

## The Praying Holy Spirit

This week we are learning that life has at least three "P's". They are problems, pain and pressure.

Jesus forewarned us that they would be a part of our life but that He had a plan to get us through them. His plan was to put the Holy Spirit in us to sustain us and help us overcome whatever we are going through. It is the Holy Spirit's presence in our pain, problems and pressure that gives us the capacity to rise above them. One way the Holy Spirit gets us through them is praying for us and through us. He always knows how to pray for us perfectly. Read together Romans 8:26-27.

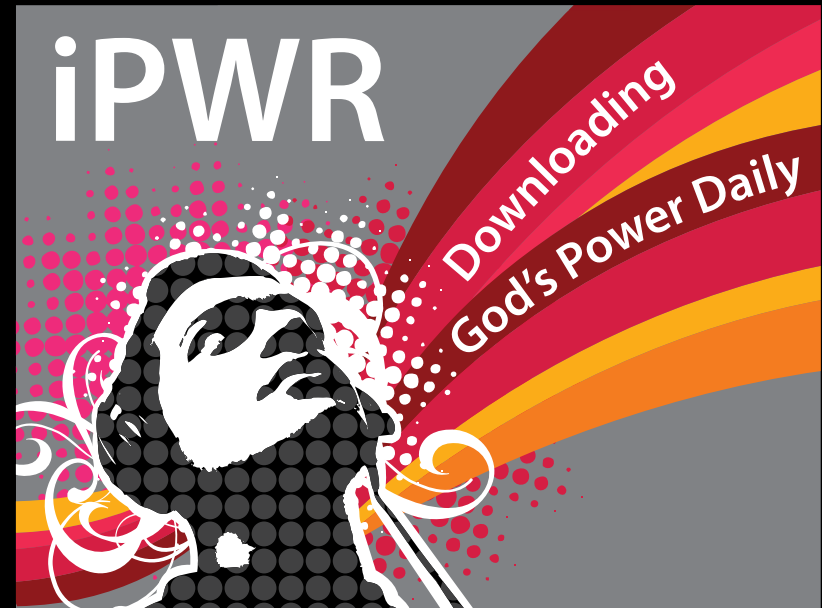
What problems, pain or pressure are you facing right now? Have you called on the Holy Spirit to sustain and strengthen you so you can overcome them? Have you been praying and allowing Him to pray through you? He wants to prove to you that He is with you no matter what happens to you. As He does, you'll say like Paul in Romans 8:38-39: "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

You have a prayer partner that knows how to pray perfectly in every situation--the Praying Holy Spirit!

### iPWR Discussion Questions

- 1) What problem, pain or pressure are you facing right now? Have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence in this situation? What has He done or said that has made you feel He is with you in this? Share a time you have seen the Holy Spirit come through for you?
- 2) Take time to review as a group all the times the believers in the book of Acts experienced the powerful presence of the Spirit in their pain, peer pressure and persecution. What can we learn from them? Does that inspire faith in you and confidence regardless of what life brings? Do you believe the Holy Spirit can still do for you what He did for the believers in Acts?
- 3) What internal battles are you facing that you need the Holy Spirit's help to win? Read the sections from Romans in the message and talk about what they mean to you. Do you believe the Holy Spirit can give you victory over destructive habits? What about healing for damaged emotions? How can we honestly pray for one another in these critical areas? Let's commit to stand with each other in these issues until freedom and victory is ours through the Holy Spirit.

## Week Five 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 May 17+18, 2008

### Power for Living Victoriously

Problems, pain, and pressure are 3 things we all wrestle with. Being a Christian doesn't **prevent** them from being in your life. But Jesus promised peace and victory in our problems, pain and pressure. He gives it to us through the triumphant Holy Spirit's presence in whatever we face.

**John 16:33** - *I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.*

**John 14:16** - *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will never leave you.*

The Holy Spirit is our ever **present** Helper. No matter what we face or go through He is there to give us the power we need to live victoriously in all our problems.

**1. Peer Pressure: Acts 4:1-22** - *So they called the apostles back in and told them never again to speak or teach about Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard."*

**2. Prison: Acts 5:17-25** - *They arrested the apostles and put them in jail. But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, "Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!"*

**3. Persecution: Acts 8:1-8** - *Saul was going everywhere to devastate the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into jail. But the believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus.*

**4. Physical Pain: Acts 16:22-26** - *They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison...Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.*

It is the Holy Spirit who makes us **unsinkable** and victorious in any and every situation. He is in us to make God's strength, comfort and courage known to us when we need it most. Whatever we go through He goes through it with us and gives us the grace to rise above it.

**The Holy Spirit also gives us internal power in our spirit to overcome sin in our flesh and healing for what is wounded in our soul (mind, will and emotions).**

### 5. Internal Problems

**Romans 6:5-13** - *Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was. Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.*

**Romans 8:11-13** - *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you. So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live.*

**Internal and external victory is possible through the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.**

**Romans 8:35, 37** - *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*