

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

May 2026 | Series: Welcome Holy Spirit, Week 2

Introduction: Recap from Week 1

- Holy Spirit is divine — fully God.
- Holy Spirit is personal — not merely a force or energy.
- Holy Spirit is powerful — empowering believers to live transformed lives.
- We were created to live with purpose, reflect Jesus, bless others, and walk in spiritual power.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

“7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline”.

Why We Need Power

Fear of Persecution

- Fear of rejection and criticism often keeps believers silent.
- We are called to represent Jesus boldly and faithfully.

Fear of Injustice

- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to confront evil with love and truth.
- Believers are called to represent the inclusive Gospel of Jesus.

Destructive Habits

- Addiction, destructive thought patterns, and shame cannot be overcome through willpower alone.
- We need a power greater than ourselves.

The Source of Power

- Like redwood trees strengthened by intertwined roots, believers are strengthened through deep spiritual connection with the Holy Spirit.
- Visible spiritual strength comes from hidden spiritual work.

The Pattern Established by Jesus

Luke 3:21–22 (NLT)

“²¹One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, ‘You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.’”

- Identity came before ministry.
- Belovedness came before public power.
- The same Spirit who empowered Jesus empowers believers today.

The Spirit Establishes Our Identity

Romans 8:15–16 (NLT)

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

- Power flows from identity.
- Living from acceptance rather than striving for it changes how we face fear and failure.

The Spirit as Our Source of Wisdom, Knowledge and Guidance

Isaiah 11:2 (NLT)

² And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

- Holy Spirit gives wisdom for life decisions.
- Guidance comes through Scripture, prayer, community, and inner witness.

John 16:13 (NLT)

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

James 1:5 (NIV)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

The Use of Power

Power to Endure Suffering

Acts 5:41–42 (NLT)

⁴¹ The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. ⁴² And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

- Secure identity enables believers to suffer with grace and courage.

Power to Speak

Acts 4:7–10 (NLT)

⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, ⁹ are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? ¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.

“¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say”.

- The Holy Spirit gives courage to speak truth and share faith boldly.

Power to Shape the World Around Us

- Even in difficult circumstances, believers can influence and shape the people around them through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Power is determined not by circumstances, but by what God is doing within us.

The Whisper That Changes Everything

- Holy Spirit continually reminds believers: You are loved. You belong to God.
- When believers listen to the Spirit's voice, fear loosens its grip, and courage grows.

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Where in your life do you most acutely feel the weight of powerlessness right now?
2. Do you approach life trying to earn acceptance, or from the security of already being accepted by God?
3. Can you think of a time when you clearly experienced the Spirit's guidance in a decision?
4. What would it look like for you to adopt a posture of surrender and obedience to the Holy Spirit?
5. Which area do you most need the Holy Spirit to develop in you right now: power to suffer, power to speak, or power to shape?
6. What practical step can you take this week to better hear the Holy Spirit's voice?