

The Gift Giver!

Last week we learned that the Holy Spirit is our Helper! Did you experience Him helping you this week?

It's so wonderful that we can call on Him at anytime and He is there to help us in our time of need. But the Holy Spirit is also a gift giver! One of my favorite family times is a birthday for one of our children. It's so fun watching them open their gifts, especially when they receive something they really wanted!

God, Our Heavenly Father, uses the Holy Spirit to distribute gifts to each of His children. As they discover and use these gifts, they bless others and they are blessed. Everyone wins when we use the gifts the Holy Spirit gives to build up one another. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to show you what He has given to you? If not, you've got a great present to open! This is a gift no one can take away from you and it gives joy when you use it for Christ. Take a moment this week to ask the "Gift Giver" what gift or gifts He has given you. Study them in the Word and ask Him to reveal what you have received. Here are some passages to get you started. 1 Cor 12; Romans 12:1-9. You wouldn't leave a birthday gift unopened now would you? It's time to see how good of a "Gift Giver" the Holy Spirit really is!

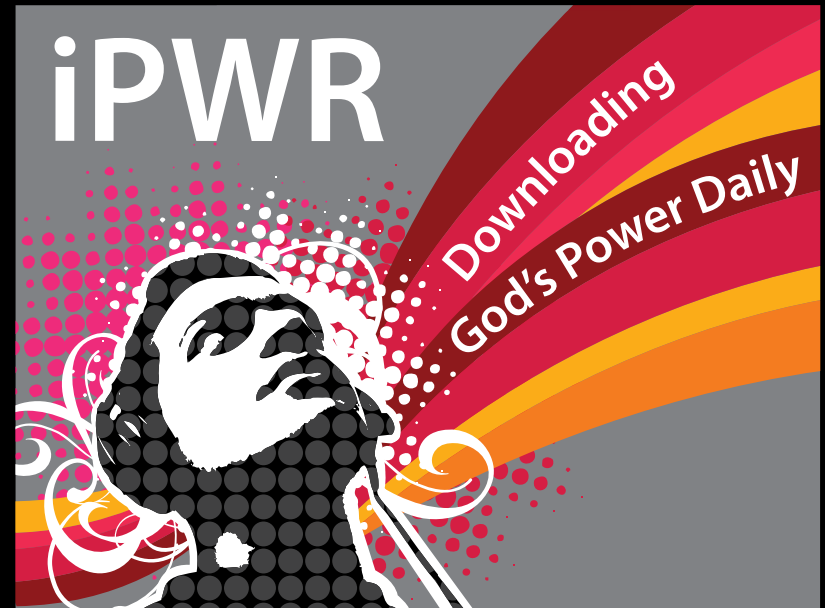
iPWR Discussion Questions

1) Read Acts chapter 2 again and see the amazing transformation the Holy Spirit brought about in Peter's life. Talk about an extreme makeover! How have you seen the Holy Spirit transform your life? How have you seen the Holy Spirit transform the lives of the people in your group? Take time to encourage one another with what you've seen the Holy Spirit do.

2) How bold in sharing your faith are you? What restricts you or limits your risk taking for Christ? Now read again through Acts 3 and review how Peter saw an opportunity, seized an opportunity and the saw the Holy Spirit stand with him in doing the miraculous. Look at all the people who came to faith because of his boldness in the opening of Acts 4.

3) How secure do you honestly feel in the love of God? Review the Scriptures that talk about how the Holy Spirit downloads God's love into our hearts. Have you experienced that personally? What fears still prevent that love from controlling your heart and mouth? Pray for one another and consider coming to the personal evangelism class together as a Small Group. Wouldn't it be awesome to be bold for Jesus Christ and trust Him with the results?

Week Two Sermon Notes



Power Need and Fulfillment April 19/20

► **Power for Sharing Boldly April 26/27**

Power for Practicing the Right Priorities May 3/4

Power for Loving Selflessly May 10/11

Power for Living Victoriously May 17/18

Power for Walking with Integrity May 24/25

Power for Overcoming Suffering May 31/June 1

Power Over Demonic Forces June 7/8

iPWR Downloading God's Power Daily April 26+27, 2008

1. The Holy Spirit can make an amazing transformation in anyone and everyone who receives His power!

1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:11

Peter is proof of that. Through the power of the Holy Spirit he was transformed from someone who denied Jesus Christ when under pressure to one who boldly and brilliantly proclaimed Christ under pressure. Acts 2:14-24

2. Peter's transformation by the Holy Spirit changed not only his life but the lives of thousands of other people!

Acts 2:37-41 - ...Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this generation that has gone astray!" Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all.

3. The Holy Spirit loves to give us the ability to see and seize opportunities to share Christ boldly. Part of His ongoing transformation in our lives is increasing freedom from the fear of man and the need of others approval. Through His ministry in us we become bold risk takers because His love overcomes our fears and our reluctance to risk ourselves.

Romans 5:5 - For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 8:15-16, 1 John 4:18 - Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear.

2 Timothy 1:7-8a - For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So you must never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord

We share Christ to the degree we feel secure in Christ's love for us and His love controls us.

4. Holy Spirit boldness also seizes opportunities to do good for Christ's glory. It gives people whatever you have as a witness to who you have inside of you. Acts 3:1-10

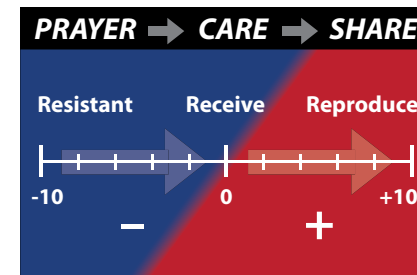
Peter saw the opportunity, Peter seized the opportunity and the Holy Spirit stood with him as he risked to reveal Christ! Peter went on to boldly squeeze even more blessing out of this opportunity. He boldly preaches to the crowd who gathers to see the healing miracle. Acts 3:11-16

Acts 3:19-20 - Now turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins. Then wonderful times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will send Jesus your Messiah to you again.

Despite Peter's imprisonment, people responded to his message and the number of believers grew!

Acts 4:3-4 - But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so that the number of believers totaled about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

Holy Spirit boldness brings big returns for Christ!



Spirit Led Evangelism:

See it.
Seize it.
Share it.
Squeeze it.

5. The Holy Spirit can transform you into a bold witness for Jesus Christ. What He did with Peter and John, He can do with you. It's not dependent on your training or education.

Acts 4:13 - The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men who had had no special training. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

It comes from being continually filled with the Holy Spirit and increasingly freed from the fear of man.

Acts 4:29-31 - "And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give your servants great boldness in their preaching. Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they preached God's message with boldness.

Will you allow the Holy Spirit to free you from fear and fill you with the love of God that makes you bold for Christ?

Starting this Tuesday night – three weeks of life changing classes.
7:00 to 8:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room:

1. Living Securely So You Share Christ Freely
2. The Eight L's of Effective Personal Witnessing
3. Sharing Christ in the Way that Fits You Best