

The Gospel Project

Unit 28: Session 2 Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given you everything required for life and Godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Opening Thoughts:

Back in December, we studied the spectacular arrival of the Holy Spirit – believers speaking in tongues, preaching powerful sermons and beginning to build the community of the church. This week, we will see the Holy Spirit in action. Peter, prompted by the Holy Spirit, healed a man in the name of Jesus and preached another sermon. So, our focus this week is the power of the Holy Spirit to prompt, speak and work through believers.

Interesting contrast between chapter 2 and chapter 3:

1. Peter the preacher – Peter the personal worker
2. Multitudes – one poor man
3. Ministry resulting in blessing – ministry resulting in arrest and persecution

(From Warren Wiersbe's Commentary)

Point 1: God's People have something better to offer the world

Read Acts 3:1-10, and answer the following questions.

1. Who are the main characters in this story?
2. Where does this story take place? Why are they there?
3. What time of day is it?
4. What do Peter and John do for the lame man?
5. What is the response of the lame man?
6. How do we see the power of the Holy Spirit at work in this story?
7. How does the Holy Spirit work in the lives of believers today?

Point 2: God's People give glory and praise to Jesus

Read Acts 3:11-16, and answer the following questions.

1. The scene has moved to Solomon's Colonnade. How do the people there to pray respond to this healing?
2. Who does Peter credit for this healing?
3. How does Peter describe Jesus?
4. How does Peter describe his Jewish audience?
5. Look at the repeated phrase "in His name" (verse 6 and verse 16). Why does Peter repeat this phrase?
6. Why is it so important that we have a right understanding of the character and nature of God?
7. In what ways might you take the credit for God's work in your life and the lives of others? How can you move your focus to glorifying God instead?

Point 3: God's people call others to repentance so they can experience refreshing

Read Acts 3:17-20, and answer the following questions.

1. How does Peter describe the actions of the Jews in verse 17?
2. How did God use their actions for His glory?
3. What are the instructions in verse 19?
4. If they repent and return, what will the results be?
5. Why is ignorance not a valid excuse for sin?
6. How does the presence of the Lord bring refreshing to your life?

Concluding thoughts:

We are continuing this week to see how the Holy Spirit empowers God's people to do His work. God works in different settings and people groups in unique ways to reach them for the Gospel. So, what can we glean from this story today? Be attentive to the Holy Spirit as He shows you opportunities to meet needs and share the Gospel. Seize the opportunities when they are presented. Through Peter we see how meeting a physical need led to the opportunity to share the Gospel. Stick to the message of the Gospel if you do have an opportunity presented to you and keep it simple.

The Holy Spirit can prompt us in all kinds of ways and for all kinds of purposes. Peter chose to obey the Holy Spirit and it led to healing and salvation, but if we read on through chapter 4, it also landed him in hot water with the High Priests. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit may not always be easy or comfortable, but it is always for God's glory and our Spiritual growth.