



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 1 – 12 Sermon Series
Supports Session 2: Empowered
Sermon Title: “Empowered by the Spirit” (John 16:5-15)

Connection to Session 2

After Christ ascended to heaven, the Spirit descended upon His disciples. When this occurred, the disciples started speaking in different languages so that all could understand the gospel message. Today, the Spirit of God indwells Jesus’s followers. While Jesus was on earth, He taught His followers truths about the Spirit. We will see these truths in the text we are studying today and will learn how the Spirit empowers believers to glorify God.

Introduction/Opening

We all had someone who believed in us when we did not believe in ourselves. It may have been a parent, coach, or Sunday school teacher. This person spoke words of encouragement into our lives when we wanted to stop because we did not think we could keep going. These words empowered us to take another step and finish the race that was in front of us. As a follower of Jesus, we have the Spirit of God within us who encourages and empowers us to fulfill the calling God has placed in front of us.

Outline

- I. **The Spirit is sent (v. 7).** Placing the verse in context, we discover that Jesus was teaching His disciples about His coming ascension. They expressed sorrow and Jesus was correcting them for this. He indicated that His returning to the Father would be beneficial because the Counselor would be sent upon Christ’s ascension, and the Counselor would have specific tasks to accomplish when He arrived.

It is important to point out that the Spirit was sent. To be sent indicates that He is not something that we earn or achieve. When we were in school, we worked hard to earn an “A.” When we go to work on Monday, we seek to fulfill our job description so that we can earn our paycheck. We, however, cannot try to fulfill a set of manmade rules and think that we can earn God’s blessing through His Spirit. God knows that we have all sinned and fallen short of His glory. Even with this, He still sent His Spirit to His disciples then, and He sends His Spirit to believers today.

- II. **The Spirit brings conviction (vv. 8-11).** Conviction is a good thing. When we do something wrong, we need to feel a sense of conviction so that we can make needed

changes. If the world was devoid of conviction, lawlessness would reign, and chaos would ensue.

According to Jesus, it is the Spirit's job to convict the world of sin. The word "sin" in the Greek means to miss the mark. God has set a mark of holiness. We have all missed this mark and deserve to be eternally separated from God because of this. The Spirit, however, comes alongside of us to convict us and let us know we are not living according to God's standards. As this happens, and we repent, we are empowered to be who God has called us to be. This may happen when someone first understands that he is apart from Christ and needs to submit to Him as Lord and Savior. It can also happen when a faithful follower of Jesus has strayed, and the Spirit leads him to repentance. Either way, the individual is empowered by the conviction of the Spirit.

III. The Spirit is our guide (v. 13). Having a guide for a tour is much better than going it alone. The guide knows all the important landmarks and can point out unique details along the way. Going on a tour without a needed guide is unwise.

When someone has a relationship with Jesus, the Spirit of God takes up permanent residence within the believer and serves as a guide into all truth. The Spirit is guiding us throughout the journey of life. He is faithful to share the truth that is found in God alone. This world tells us that there is no truth or that truth is whatever we want it to be. This is simply false, and the Spirit is the One leading us to truth.

IV. The Spirit declares God's Word (vv. 14-15). We have learned that the Spirit indwells believers and convicts the world of sin. The next question becomes, how do we know when the Spirit is speaking to us? Jesus answered this question when He said that the Spirit will declare the words of God. Therefore, a first step in knowing if the Spirit is leading is to determine if the action to be taken is in line with God's Word. If it is not, then the action is not from the Spirit, because He will always lead us in God's truth.

As someone moves in obedience to the Spirit's leading as outlined in God's Word, then God is glorified. Jesus distinctly taught that the result of being empowered by the Spirit is that God is glorified. It has long been said that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.¹ This is accomplished through knowing and following His Spirit as He leads us in obedience to God's Word.

Conclusion

The Spirit guides us in all truth, and this can yield conviction. The question becomes, how is He convicting each of us today? Is He leading someone to understand the only way to heaven is through submitting to Jesus as Lord and Savior? Is He convicting a follower to understand that a certain sin is wrong, it does not line up with God's Word, and repentance needs to be had? No matter how He may be leading each of us, let's respond in obedience.

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1. Westminster Assembly, *The Assembly's Shorter Catechism* (1647).