Jesus; they still scattered in fear • They hid in locked rooms, afraid

Key Insight: Having knowledge ≠ Having power "Clarity is not the same as having power"

B. OUR MODERN EXPERIENCE We Live In-Between: • The PROMISE (what God has said) • The POWER (what we need to live it out)

Examples of In-Between Living: • Trying to be good dads/moms in our own strength • Attempting to raise families without God's empowerment • Operating the Christian life on our own effort • Coming to church, getting a spiritual "hit," then leaving unchanged • Running to God only when in trouble, then doing our own thing

The Struggle: "I know what I'm supposed to do, but I just can't do it"

III. WHAT WE ACTUALLY NEED (THREE DEEPER MEANINGS)

MEANING #1: OPEN OUR EYES TO GOD'S PRESENCE Scripture: Psalm 139:7-10 (adapted concept) "Where can I go from Your Spirit?"

What This Means: • God is not absent - He's already present • We need AWARENESS, not arrival • Moving from theoretical belief to experiential reality • Recognizing God in every moment, every breath, every decision

Application: "Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see Your presence that's already here"

MEANING #2: EMPOWER US FOR KINGDOM WORK Scripture Pattern: Acts 1:8 "You shall receive power...and you shall be witnesses unto me"

Biblical Examples of Spirit-Empowered Living: • Peter preached to 5,000 after receiving the Holy Spirit's power • The disciples moved from fear to boldness • From scattered to assembled • From hiding to witnessing

What Changes: • Words become Spirit-filled, not just our own • Actions carry divine authority • We become conduits for God's work in the world • We step from promise into POWER

Application: "Holy Spirit, make my words and actions today contribute to Your kingdom"

MEANING #3: TRANSFORM US INTO OUR TRUEST SELVES The Human Condition: • We're made in God's image with divine potential • We're also morally compromised and weak • Even Spirit-filled people like David failed morally • We need more than knowledge - we need transformation

The Solution: Jesus as the Model Jesus was: • Perfectly Spirit-filled from conception to resurrection • The template for what a fully empowered human looks like • The "Jesus-version" of what we can become

Application: "Holy Spirit, create me as the Jesus-version of me - transform me into the most Christ-like version of myself"

IV. HOW TO STEP OUT OF THE IN-BETWEEN (PRACTICAL APPLICATION)

A. YOU MUST BE FAITHFUL Scripture: Luke 24:50-53 "And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God"

What Faithfulness Looks Like: • Stay in the place God has told you to stay • Continue in prayer and worship • Grow through Bible study and discipleship • Remain in community with God's people • Don't abandon the process

Daily Practice: Start each morning praying "Come Holy Spirit" with three-fold understanding:

1. "AWAKEN ME"
 - Open my eyes to Your presence that's already here
 - Help me see You in every breath, every moment
 - Increase my awareness of Your reality
2. "EMPOWER ME"
 - Make me a conduit for Your kingdom work today
 - Give me words and strength to witness
 - Use my gifts for Your purposes
3. "TRANSFORM ME"
 - Call forth the Jesus-version of me
 - Recreate me as my truest self
 - Make me more like Christ today than yesterday

B. THE JOURNEY FROM IN-BETWEEN TO POWER

The Progression: • Hearing the message (they had this) • Understanding the mission (they had this) • Waiting for empowerment (this is where growth happens) • Receiving the power (transformation occurs) • Operating in power (the fulfilled life)

Key Insight: Maturity requires growth, not just information "I want to build you. I want to disciple you."

C. TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS THROUGH: • Regular Bible study (Tuesdays) • Corporate worship and preaching (Sundays & Wednesdays) • Prayer and waiting on God • Community and accountability • Obedience and faithfulness

V. LIVING THE MYSTERY (THE CHALLENGE)

The Paradox: • The Holy Spirit is already here (omnipresent) • Yet we pray for Him to "come" (active invitation) • We can't summon God, but we can open ourselves to His work • The mystery is that both are true

The Call: "Will you join the Spirit in what He's already doing?"

What This Looks Like: • Recognize every breath as God's personal gift • See your work and relationships as divine partnerships • Embrace your role in God's kingdom purpose • Step from the in-between into the power

The Promise: When we step out of the in-between: • Our families experience transformation • Our workplaces feel God's presence • Our witness becomes powerful • Our joy becomes contagious • The kingdom of God advances

KEY TAKEAWAY:

"Living in the In-Between" is a season, not a destination.

To move forward, you need:

1. CLARITY about God's calling ✓ (you have this)
2. COURAGE to wait for God's power (this requires faith)
3. CHARACTER that grows through faithfulness (this requires discipline)
4. CAPABILITY that only comes from the Holy Spirit (this requires surrender)

The good news: "You're not going to be in the in-between forever. You're getting ready to step out into the power."

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Where do you feel "stuck" between God's calling and your capability?
- How does this understanding change your daily prayers?
- In what areas of your life do you need increased awareness of God's presence?
- What gifts might God want to use through you for Kingdom work?
- What would the "Jesus-version" of you look like?
- Are you willing to be faithful while waiting for God's empowerment?
- How might your family, workplace, and community change if you stepped into the power of the Holy Spirit?

Scripture References for Further Study: Luke 24:44-49 | Acts 1:8 | Psalm 139:7-10 | Genesis 2:7 | Luke 24:50-53 | Mark 14:26-31 | John 20:19-22 | 2 Timothy 2:2 (discipleship theme)