

Welcome to session seven of Join the Journey.

In this session we're going to identify the sixth gospel mark of a Jesus-centered church, and that mark is Gospel Power.

Let me start with a question: Have you ever felt like following Jesus is just... too much?

Like the standard is too high, the call is too great, and you just don't have the strength to live it out?

If we're honest, we've all felt that way: overwhelmed, helpless, maybe even hopeless.

And that's why today I want to remind us of something absolutely essential: We were never meant to do this on our own.

"The psalmist wrestled with the same feeling. In Psalm 121 he says, 'I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.'

Jesus Himself promised us help. In John 14:16 He told His disciples, 'I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, another Helper, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit.'

And Paul reminds us in Romans 8:11 that the Spirit of God, the very same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, now lives in us who belong to Christ.

Think about that for a moment: Resurrection power is dwelling inside of you.

So Here's today's big idea: What God calls us to, He empowers us to do through the Holy Spirit.

You see, you're not strong enough on your own.

I'm not strong enough on my own. But the Spirit gives us exactly what we need, when we need it.

Without gospel power, none of the other gospel marks are possible.

- Our gospel exchange, where we trade our sin for Christ's righteousness; it's initiated by the Spirit.
- Our gospel identity; it's rooted in the Spirit's testimony to our adoption.
- Our gospel rule, our ability to surrender to Christ's authority, is empowered by the Spirit.
- Our gospel maturity, growth in Christlikeness, is shaped by the Spirit.
- Our gospel mission to be a witness to the world can only be carried out in the Spirit's strength.

So gospel power isn't just another mark of the church—it's the fuel for every other one."

**The Spirit is at work in every aspect of our lives.**

## 1. The Spirit is at work in our Salvation.

- The Spirit is who convicts us and draws us to Christ (John 6:44; John 16:7–8).  
Conviction is not a curse. Conviction is not a bad thing. Conviction is a gift from God, of drawing us to Himself..
- The Spirit regenerates us, the Spirit saves us (Titus 3:4–6), He breaths new life into us just as God breathed into Adam.
- So we pray for the Spirit's conviction in the hearts of those who don't yet know Christ.

## 2. Holy Spirit is at work in our prayers.

- In Romans 8:26, it says the Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes with groans too deep for words.
- So, you are never praying alone.

- So when we pray we can say as Jesus did Father “Thy will be done,” and we can trust that the Spirit is already praying for on our behalf.

### 3. Holy Spirit is at work Leading Us.

- The Spirit leads us toward Christlikeness (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
- In Galatians 5:16, 25, Paul says “Let the Spirit guide your life.”
- Our role is to surrender, to get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit lead.
- So we surrender our decisions, we surrender our direction to God by letting the Holy Spirit Lead us in every decision, in every moment, with every step.

### 4. Holy Spirit is at work teaching us.

- The Spirit leads us into all truth; John 14:16–17 tells us.
- He illuminates Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16–17).
- Holy Spirit convicts us where we are wrong, and draws us to Christ in His Word.

## 5. Holy Spirit is at work gifting us.

- In 1 Corinthians 12, the Spirit gives us gifts for service.
- Every believer is equipped, but no gift is sufficient on its own.
- So we ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what our gifts are and to teach us how to be equipped in those gifts to serve the church.

I want to make a quick note here. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift according to scriptures, but most Christians walk around not knowing what their spiritual gifting is.

We want to do better at helping our church identify their giftings so they can walk in them, and they can serve in their strengths in how God has equipped them to serve. We're gonna talk more about this when we meet after you complete this series.

## 6. The Holy Spirit is at work in uniting us.

- In 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, there's this imagery that Paul gives us of a body - many parts, one body, all baptized into one Spirit.
- He not only unites us, He places us where God wants us so that we can serve others and be served right where we're supposed to be.

## 7. The Holy Spirit is at work Producing Fruit in us.

- Galatians 5:22–23 gives us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- These aren't self-made; they're Spirit-grown.
- When these fruits go undeveloped in our lives it's a warning that we might be quenching or limiting the ability of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If Paul tells us to let the Holy Spirit guide us, it should be a warning to us that we can do the exact opposite as well and we can quench or limit the Spirit's guiding or working in us.

#### 8. Holy Spirit is at work witnessing through us.

- Matthew 10:18–20 — When you stand before others, the Spirit of the Father will speak through you.
- He gives you words when you have none.
- Acts 1:8 says that when we are filled with the spirit, we are empowered to witness of Jesus to everyone, everywhere.



Would you agree, this is a lot of work that the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives?

So I want to make this personal for a moment: Is the Holy Spirit leading in every part of your life?

Not just on Sunday mornings. Not just when life gets hard. Is the Holy Spirit at work in your parenting, in your workplace, in your friendships, in your thoughts, words, and decisions.

Because here's the truth: The quicker we depend on the Holy Spirit for everything, the less anxiety we will feel trying to control everything ourselves.

And that dependence will change the way you live and the way you pray. Instead of saying, "God, I've got this," you'll start praying, "Holy Spirit, lead me. I need You in this conversation, I need you in this decision, I need you in this moment. I can't do this without you."

That's the shift: from self-reliance to Spirit-reliance. And that's exactly where God wants to get us to.

So let there be no doubt in your mind, you need help. And where does your help come from? Your help comes from the Lord.

Our help indwells us.

We are filled with gospel power because are filled with the Holy Spirit. Let Him continue to do His work in and through you.

Until next time, keep loving Jesus deeply, living like Jesus daily, and leading others to know Jesus personally. And oh, by the way, you can't do any of those things apart from the Holy Spirit.

Thanks for listening.