

EMPOWERED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

Empowered Part 1 – Empowered Pastor Dave Patterson 8.14.2022

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

The book of Acts records key events, miracles, and activities of the early church for the first 60 years of its existence.

[Acts 1:1-3, NIV]

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

All scripture was inspired and given through the power and authorship of the Holy Spirit.

[2 Timothy 3:16, NIV]

"... all scripture is God-breathed."

[Acts 1:4-5, NIV]

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

[Acts 1:9-11, NIV]

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

1. Empowerment is essential! ("do not leave Jerusalem until")

You were never designed or intended to live the Christian life and make the journey of faith without adequate empowerment!

The Christian life is impossible without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

[Acts 1:5-10, NIV]

⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" ⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

[1 Corinthians 12:13, NLT]

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Three Distinct Baptisms in Scripture

1. The baptism by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ = Salvation.
2. Baptism by another disciple in water, public testimony of faith, and breaking the power of our past.
3. Baptism by Jesus into the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Empowerment is for everyone

[Acts 2:1-4, NIV]

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

This is the template! This is the model. This is normal New Testament Christianity!

[Acts 19:1-6, NIV]

¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

[Acts 2:38-39, NLT]

³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

3. Empowerment is to be pursued (not a passive experience)

[Luke 24:49, NKJV]

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Tarry/ kathizō = to be focused and fixed, remaining in position
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[Luke 11:13, AMP]

¹³ If you, then, being evil [that is, sinful by nature], know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!"

- 1. Empowerment is essential**
- 2. Empowerment is for everyone**
- 3. Empowerment is to be pursued**

FOR MONDAY—

1. Pray and ask Jesus to baptize you in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Come to Pursuit Night this Thursday to hear a micro-teaching on how the Holy Spirit gives you a prayer language and receive prayer for it.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Why is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in the church important for us corporately and individually?
2. Why is empowerment essential for the Christian life?
3. Why do you think some believers “downplay” the power of the Holy Spirit as evidenced in Acts in today’s culture?
4. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How do you know when you have the Holy Spirit?
5. Who is the Holy Spirit to you?
6. What are three distinct baptisms in the Holy Spirit? (By the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, By a disciple into water, By Jesus into the power of the Holy Spirit). How do they function uniquely in our lives?
7. Considering Acts 2, what does this Holy Spirit experience show us about the heart of God for his people?
8. Why does God desire you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?
9. What are some main reasons that people don’t receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
10. How can you grow in your desire for the things of God? When have you experienced a shift in your spiritual journey because of your desire for God?