

Holy Spirit Power
Presented by Lauren Stibgen
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Day One

I want to challenge your thinking. Whether you have the title or not, you are a leader. If you have found salvation in Jesus Christ, your biblical identity bestows you with some big titles! We could spend a lot of time talking about identity, but let's focus on ambassador.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:20).

With such a title, ambassador, how do we lead for Christ? You are a leader; God is making an appeal through you!

Even with years of leadership under my belt and a more formal title along with it, there are times when I still find myself questioning my capabilities as a leader. If I think back to my career before I knew Jesus as my Savior and Lord, there were so many fears and failures, and I really didn't have any place to take them. That has changed tremendously over the years, but recently even my own thinking was challenged to think about how Holy Spirit power can impact my leadership.

We can sometimes miss the way the Holy Spirit is called out in Scripture and the truly remarkable ways the Spirit of the Lord has such a profound role in the lives of those who lead. The Holy Spirit is often referenced as the Spirit, the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of the Lord.

In Genesis 1:2 we get our first description of the Spirit. *...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* We don't often think of the presence of the Holy Spirit. In this verse we see the word hovering and the where—over the face of the waters. Imagine with me the expanse and spread of the Spirit over all the face of the waters of the world!

Acts 2:3 describes *tongues of fire* resting on each of the disciples. The visual of fire is used many times to describe the Spirit in Scripture.

Often, we hear of the filling of the Holy Spirit or of the Holy Spirit who comes upon us. One thing is clear, the Holy Spirit brings power—the mighty power of God for those who are in Christ Jesus.

My favorite verse about the Holy Spirit is Romans 8:11.

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 (Romans 8:11).

Wow, that is power. I think we often forget. You and I, we have a power within us that is strong enough to overcome death!

Now that you have a picture of this power consider how your leadership can be transformed.

Day Two

Have you ever felt like you needed to be bolder or have more courage at work? The Holy Spirit can help!

Every year I pray over a word of focus for the year. In 2022, as our world was moving back into its normal busyness after the pandemic, I was thinking a lot about lost souls. How many people suffered and passed away never having heard about Jesus? My word for that year was bold. I wanted to learn more about how to share the gospel in the places I was the most—at work, socially, and with people close to me.

Throughout the books of Acts, we see the many trials the disciples faced as they proclaimed the gospel. Early in the book of Acts, Peter and John healed a lame man and drew a lot of attention. People asked how this could have happened! In Acts 4:8 we see these words, *then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit...*

Filled with the Holy Spirit he proclaimed the healing he had done was in Jesus' name! Of course, this caused even more of an uproar with the religious leaders of the time. The religious leaders asked them to no longer preach in Jesus' name. Threats of imprisonment loomed, but Peter and John didn't pray for protection. They prayed for boldness!

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness (Acts 4:29).

We see the answer to their prayer,

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly (Acts 4:31).

Like Peter and John, I prayed to be bold! The Holy Spirit has increased a spirit of power in me to share the gospel in many ways since January of 2022. Whether it is gathering with other women at work to pray, quote Scripture, send encouragement to non-believers, or invite people to church, I pray daily for God to use me for his glory.

My Holy Spirit power application for being bold is in sharing the gospel, but where else do you need to be bold at work? Maybe you need to take steps to look for a new job. Have you been afraid to ask for a raise or promotion? Do you need to speak up against something happening at work to you or a colleague?

Being bold takes more than just courage, it takes Holy Spirit power!

Day Three

Who do you turn to when conflict arises at work? At one time or another, we will all face conflict at work. How we respond to that conflict can have many implications—especially if the conflict is with a boss or even a close colleague. How can Holy Spirit power guide you during conflict?

Turning back to the book of Acts, we know the disciples often faced conflict with other religious leaders and local gentiles who believed in other gods. In fact, Paul's proclamation of this gospel directly impacted the work of many craftsmen who made carved images of the local gods. Many of the conflicts; however, would occur in the church between Jews who wanted to keep customs such as circumcision and their belief that Gentile believers should hold to the same traditions as the Jews. After much debate, a letter was sent.

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements (Acts 15:28).

To read more about how they came to write this letter, turn to Acts 15. But, for now, at a high level, here are some of the steps the disciples took—clearly seeking the Holy Spirit to guide them through the conflict.

First, they listened to both sides of the conflict. We know the Gentiles were converted and the Jews wanted them to obey the law. Second, they discussed their differences. Next, they remained rooted in facts—not feelings. They provided supporting evidence and based on this, came to a solution that was acceptable to both sides. Finally, they communicated the outcome.

While I am sure the Jews still would have liked for the Gentiles to follow the law, they were compelled by the facts and evidence that God was moving in the Gentiles.

We know by our Scripture above that it was the Holy Spirit power compelling this resolution. How can you follow this pattern in your own conflict? Listen, discuss, present facts, provide evidence and deliver clear communication about the decision.

Seek the Holy Spirit in prayer as you move through this conversation and see how Holy Spirit power moves! Another observation from this conflict is it wasn't just a one-on-one dialogue. I have often found when conflicts arise at work, it is almost always most helpful to have a neutral third party come alongside both parties to ensure the discussion stays on track.

Day Four

Did you know even if you don't hold a formal leadership position, you are called and qualified as a leader for Jesus? If you have faith in Jesus, you are his ambassador for the gospel. Did you know even Jesus sought the Holy Spirit as he selected his disciples? Just as Jesus sought this wisdom in qualifying you, Holy Spirit power can also move in both your qualification and how you seek to select others to be part of your team.

First, consider that being known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom was a qualification of those who were selected to serve in the early church. If you are truly working as a disciple of Jesus, the presence of Holy Spirit power in your life is a requirement! Not only was considering your qualification prayed over, but God is very specific in his assignments! In Acts 16 we see God set apart Barnabas and Saul to proclaim his word in Salamis. If you are working in a secular workspace, like many of us do, consider your qualification and assignment to reflect Jesus to others at work.

We are also called and qualified to keep watch over ourselves and all of the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made us overseers (Acts 20:28).

While the reference in this Scripture is to those in the early church, we know those that are on our teams have been entrusted to us—not only by the company we work for, but they are entrusted in our care by God. If we consider the power of the Holy Spirit in our watch over our flock, how would this change how we see the people on our team? Let Holy Spirit power move in you to show them care like a shepherd or overseer. But not only are we called to watch over those entrusted to us, but this passage also calls us to keep watch over ourselves. Staying mindful of how we show up as a leader and overseer is important both in being a leader at work and as an ambassador for Jesus!

Maybe you are adding to your team. How can Holy Spirit power help you in selecting team members? Every hire is important. Consider how praying for the right candidate, the right interview questions and even timing on the decision may impact the outcome. Even the practice of pausing to pray for these things can bring things to light maybe you haven't considered before. Statistically, turnover can cost an

organization up to 1.5 times the individual's salary if the hire doesn't work out. Not only will seeking Holy Spirit power bring you the right candidate, it may also save your organization money.

Wow! Holy Spirit power qualifies us, assigns us, and also helps us to qualify and assign others! Make sure you are seeking the Spirit in prayer regularly.

Day Five

Have you ever felt drawn to talk with someone, and you didn't know why? We will see how Holy Spirit power can often prompt us to talk with someone about a specific issue or situation.

In the book of Acts, Holy Spirit power was very present in the early church. In Acts 8 we see Philip told by the Holy Spirit to *go to that chariot and stay near to it*. You may know this story. The Ethiopian eunuch is in the chariot reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip tells this man about Jesus. From this encounter we see one of the first gentile conversions in the early church.

Are you too busy to hear how Holy Spirit power may be leading you to approach someone in conversation? Our days are busy! But they shouldn't be too busy to the point we ignore that feeling that we should approach someone to ask how their day is going! Holy Spirit power leading you into a conversation doesn't always mean you are being asked to share the gospel, but it could be a step God is asking you to take that will display your faith at work through kindness.

Is there a conversation you have been meaning to have but time has not allowed it? Sometimes at work it is easy to overlook the good that is going on around you—especially if other things are not going well or your schedule is just overloaded. One of the ways I seek Holy Spirit power is in the way I need to compliment and thank people for the work they do—especially if it helps me or the organization.

Waiting for a formal opportunity or a performance review may be the norm in your organization, but I find small conversations, even in passing, that recognize a team member or colleagues' work, can go a long way. Maybe you are like me and spend time in the morning in God's word or in prayer. It is during this time I jot down 1-2 names and pray for an opportunity to tell them how much I appreciate them.

Perhaps it is more complex. Is there a conversation you have been avoiding? You know, the one that has a knot in your stomach? Seeking Holy Spirit power in guiding your words can give you the confidence to move ahead and have the conversation. Again, spending time in prayer can bring you closer to helping seek the words and leading to this conversation.

And, maybe Holy Spirit power is moving to tell you to share the gospel at work or invite someone to church. For some of you, this may feel like a risk at work, but taking a page from the early church in the book of Acts, we can look for ways the Holy Spirit may be moving in a conversation that allows us to have that next conversation. Perhaps it is as simple as offering to pray for a colleague in a time of need.

Today, don't ignore the Holy Spirit power urging you on to have a conversation!