

## **Learn on Your Own**

**"The Holy Spirit Empowers"**

4/15 - 4/19/24 Vol. 4 Session 2

Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.

**Day 1: The Holy Spirit Empowers** Read Acts 10:1–48.

From Personal Reflection Questions

**Ques.** Have you seen the Holy Spirit empower people? If so, how?

**Ques.** How would you describe your relationship with the Holy Spirit? If you haven't yet, what's keeping you from asking God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit?

**Ques.** What honest questions do you have about the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Take time to ask and discuss these questions with a Spirit-filled believer.

**Activate** The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is available and necessary in the life of every Christian. When we partner with God's Spirit, previously hard things become possible. Obeying Him is easier, words flow when we witness to others, and even our gifts are readied for use. We need the baptism in the Holy Spirit in our life.

**Challenge** Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Share your experience with your group.

Do you desire to be baptized in the Spirit? Ask a Spirit-filled friend to pray with you and ask God to baptize you in His Spirit.

**Ques.** What is God saying to you about how the Holy Spirit empowers people?

**Day 2: Comes with Signs and Empowerment** Read Acts 2:1–4. When the Holy Spirit fell on the believers gathered on the Day of Pentecost, signs accompanied the event. At least one of these signs was evident even to outsiders. To their amazement, the Spirit-baptized men and women were suddenly empowered to speak in other languages they didn't know. We call that speaking in tongues.

**Ques.** What were the signs that accompanied the baptism in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost?

**Ques.** Why is the sign of speaking in tongues an effective way to identify receiving the Baptism among all other signs?

**Day 3: Promised in the Old Testament** Read Joel 2:28–29. In the Old Testament, the prophet Joel spoke of future events. In Acts 2, the apostle Peter spoke to the crowd after the Holy Spirit had come as Jesus had promised. Peter connected Joel's prophecy with the promised baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**Ques.** What does Joel say the Holy Spirit will empower believers to do?

**Ques.** Did you know the baptism in the Holy Spirit was promised in the Old Testament? Does this impact your views of the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

**Day 4: Worth Seeking and Waiting For** Read Acts 1:1–5. Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit before they went out to do any work of the ministry. The disciples gathered together for days, praying and seeking God for the promised Holy Spirit. We should not assume that God always baptizes people immediately. A wait was involved, even for Jesus' disciples. God and His gifts are worth waiting for.

**Ques.** The Baptism is a gift that God eagerly wants to give us. Why then do you think He chose to make the believers in the Upper Room wait?

**Ques.** Have you or someone you know prayed for the Baptism and not received it? How does today's Scripture help people have hope when they pray for the Baptism?

**Day 5: Empower Us to Witness** Read Acts 1:6–9. Jesus promised the baptism in the Holy Spirit to His disciples for one main purpose: power to witness. The task of telling the world about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus was given to ordinary people. You and I know of Jesus today because the Holy Spirit empowered these regular people to be effective witnesses.

**Ques.** This passage records some of the last words Jesus said before returning to heaven. What might that say about the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

**Ques.** Being a witness is the direct result of being baptized in the Spirit. Do you find that people who are baptized in the Holy Spirit are more ready to witness than others? Why or why not?