MAKE DISCIPLES - CLOTHED IN POWER

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Peter replied, "<u>Repent</u> and <u>be baptized</u>, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. <u>And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit</u>. Acts 2:38

- a) GIDEON (Judges 6:34) But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.
- b) AMASAI (1 Chr.12:18) Then the Spirit clothed Amasai, chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." Then David received them and made them officers of his troops.
- c) **ZECHARIAH** (2 Chr.24:20) Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you."
- d) **DISCIPLES (Luke 24:49)** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city <u>until you are clothed with power</u> from on high."

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, '<u>Take off the grave clothes</u> and let him go.' (John 11:44)

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,

and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the <u>Lord</u> will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40:29-31**

Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. **Genesis 35:2**

2 Cor.12:9 (NLV) He answered me, "I am all you need. I give you My loving-favour. My power works best in weak people." <u>I am happy to be weak and have troubles so I can have Christ's power in me.</u>

CLOTHED IN GOD'S POWER, WE FIND...

- 1. POWER FOR THE WEAK
- 2. STRENGTH FOR THE WEARY
- 3. PEACE FOR THE TROUBLED

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.) **2 Timothy 1:7**

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. The Bible gives us such a powerful illustration of being "clothed in power" when we receive the Holy Spirit. In what ways does this picture help us?
- 2. Why is it so important that we recognise and admit our weaknesses? How can we do this before God and among us as a church family?
- 3. How does God respond to our weakness? In what ways does this encourage us in challenging times in our lives?
- 4. Every challenge has the potential to be a gateway to God's strength. So, how can we make sure we're daily "clothed with power"?