

DISCUSSION GUIDE

TITLE: *By My Spirit*

MAIN TEXT: Romans 8:11; Zechariah 4:6

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Romans 8:11 (NIV) 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 His Spirit who lives in you.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV) So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.

FOUR REALITIES OF LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

NOT BY MIGHT

- Wealth will fail us (Deuteronomy 8:17).
- Force will fail us (Deuteronomy 11:4).
- God’s joy leads to our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).
- Life in the Spirit is not built on human resources but on God’s presence.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Where do you tend to rely on your own “might” instead of God’s Spirit?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT: How can you shift those areas into dependence on Him?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Lasting strength is found not in wealth or force, but in God’s Spirit and joy.

NOT BY POWER

- Human strength will fail us (Judges 16:5; Psalm 71:9).
- Human intellect will fail us (Isaiah 5:21).
- Power and pride lead to downfall (2 Chronicles 26:13,16; Proverbs 16:18).
- Dependence on personal power leads to destruction, but humility before God brings life.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: How does pride often disguise itself as strength in our lives?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT: What steps can you take to embrace humility and Spirit-dependence?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Human power and pride cannot sustain us; only the Spirit gives enduring strength.

BY MY SPIRIT

- The Spirit empowers us (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4,14-18).
- The Spirit strengthens us (Ephesians 3:16).
- The Spirit helps us through prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26-27).
- God's Spirit is His constant presence with us, enabling us to live and serve with boldness.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: In what ways have you personally experienced the Spirit's empowerment or help?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT: How can you create space to rely more on the Spirit daily?

KEY TAKEAWAY: The Holy Spirit empowers, strengthens, and helps us beyond what human ability can achieve.

SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY

- God watches—you are not alone (Zechariah 4:8-10).
- God has a plan—small beginnings lead to great things.
- God anoints—He equips you for the season you are in (Zechariah 4:11-14).
- Spiritual encounters often require physical steps of faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What “small beginnings” in your life might God be using to prepare for something greater?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT: What physical step of faith is God calling you to take right now?

KEY TAKEAWAY: The Spirit works through God's plan, His watchful presence, and His anointing to accomplish His purposes in our lives.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

REFLECTION: Reflect on where you have been tempted to rely on your own might or power.

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

Pray for a fresh filling of the Spirit to empower, strengthen, and guide your daily life. Ask God to show you the next step of faith He wants you to take.