

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – August 1, 2021

Theme: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry.

Main Text: Acts 1: 4-8; Acts 2: 1 -13

Key verse: Acts 1: 8 – “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: So far in the quarter series, we have seen several works of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. We saw His role in bringing us to be born again (conviction of sin). Then we saw His ministry of sealing the believers in Christ, as well as His work in sanctifying the believer. Today, we come to the Holy Spirit’s work in empowering the believer for ministry - the Holy Spirit as God’s power for ministry. This important role of the Holy Spirit was highlighted when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form at His baptism (Luke 3:21-22). No wonder Jesus would, at the launch of His ministry declare, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.*” (Luke 4:18-19 NLT). So, even Jesus Christ the Messiah needed the Holy Spirit’s empowerment for His ministry on earth.

- 1. Read Isaiah 11:2-4; Luke 3:21-22; 4:14, 18-19. (a) How do these passages help you grasp the important role of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling God-assigned ministry? (b) How does this help you appreciate Jesus’ command to His disciples in Acts 1:4-5? (c) Jesus knew the ministry He came to fulfill. What is the ministry Christ sent us to do?**

In Luke 3:22, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form. So, Jesus had all the fullness of God. That was why He would declare in Luke 4:18 that “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to ...*” It is also the reason He was able to give some of that Holy Spirit’s power to His disciples whenever He would send them out for ministry. One such example is Matthew 10:1: “*Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.*” The Holy Spirit is still anointing believers today for service. No wonder Jesus commanded His disciples to “*... not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before.*” But often, the purpose of these abilities is misconstrued and sometimes even misused. In 1 Corinthians 12:1, Apostle Paul wrote, “*Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don’t want you to misunderstand this.*” The Apostle Paul went on to spell out some of the different abilities given by the Holy Spirit – Apostleship, teaching abilities, abilities for miracle, healing, etc.

- 2. (a) Compare and contrast Paul’s ministry and that of the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:11- 16. What can we learn between a Spirit empowered ministry, and one done by human effort? (b) Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. What are some of the specific abilities given by the Holy Spirit? What is the purpose of those abilities? (c) Let participants share some of the abilities the Holy Spirit has given them and how they are using it for His service.**

One stated objective of Jesus in choosing His disciples, is “*that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:*” (Mark 3:14-15 NJKV). In His final instructions to His disciples, Jesus reiterated this objective when He gave the Great Commission for His disciples to “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...*” He preceded that command to ‘Go’ by reminding His disciples that He possesses all authority in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18-20). It was against this backdrop of His possessing all authority that He told His disciples to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. And interestingly, the first thing the Holy Spirit does is enable the disciples to witness to the different nationalities in Jerusalem at the time, each in his own native language. (Acts 2:11).

- 3. Read John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; 5:32. (a) How important is it to Jesus Christ that people be told about Him? (b) What does that say about the responsibility of the Spirit-filled believer to be Jesus’ witness. (c) How would you deploy this Holy Spirit empowerment to witness for Jesus this week?**

Prayer: Father in Heaven, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to empower us to do Your will. Please forgive us if we have ever attempted to do any of it by our own strength. Help me to be a vessel through whom the Holy Spirit bears witness for Jesus. Amen.