

a 21 day guide to

EMPOWERING THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE

Introduction

Luke 11:13 – “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

When you surrender your life to Jesus, asking Him to become Lord of your life, the Holy Spirit seals you for salvation-which means you are going to Heaven no matter what. (Ephesians 1:13-15). In addition, scripture tells us the Holy Spirit desires to fill and equip you so that you may effectively walk out a Christ centered life. The Holy Spirit allows us to a continuous, intimate relationship with God the Father (John 20:22, Acts 2:4, Acts 4:4, Ephesians 5:18).

This devotional will equip you to receive the Holy Spirit by focusing on:

- 1) Who the Holy Spirit is.
- 2) The Fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Living a Holy Spirit empowered life.

We hope this 21-day journey will help grow your understanding of the Holy Spirit and strengthen our church family so that we can receive hope from Jesus and give hope in the name of Jesus in the places that God has called us.

Week 1 – The Person of the Holy Spirit

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Week 2 – The Fruit of the Spirit

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Day 4 – Pray Effectively

Day 5 – Love Deeply

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Day 7 – Witness

Day 1 – Who?

Acts 19:2 He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they answered, “No, we have not even heard if there is a Holy Spirit.”

Have you ever been part of an awkward, uncomfortable or even embarrassing conversation where a person assumed you knew someone, and you really had no idea who they are referring to? To avoid that very situation, Paul found himself asking the believers in Corinth if they knew of the Holy Spirit.

As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, some of us have heard of the Holy Spirit, others have never been introduced to him, but most of us have numerous misconceptions about who he is and his importance to daily Christian walk. Mentioned from Genesis to Revelation, scripture refers to the Holy Spirit as: A Person (John 14:16-17), our Comforter (John 15:26), our Helper (John 16:7), our life Guide (Romans 8:14), our prayer partner (Romans 8:26-27), our guide to Truth (John 16:13).

Jesus often referred to the Holy Spirit as our advocate or helper. The Holy Spirit desires to make Jesus known to you today in every way you need Him. How do you need to see Jesus more clearly today.....at work, in a relationship, a major life decision, challenges and issues? The Holy Spirit is here to clearly reveal Jesus and lead you into freedom and truth.

Scriptures:

- John 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
- John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.
- John 15:26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

Consider:

1. Who does Jesus say the Holy Spirit is?
2. What are some of the misconceptions I have had about the Holy Spirit?
3. How can I invite the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to me and fill me today?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the Holy Spirit. I ask today that He will reveal Jesus to me at work, in my home and family, and in every challenge or issue I face. I open my life to the Holy Spirit and your work in my life.

Day 2 – Empower

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

Many of us have lamps in various rooms within our home. Lamps can be beautiful parts of the décor but only serve their designed purpose of bringing light to dark places when they are plugged into a power source. So, it is with the Christian life. We can look good and be a beautiful part of our surroundings, but we will never fulfill our God created purpose until we are plugged into the power of the Holy Spirit.

For too many believers the Christian life boils down to simply doing the best they can. There is no power or distinction that sets them apart from the way everyone else in the world exists. The good they do can be attributed to gutting out a devotion to God and attempting to be a good person who does good things.

Jesus knew that Holy Spirit empowerment was so critical to the purpose and success of his followers and the church that he instructed them “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.” He was warning them against trying their best and knew the Holy Spirit “dynamis” power (where we get our word dynamite) was absolutely necessary to equip them and us to fulfill His calling and destiny. Only when empowered by the Holy Spirit will we see real impact in our lives, marriages, relationships, and all other aspects of life. It is why Jesus stated, “Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Scriptures:

- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- 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.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

Consider:

1. Are there areas of my life have I tried to “gut it out” and do my best without Holy Spirit empowerment?
2. What are those places in my life where I want to ask God to fill me and empower me to fulfill his calling in my life?
3. How can I best wait on the Holy Spirit and invite His power to fill me?

Prayer: Father, forgive me for not waiting on the Holy Spirit to empower me to fulfill your calling and purpose in my life. I understand that apart from you I can do nothing. Feel me now with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 3 – Helper

John 14:16 AMP And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.

If you have ever tackled the task of moving from one house to another you fully understand the 12th century English saying, “many hands make light work”. Anytime you are taking on a difficult task, good help is always welcome.

Jesus knew that the Christian life would be difficult at times. In fact, he told the disciples “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33). It was never His intention that we take on life without a Helper to come along side us and carry the heavy load. What a joy and relief to know that we do not have to labor through life because God is always with us, and our victory is secure in Him!

As believers, we are to invite the Holy Spirit to partner with us in every aspect of life, coming along side us as Helper. If we are willing to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we may freely draw on His role as Helper to meet our deepest needs. He is always present and actively working in our lives. The Holy Spirit brings possibility to the seemingly impossible. When we call Him alongside us, asking for His help, we can be sure that He will answer our call and help us accomplish the task.

If you have an area of your life where you are feeling overwhelmed and burdened, the Holy Spirit desires to step in and either walk with you through the challenges or deliver you out of the trouble. The promise of Psalm 34:19 “The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all” is the Holy Spirit Helper in action. Call on Him today!

Scriptures:

- Psalm 118:7 The Lord is with me; he is my helper.
- Hebrews 13:6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
- John 16:7 NASB But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you.

Consider:

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us? What are specific ways you have seen Him as Helper in your life?
2. Why do you think Jesus said it was better for him to go away so the Helper could come?
3. What areas of life can you call on the Helper to come alongside you today?

Prayer: Father, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to be my Helper in time of need. To come along side of me to carry every burden and to fulfil the call of God in my life. Teach me today to call on the Helper. Teach me to look for ways to lean into you and not merely gut it out myself. You have a better way.

Day 4 – Teacher

John 14:26-27 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Most of us can recall at least one schoolteacher in our lives that was especially impactful. Whether grade school, middle school or high school; those teachers believed in us, inspired us and poured knowledge into us. It is these same attributes the Holy Spirit demonstrates when he fills us as Teacher. He encourages—believing in us, inspires and motivates us to accomplish the seemingly impossible and fills us with God's wisdom and knowledge.

The apostle Peter instructed us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2Peter 3:18). Without the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit as our teacher this would not be possible. The Holy Spirit continually testifies of the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus and reminds us of everything Jesus said. One of the key roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring wisdom, knowledge and understanding to those that call on His name.

It is deeply significant that in the verse immediately following the promise of a teacher, Jesus tells us “peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you”. It is by the Spirit bringing his words to remembrance and teaching us the truth of God that we can abide in His peace. If we will call on the Holy Spirit to recall just the Scripture we need, just when we need it, we will experience the God's peace that passes all understanding.

Scriptures:

- Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.
- Colossians 1:9 Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.
- 1 Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

Consider:

1. What things does the Holy Spirit promise to teach me?
2. What keeps me from calling on the Holy Spirit to teach me, providing me wisdom and understanding every day?
3. What areas do I need a spirit of wisdom and understanding today?

Prayer: Father, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to teach me and lead me into all truth. Pour your wisdom and understanding into me just as you did Solomon and give me the discernment to make wise decisions and choices today.

Day 5 – Guide

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Have you ever been lost? Really lost with no idea which way to go? Whether hiking in the woods, trying to find your car at the mall, or driving somewhere you have never been before; that feeling of being lost is unnerving. It surfaces insecurities, causes us to doubt ourselves and question our ability to find the way to our desired destination.

The same can be said about our life journey. We can find ourselves directionless or staring at a major decision which could determine our course of life. Fortunately for many that are directionally impaired, the Lord provided a GPS long before the introduction of the smartphone. The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Guide, providing leadership and direction for every aspect of our life.

The word Guide in scripture is literally translated “to show the way, to lead”. It is not a figurative expression but literal. It is a primary role of the Holy Spirit to lead and provide us direction and guidance. As so clearly stated in Romans 8:14, it is a defining characteristic of children of God to be led and guided by the Spirit. Just as God provided the Israelites with a cloud by day and a fire by night, He desires to guide and direct you.

Jesus does not promise the Holy Spirit will control us. He says he will guide us. We must ask for and receive the Holy Spirit’s leadership. When we receive the Holy Spirit as our Guide, we can be free from fear of the unknown and free from fear of the future. We can be confident that God will lead us away from what is foolish or false and into all truth. Whatever you are faced with today, call on and trust in the Holy Spirit. We can rest confidently because Romans 8:6 promises us “the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace”.

Scriptures:

- Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
- John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
- Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Consider:

1. When was a time you needed to know which path to choose? Just wishing there was a big arrow pointing ‘go this way’!
2. How do you normally make big decisions or choices in life?
3. How will calling on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you change the way you choose your path forward?

Prayer: Father, lead me and guide me. Provide me the same unmistakable leading you provided to the Israelites in the wilderness. I am calling on you now to mark my path with your divine GPS.

Day 6 – Advocate and Intercessor

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

If you have ever been in a courtroom or even watched an old episode of Perry Mason or Law and Order, you have seen firsthand the role of an advocate and intercessor. The attorney acts as an advocate and petitions the court on behalf of their client.

In the Old Testament it was the job of the High Priest to enter the Holy of Holies, coming before the very presence of God and making intercession on behalf of the people of Israel by offering sacrifice for their sins. There were dozens of steps required to prepare the high priest for this encounter with our Holy God and each step required meticulous attention to detail. A heavy veil separated the Holy of Holies from the other portions of the temple, limiting our access to God.

But since creation, God desired a relationship with us. He desired to once again “walk with us in the cool of the evening”. Romans 5:8 is the fulfillment of that desire “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. When Jesus was crucified “the veil was torn in two” (Matthew 27:51) and we were given access to God the Father, free to enter and live in His presence. Jesus was named our forever High Priest and it became the role of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to intercede on our behalf before the Father.

The Holy Spirit knows everything about us and yet stands before the Father presenting our needs, our prayers and requests. It is because of His intercession that Hebrews 4:16 boldly states: “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” We can pray with confidence that our prayers are being carried before the Father by Jesus and the Holy Spirit as our intercessor. Pray boldly, even if you don’t know what to pray! The Father already knows your needs.

Scriptures:

- Romans 8:15-16 The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.
- Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.
- Isaiah 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

Consider:

1. What keeps me from praying boldly?
2. How can my prayers change knowing the Holy Spirit is already interceding on my behalf?
3. What are those areas of life where I really need the Holy Spirit’s intercession?

Prayer: Father God, you know my needs before I even voice them and sometimes, I don’t even know the words to use. Thank you for stationing Jesus and the Holy Spirit before you to pray on my behalf. Teach me to pray confidently and boldly and to pray according to your will.

Day 7 – Equipped

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

If you have ever taken on a new do-it-yourself project, you know the pain and frustration of not having the right tools. It can turn a seemingly simple task into a major ordeal that can easily eat up an entire day or more.

God knew the importance of equipping us and providing all the tools needed to accomplish his calling and purpose in our lives. God's equipping is not just for those things we consider 'spiritual' but includes being the spouse, parent, employee, and friend that represents the Lord and makes a difference in people's lives. The reason Jesus instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem was they were not yet equipped to complete the task of going into all the world to preach the gospel. They needed the Holy Spirit to equip them to fulfil God's calling.

Through the Holy Spirit, God equips each of us with spiritual gifts outlined in Romans 12 (prophecy, service, teaching, giving, exhortation, administration and mercy) and 1 Corinthians 12 (words of wisdom and knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues). These tools equip and empower us to fulfil God's purpose on earth by building up other believers and ministering to a lost world. We are meant to be His representatives, His hands, His feet to do the work of the ministry.

Whatever tool you need for the task, the Holy Spirit will equip you to not look like Christ and sound like Christ. An unlovable co-worker.....mercy, a rebellious child..... wisdom, meeting a financial need.... generosity, physical needs.....service, or sickness.....healings. Call on the Holy Spirit today to equip you for any issue or challenge you may face.

Scriptures:

- Hebrews 13:21 Equipping you with everything good for doing his will.
- James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Consider:

1. What spiritual gifts have you seen demonstrated in other people's lives?
2. What spiritual gifts do I need from the Holy Spirit today?
3. I want to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to equip me with spiritual gifts. Write out that prayer.

Prayer: Father God, thank you equipping us with the tools needed to represent you well. Fill me with you Holy Spirit and equip me with spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ and ministry to all those around me. I want to be your ambassador, fully equipped for every good work.

Day 8 – Love

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Organizations and corporations spend millions of dollars every year building and protecting their brand. Their brand represents what they want to be known for and what they want people to think of when their name comes up in conversation.

Nike---Just Do IT

Allstate---You're in Good Hands

Wheaties---Breakfast of Champions

Burger King—Have it Your Way

American Express---Don't Leave Home Without It.

You might be surprised to know that God is concerned about his brand as well. There is a defining characteristic that God wants to come to mind anytime his name is mentioned..... God is Love. In Exodus 34:6, as God was passing before Moses, God proclaims what he wants to be known for: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." Love is listed as the first Fruit of the Spirit for a reason (Galatians 5:22), it was the new commandment given by Jesus (John 13:34), and 1 Corinthians 13:1 tells us that without love everything else is just noise.

Love is a word that gets thrown around a lot in today's culture. We love coffee, we love food, we love sports teams, and we love cars, pets, etc. But God has called us to another level. To extravagantly love one another. But why?.....Love is the only thing that will set people free. We are born into sin and bondage, but God's love is the power that sets us free. 1 Peter 4:8 – love covers a multitude of sin. 1 John 4:18 – perfect love drives out fear. Romans 8:1 – there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.

Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can you love someone with God's love. Go ahead and ask for it.....it will set them and you free.

Scriptures:

- 1 John 4:13,16 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
- 1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
- John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Consider:

1. How has God demonstrated his love to you?
2. What has been the most obvious demonstration of love you have ever seen from another person?
3. What are ways that God's love can make a difference in your life, your workplace, your family?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for loving me first and engraving my name on the palm of your hand. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and make me a vessel of your love. Let me be known by your love and let your love seep out on everyone I encounter today.

Day 9 – Joy

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

If someone was to watch and observed your life over some period of time, how would they answer this simple question.....” What is it you are pursuing?” What are you putting time, money and energy toward? What are those unwritten goals in your life?

We can all agree with this obvious statement.... Everyone wants to be happy. Happiness is very dependent on our external surroundings and is generally considered an outward expression. You can pursue happiness by chasing after those things you enjoy. Happiness is temporary and is not the same as joy.

Joy is not just a giddy feeling of happiness, is not a personally type or experienced accidentally. We receive joy from a purposeful choice to pursue God and His presence. Joy comes from being in intimate relationship with God the Father and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Joy is internal, selfless, sacrificial and a spiritual connect to God the Father. It comes when we have the confidence that God is at work in our life, is in control and we can trust Him for everything. Why else could Jesus have found joy in the cross (Hebrews 12:2) or we are told to ‘count it all joy’ when we encounter trials and difficulties (James 1:2). Philippians 4:4 tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. The term rejoice literally means to be joyful again and again.

God assures us that He is the source of true joy in Psalm 16:11 NASB “In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” and John 15:11 when Jesus said, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” Romans 15:13 TPT “Now may God fill you to overflowing with uncontainable joy and perfect peace as you trust in him.” tells us it is God's desire to fill us with joy! Let's call on the Holy Spirit today to fill us with uncontainable joy!

Scriptures:

- Nehemiah 8:10 Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.
- Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Consider:

1. How have you viewed joy before today?
2. How does knowing there is an endless supply of joy waiting for you in God's presence change things for you?
3. Knowing joy is a result of intimacy.....How will you change your pursuit of God?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for being the source of all joy! Forgive me for seeking joy in temporary things and not pursuing you with all of my heart, soul and mind. Fill me with joy today that I can reflect you in every situation and every trial.

Day 10 – Peace and Patience

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Pursue World Peace..... makes a catchy bumper sticker but an impossible goal. We often define peace as the absence of conflict, strife or anything that makes is uncomfortable. A person says they are at peace when they feel relaxed and comfortable. We often go to great lengths to create this sense of peace around us. But is this real peace?

John 14:27 takes place on the night before his crucifixion, it is the last will and testament for Jesus and he makes a dramatic statement. He is leaving us His peace and it is not as the world gives. So how is the peace Jesus left us different? The peace that Jesus is referring to is not about avoiding conflict or shielding ourselves from the world's constant wars and strife. Remember, when Jesus made this statement, the Israelites were under Roman captivity and bondage. There was constant conflict and strife around them.

The peace that Jesus is referring to is defined in Philippians 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind" and demonstrated in Acts 1:14 "All these with one mind and one purpose were continually devoting themselves to prayer". It is the presence of harmony, living in oneness and community.

Why does David say in Psalm 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"? Because it is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring people from every background and ethnicity together to form the bride of Christ. It is His peace that sets us apart from the world.

When we are filled with this peace, patience becomes an easy companion. Patience is not an attribute often witnessed in our culture. Just drive our highways during rush hour or go into any store during the weekend. Patience is waiting with grace and enables us to live in this demanding world and still have love, joy, and peace.

Scriptures:

- Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.
- Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.
- Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Consider:

1. How would you define peace?
2. How can the world see God's peace in my life?
3. How can you let the Lord live out patience through you on a daily basis?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for your peace that passes all understanding. Thank you for building the church, a community of diverse believers, for me to be loved, accepted and at peace with each member. Teach me how to live in true community looking out for the needs of others even before my own. Why situations arise, teach me to be humble, gentle. and patient. Full of the Holy Spirit.

Day 11 – Kindness

Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Unless you are flipping through Pinterest posts, kindness is not always a valued trait. It is often seen as passive, mundane and weak. Kindness is much more than just being pleasant, nice, getting along with others or smiling through a bad customer service encounter.

In 2 Corinthians 6, Paul was responding to those who had challenged his qualifications as a disciple of Jesus Christ. He starts with listing the physical hardships he and Timothy had suffered for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, beatings, imprisonments, riots, hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. And then he adds...”and kindness in the Holy Spirit”. He lists kindness as a defining characteristic of his changed life and resulting ministry. If the legitimacy of your faith was being challenged and kindness was the only evidence that could be submitted, would there be enough proof to convict you?

The Greek word for kindness is ‘chrestotes’ and it means usefulness. Holy Spirit kindness always involves an action. It is loving “not in word only but in action” (1 John 3:18) and being a “doer of the word and not merely a listener” (James 1:22). IT is anything but passive and weak.

God is not simply kind because He is good. His kindness serves a much greater purpose: to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Kindness is the greatest evangelistic tool God created and reflects what God has done in your own life to forgive your sin and brings you into the family of God.

When we express kindness, we are meeting people exactly where they are with no requirements or expectation that we will receive anything in return. The Holy Spirit will nudge you to show kindness to others humbly, quietly, and even anonymously. All to lead them to repentance, to draw them into the Fathers love.

Get out of your comfort zone and show God's kindness today. You will be amazed at what it will do for you and the one who receives it.

Scriptures:

- Romans 2:4 God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance.
- Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

Consider:

1. Have you ever been the recipient of a random act of kindness? How did it make you feel?
2. What does kindness represent to you and how can it best be shared? Who do you know that could use some kindness today?
3. What has the Holy Spirit spoken to you about kindness today?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for your kindness. Thank you for using it to draw me into a relationship with you, for forgiving my sin and receiving me into your family. Show me someone to express your kindness to today and allow your love to impact them as you have me.

Day 12 – Goodness

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Imagine you are a soldier at war and are entering one of the greatest battles of your life. You can choose any weapon you want to use during battle but choose carefully, it could determine your fate.

Faced with this situation, it is doubtful anyone of us would purposefully choose to step into the battle armed only with goodness. When you accepted Jesus into your life and begin this glorious journey, you enlisted into the Lord's army and the daily battles against evil that come with it. Some of our personal battles are small, small are intense but all demand a response, and we get to choose how we respond.

In Romans 12, Paul makes an extraordinary statement about goodness and its use in fighting our battles, "overcome evil with good". Goodness is not a weak, soft, timid response but is the God's primary defense against evil. In fact, Paul emphatically states "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

How is that possible? How is it possible to live at peace with everyone when people can be mean, harsh, hateful and abusive? Paul explains in Ephesians 6 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." The battle we are fighting is not against that person that just falsely accused you, insulted you or worse. The Lord's army is fighting against the spiritual forces of darkness (Satan and his demons) not your co-worker, your ex-spouse, that crazy driver. The Holy Spirit fruit of goodness is God's ultimate weapon against the hate and evil of this world.

This is not something you can create on your own. Only through the Holy Spirit and his presence can we return goodness for evil. It is our nature to defend ourselves yet Psalm 18:2 tells us that God is our defender. Any time we step into a role that God says is his responsibility, His hands are tied. In Exodus 14:14, Moses shouts to the Israelites "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Let's allow God to fight our battles for us, returning good for evil, and watch the results.

Scriptures:

- Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
- Psalm 37:3 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
- Psalm 34:14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Consider:

1. How would you have define goodness?
2. What situation are you in that needs to see God's goodness today?
3. How can you yield to the Holy Spirit and goodness as your primary response to an attack?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for your goodness. Forgive me when I have seen others as the enemy and returned evil for evil. I turn all my battles over to you and allow you to be my defender. Fill me with the Holy Spirit and goodness today.

Day 13 – Faithfulness

Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

Let's face it.....we live in a cynical world. Every day through our smartphones, tablets, computers, TV, and stereos; we receive a constant stream of opinions and information that cannot always be considered reliable or trustworthy. News, product reviews, and social media posts are all viewed with skepticism and doubt. Integrity seems to be a thing of the past.

No surprise that God's ways are different. Faithfulness is one of God's most talked about characteristics. When God had the opportunity to describe himself to Moses, He proclaimed He is "abounding in faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6). Whenever God makes a promise, He keeps it and there is no expiration date on His promises. Deuteronomy 7:9 declares "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his promise of love to a thousand generations". God goes so far as to say, "even if we are faithless, he remains faithful, because he cannot deny himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

What does it mean for us to have the fruit of faithfulness in our lives? Faithfulness is evidenced through honesty, integrity, authenticity, and dependability. Are you a person of your word? Will you do whatever it takes to fulfill and commitment or promise? Are you the employee that can be counted on to get the job done no matter the amount of effort required? Are you the business owner that will stand behind your product or service regardless of outside issues or fault? Faithfulness is rarely convenient and will often require effort that is above and beyond what is expected.

Faithfulness as a spouse? While a successful relationship certainly requires moral faithfulness, it is faithfulness to meet your spouse's spiritual, emotional, and physical needs that will take your marriage and relationship to the next level.

Faithfulness requires the Holy Spirit to fill and equip us to take the focus off ourselves and onto those around us. It requires surrender to self and embracing our role of being a reflection of God's faithfulness.

Scriptures:

- Proverbs 22:20 TPT Life's blessings drench the honest and faithful person.
- Luke 16:10 Whoever can be trusted (faithful) with very little can also be trusted (faithful) with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.
- 2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Consider:

1. How has God demonstrated his faithfulness to you?
2. What ways can faithfulness grow in your life and become a part of who you are?
3. How can receiving God's faithfulness make a difference in your marriage or family?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for your faithfulness in all areas of my life. You have proven to remain faithful to your promises, to forgive my sin and to never leave my side. Make me a reflection of your faithfulness. Make me the spouse, parent, friend, employee or boss that is called faithful.

Day 14 – Gentleness and Self Control

James 1:19-20 Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

We are a nation of drivers and we love our cars. Since the early 50's, automobile ownership exploded and now almost everyone owns an automobile. Driving represents the American spirit; freedom and independence to go where you want to go, when you want to go there.

Over the years, a new driving vocabulary has emerged with words and phrases such as step on it, traffic jam, buckle up, backseat driver, and road rage. Yes...road rage. Road rage now accounts for more than 35% of all automobile accidents in the U.S. It's that overly aggressive driver that sees everyone else as in their way. It reflects a culture which is self-absorbed and angry when things don't go their way.

There is one non-negotiable term when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior... I John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." Laying down our life requires us to remove ourselves from any conversation, always putting others first. It's easier to be understanding and gentle around those we care for but to do the same for strangers or people that hurt us? It is not just hard; it is impossible without Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Hand-in-hand with gentleness is self-control. Self-control reflects our response to being treated unjustly. True self-control is not about bringing ourselves under our own control, but under the power of Jesus. Self-control is the result of spending time with the Father (2 Timothy 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and self-control). Solomon makes a strong statement about the power of gentleness and self-control, Proverbs 16:32 "One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And one who rules his spirit, than one who captures a city.

This much is clear, to be mighty in the kingdom is to be a person filled with gentleness and self-control.

Scriptures:

- Psalm 37:8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- Proverbs 14:29 AMP He who is slow to anger has great understanding and profits from his self-control, But he who is quick-tempered exposes and exalts his foolishness for all to see.
- Ephesians 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Consider:

1. When do you find it most difficult to have self-control and refrain from anger or harsh words?
2. How can you practice being submissive to God's will and plan?
3. What needs to be removed from your life to make room for gentleness and self-control?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for being gentle with me. I receive your gentleness today and ask that you fill me with a spirit of power, love and self-control.

Day 15 – Radical Reliance

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

What does it really mean to be filled and led by the spirit? Just as our life in Christ, it begins and continues through surrender. The question is never how much of the Holy Spirit you have but instead how much of you does the Holy Spirit have. Radical reliance is depending on the leadership of the Holy Spirit as a way of life.

Jesus was filled with the Spirit and that is his desire for each of us. Isaiah 11:2 prophecies of Jesus, “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of strength, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.” How did Jesus know where to go, how to meet the needs of the multitudes, how to respond to critics, when to speak and when not to? The Holy Spirit! This same Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, and knowledge is available to you! Available to direct your steps, guide you through the most challenging moments, warn you of what is around life’s corner, provide you strength and peace.

Learning to be a person of radical reliance is a choice. The Holy Spirit waits for our invitation and will never force His presence or influence on our life. It is the Holy Spirit that takes us deeper and deeper into God’s truth. It is through the Holy Spirit that we can become Christ like and can begin to see people in a different way, with spiritual eyes. He wants to help us on life’s journey, but we must ask Him to guide us and direct us.

In Zechariah 4:6 the angel of the Lord spoke to Zechariah the prophet and said, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord!” We can work, try hard, struggle and in our own abilities or we can invite the Holy Spirit into our life, rely on Him every moment of the day and experience God’s guidance and blessings.

Scriptures:

- Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- Romans 8:6 The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.
- Isaiah 30:21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying: “This is the way, walk in it.”

Consider:

1. When was a time you sensed God nudging you in a different direction?
2. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to provide you with wisdom or direction concerning a major decision? What was the result?
3. How can you totally rely on the Holy Spirit today?

Prayer: Father, help me to follow the Holy Spirit in every area of my life and not fulfil the desires of my flesh. Help to remind me I cannot bear real fruit on my own. I invite you to fill my life with the Holy Spirit and I will have radical reliance on you every step of every day.

Day 16 – Life More Abundantly

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As a society, we have become masterful at painting a picture of ourselves as living life to the fullest. On every social media platform available people look like they have it all...the house, car, spouse, kids, vacation, and career. They appear to have everything going the way things ought to go to supposedly live life to its fullest. But for many, inside their world there is one thing still lacking. They are lacking life.

This is not a 21st century phenomenon. Jesus addressed this very issue on multiple occasions. In one of the few times scripture tells us that Jesus stood, raised his voice and passionately shouted, he proclaimed "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. (John 3:37-38)" Then a few days later Jesus repeated his promise of abundance by saying "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)"

We serve a God of extravagance and abundance. Scripture is filled with promises of abundance; God will do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20); God will supply every need according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19); your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats bursting with wine (Proverbs 3:10); and Psalm 23, possibly the most quoted verses in all of scripture, starts with The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

So why do so many followers of Christ struggle with feeling like life is less than abundant, full and complete? Often it is because we have bought into the world's definition of abundance. Living in abundance doesn't mean scheduling every minute of the day and an abundance of material things. Don't get lost here.....there is nothing wrong with financial wealth or nice things. Remember Solomon was possibly the richest man who has ever lived. Abundant living is about seeking after God and His goodness. It's about allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your life and using our resources (time, money, skills) to impact those around us and bring Him glory.

Start today by changing the way you view God. See Him as a gracious Father who wishes to pour out His unmerited blessings and favor on you. See him as the living water that always satisfies, quenches our thirst and fills us with love, mercy and grace. Abundant living begins with knowing God is always working for your good.

Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- Isaiah 58:11 You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.
- Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Consider:

1. How have you previously viewed abundantly living?
2. How does God want to change you and your desires to experience abundant life?
3. How does God want to change the way you view Him?

Prayer: Father, I thank you for being an extravagant, abundant Father. I receive your plans for me today to prosper, to have hope and a blessed future. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and let me live in your abundance today.

Day 17 – Grateful and Generous

Psalm 126:3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

It is impossible to overstate the power of gratitude and always giving thanks to God. It is also one of the most overlooked parts of our lives as well. The issue is we often focus on our surroundings, circumstances, and people when God's heart desire is for us to focus on His presence.

When we focus on our Heavenly Father, who He is, and what He says and thinks of us; gratitude and thanksgiving will overflow from our lives. It is not in the circumstances of life we give thanks but in God's faithfulness, goodness, mercy, grace, provision and healing our hearts celebrate. This kind of gratitude and thanksgiving will unlock the power of prayer and usher us into God's presence. We pray from a position of victory through our Savior Jesus Christ, provision from our faithful Father and power through the Holy Spirit.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to develop a spirit of gratitude in us, we will begin to perceive everything around us from a view of abundance rather than scarcity or lack. When we see God as Jehovah Jireh—our provider, there will be no end to extravagant generosity.

Every morning God asks us the same questions, "Will you trust me today? Will you allow me to be myself in your life today?" So many times, we try to bring God down to our level of logic or reasoning. We don't allow Him to be Himself. Instead, we think He should be and act the way we think He should. When we are willing to take our hands off the situation and allow God to truly be himself in our lives, we see unexplainable and "only God could have done that," kind of stuff. Far better than anything we could imagine or reason out. This is especially true in giving and generosity. Proverbs 11:25 tells us "The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered."

Choose today to allow the Holy Spirit to develop a spirit of gratitude and generosity in you. Allow God to be your provider. Let Him lead you into extravagant generosity and watch what he does!

Scriptures:

- Psalm 118:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
- Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
- 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.

Consider:

1. How can I walk in gratitude today?
2. What has been the greatest influence on how I view money and finances? How is God's view of money and finances different from mine?
3. What does God want me to say Yes to today?

Prayer: Father, I choose to be grateful in all circumstances and say Yes to you today. I will trust you. I will allow you to be yourself in my finances and every portion of my life. Thank you for being my provider.

Day 18 – Pray Fervently

Zechariah 10:8 NASB - “I will whistle for them and gather them together, For I have redeemed them.”

Is there anything more distinctive and attention grabbing than when someone whistles? A whistle rises above all surrounding noise and instantly demands your attention. The Holy Spirit is calling us into God's presence and gathering us together with a resounding whistle. Prayer is to be a personal response to God's whistle, the Holy Spirit calling us into God's presence to experience His love and intimacy.

Too often, we see prayer as an opportunity to bring our grievances to God, begging and pleading with God concerning our personal prayer requests or the needs of others. When prayer becomes self-centered, even if it is centered on noble and holy desires, it places us at the center of the relationship versus our Heavenly Father being the single focus. Like everything else in our walk with God, prayer must begin and end with surrender to His lordship in our lives.

Prayer is our awareness, acknowledgement and surrender to God's presence. We can be assured of His presence because scripture gives us many promises of God's presence being with us. Zephaniah 3:17 - The Lord your God is in your midst—a mighty Savior! He will delight over you with joy. He will quiet you with His love. He will dance for joy over you with singing. Psalm 139: 7-10 - I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.

If prayer is a personal response to God's presence, then prayer must be foremost about hearing what God is saying and doing not about what we are doing. Prayer is a person-to-person communication with God, listening first and then talking.

One of the clearest examples of this is within the story of Mary and Martha in Luke Chapter 10. Mary and Martha were hosting a dinner party for Jesus. Martha was busy preparing and serving while Mary was enjoying sitting and listening to Jesus. When Martha came to Jesus with her grievances about Mary's lack of help, the response of Jesus tells us everything. “Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, and Mary has chosen it.” The words of Jesus are clear, “You think coming to me with your list of requests, concerns, and worries is prayer. While I never want to discourage you from asking, effective prayer is when you sit at my feet and listen to what is on my heart and how I see things.”

Scriptures:

- 1 Chronicles 16:10-11 | Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.
- John 15:7-8 | If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.
- Psalm 143:8 | Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul.

Consider:

1. Has my prayer life been more of me trying to convince God or listening to him?
2. What does sitting at His feet like Mary look like for me?
3. How can I change my prayer life to be a response to God's call for intimacy?

Prayer: Father, help me learn to pray from a position of acknowledging your promises and listening to your heart, your purpose, your direction. Let me join with you in what you are doing instead of trying to convince you to support and follow my plans. Let me hear and respond to your call..... your whistle.

Day 19 – Honor and Humility

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Honor is a word not often used in today's vocabulary and in society it almost seems nonexistent. But we are still moved to tears when honor, humility, courage and sacrifice are the prominent themes in movies or TV. Look at the greatest blockbusters of all time and you will find honor interwoven into the plots.

Honor and humility may be the most overlooked and yet powerful principles in all of scripture. Scripture shows that honor and humility will result in a long and enjoyable life (Ephesians 6:2), riches honor and life (Proverbs 22:4), God's favor (1 Peter 5:5) and God lifting you up in honor (James 4:10). Those are the things that an abundant life is made of!

So, what does honor look like? Honor requires making yourself vulnerable, while still creating healthy boundaries. God does not instruct us to honor someone only when they are honorable. God honored each of us when we were not honorable. John 15:16 tells us God made the first move, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." Regardless of our condition, God always waits with love, forgiveness, and honor for all who are willing to humble themselves and reach out to Him.

When we honor someone, we give them value and respect. Honor means to treat someone with great consideration, to respect, to esteem, and to treat with deference. It isn't enough to feel it inside; honor must include an outward expression, or it is just lip service. The outward expression of honor is always an expression of our heart. God is most interested in our heart's condition and seeing it spill out in our words and actions.

Honor goes hand-in-hand with humility. It is impossible to walk in love without honor and it is equally impossible to honor others without humility. When we humble ourselves before God and others, both be loved and honored. Humility comes when we focus on God the Father, recognizing our own weakness and the greatness of God. This kind of humility will always lead to honor.

Humble yourself before the Lord today, honor those around you and watch God do amazing things!

Scriptures:

- 1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.
- 1 Peter 5:5 All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.
- Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Consider:

1. Have you ever felt honored by someone? How did it make you feel?
2. Have you ever thought about how God honored you?
3. How can you shifting your focus from yourself to God create a spirit of humility?

Prayer: Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit today and make me a person of honor and humility. Make me aware of every individual around me and how to demonstrate your love, grace and mercy to them. Clothe me with humility and set my eyes on you.

Day 20 – Greater Things

John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

There are few verses in Scripture that has created more discussion and controversy than the statement Jesus made in John 14:12. In short, He said, “if you believe in me, you will do the works that I have done and even greater things”. Wait!?!?... Jesus healed all that were sick, fed 5,000 with just a few fish and loaves, walked on water, quieted the storms, and raised people from the dead. How it is possible to do greater things?

The answer is actually simple and very consistent with all other aspects of the Christian life.

Ready.... It not about us. It is all about Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:20 says it perfectly, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life which I now live in the body, I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” If I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and invited the Holy Spirit to fill me, I have laid down my life. In Matthew 10:39 Jesus states, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

When we lose ourselves in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is free to accomplish ‘Greater Things’ in us and through us. In 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 Paul makes an incredible statement about Greater Things. He says, “It is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.” Stated another way.... Until the blessing we receive is better than anything we have ever seen, heard, or even imagined; we are still limiting God to our perspective. That is when God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think! That is Greater Things!

So, go ahead.... pray the bold, unthinkable prayer. Pray for that person you know to be healed, another to be delivered, marriages to be restored, wayward children to return home and to the Lord. Pray beyond your thoughts, your reason, your ways. God is faithful to hear your prayers and do more than you can imagine.

Scripture:

- Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- 2 Corinthians 5:15 And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Consider:

1. What does it mean to you to lay down your life for Christ?
2. What ‘Greater Things’ does the Holy Spirit want to accomplish through you today?
3. What are the bold prayers the Holy Spirit is prompting you to pray?

Prayer: Father, teach me to lose my life in you. Fill me with the Holy Spirit and accomplish the Greater Things that I have not even dreamt of. Teach me to pray bold prayers that only you can do. I trust you.

Day 21 – Witness

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

If you have been a Christian for very long, you have repeatedly heard the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8. We have all seen people going door-to-door or standing on the street corner handing out literature in the effort to witness about Jesus. While there may be a time and a place for this approach, Acts 1:8 actually says, “you shall BE my witnesses” not “you shall witness”.

The real challenge of Acts 1:8 is this..... Be filled with the Holy Spirit and as a result, live your life in such a way that it testifies of me. In Matthew 5, Jesus put it this way “You are the salt of the earth.” (v15) and “You are the light of the world” (v16). Salt and light both change their surroundings. They are subtle ingredients that have significant influence. This challenges me with a question, “Does my life testify of God’s goodness, change my surroundings and demand an explanation??”

As followers of Jesus, we are told to be in the world but not of the world. We are here but with a higher calling to believe differently, think differently, and act differently. Romans 12:2 puts it this way “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed”. The way we live should not make sense to non-Christians or even the average churchgoer. God has not called us to be normal.

The question remains.... Does your life demand an explanation? How will you be able to testify of God’s life changing power when asked? This is the challenge of “you shall be my witnesses”. Allow the Holy Spirit to fill you and have an impact on your surroundings and the people you are with. Allow the Lord to transform your beliefs, thoughts, and actions to be distinctively different from what the world’s normal.

Scripture:

- 1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
- Isaiah 43:10 You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant who I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, not will there be one after me.
- Acts 4:20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Consider:

1. How have I viewed witnessing in the past?
2. How can I surrender to the Holy Spirit as salt and light to my surroundings?
3. How will I respond to someone who demands an explanation for my life?

Prayer: Father, Today I lay down my own life and invite the Holy Spirit to fill me. Make me salt and light at home, work and in my sphere of influence. May I live a life that demands an explanation and provides the opportunity to testify of your life changing power.