

Acts 1–4

The Holy Spirit, Part 1

☑ **Target: Be empowered by the Spirit!**

Key Verses

Acts 1:8a—But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me.

John 14:26—But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 15:26—But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Suggested Bible Reading

☐ John chapters 15–21

Other Recommended Reading

☐ *God's Gifts (Get Activated! book)*

Prayer and Praise: "Abide in Me"

John 15:4–5—Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Dear Jesus, it's amazing the way You take care of me—the way Your strong arms reach down to help me with the difficult things that come up throughout the day. There are so many times that it just doesn't register in my brain to talk to You about what I'm going through, and to bring my troubles to You and let You work them out. I guess I just kind of get so swept along with life and living and into everything that's happening, that I tend to try and "row my own boat."

But, Jesus, I know You want to be close to me. You're the Answer Man with everything that I need. You have the answer to every question, the solution to every problem. You have the love and understanding I need so that I can get along with others.

It's a change for me, and takes some effort to stop and pray, and just talk with You about different things, but please help me to make the effort to put on the brakes and take a little time out to talk to You! Amen.

Meditation: The Holy Spirit and Witnessing

The primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is to give you power to witness.

A lot of people feel a little nervous and shy when it comes to telling others about Jesus; it's just natural. So don't worry if you don't feel very bold or brave. The Lord understands. No matter *how*

you feel, though, He needs us to share His love and the message of salvation with the world, and if we'll just do our part, He'll help us.

You may feel that you don't really know what to say or *how* to witness. Don't worry; you don't have to be a good speaker in order to be a good witness. It doesn't even matter that much what kind of personality you have. Whether you're bold or shy, the main thing that people need to see is God's love shining through you.

If you don't know what to say, just look people in the eyes and smile, give them a tract, and let the Lord do the talking. When you give them His Words, something written down that they can take with them, it'll go far, and it will keep working in their hearts long after you're gone. If they seem interested and want to talk, then listen to what they have to say, and let them know that you really care about them.

You don't have to worry or feel bad, thinking that you're not a good witness. If you're faithful to give out the messages of His love, like tracts and other literature, you'll be giving them a wonderful witness and a chance to know all about Him and His gift of salvation for them.

<To think about> *Which of your friends or family should you tell about Jesus?*

Getting to Know the Bible: The Holy Spirit

Key Chapters about the Holy Spirit

John 14

Acts 2

Romans 8

Examples of being filled with the Holy Spirit

Exodus 31:2–5 (Bezaleel)

1Samuel 10:6,9–10 (Saul)

1Samuel 16:13 (David)

Luke 1:15 (John the Baptist)

Luke 1:41–42 (Elizabeth)

Luke 1:67 (Zacharias)

Luke 2:25–26 (Simeon)

Luke 4:1 (Jesus)

Acts 2:1–4 (Christians on the Day of Pentecost)

Acts 6:3–5,7 (Early Church deacons)

Acts 9:17 (Paul)

Acts 11:22–24 (Barnabus anointed to teach)