

Finding **Power**, **Perseverance**, and **Purpose** in the Holy Spirit

AT HOME STUDY

WEEK FIVE

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

God, we call upon your Spirit knowing that it's risky, knowing that you might really move. Knowing that the power that comes with your Spirit will move us to live out your purpose for us. We thank you for the good news that announces our salvation. Be our guide as we pray and prepare for you to spread that good news all over the world. Amen.

MONDAY: ACTS 2.17

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

- We return to this verse that quotes the prophet Joel. God's people had been looking forward to a time when God's Spirit would be poured out and people of all ages would be filled and empowered to see farther and dream God-sized dreams.
- Pray for each generation to respond to the power of the Spirit being poured out even now.

TUESDAY: ACTS 2.39

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call.

- It seems that the world we are a part of steers us to look out for ourselves. Our survival, our blessing is what matters most. But the power in this promise gains strength as it moves from generation to generation. Who are the people that have inspired you to seek God? How has their faith grown in you?
- Pray for vision to see yourself within a long line of those who have received the promise of new life in Jesus.

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 3.1-7

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

- Peter was focused on putting the power he received from the Holy Spirit to good use. But when you keep reading you find that he also connected the power to the promise of freedom in Christ. He revisited his Pentecost sermon from chapter 2. Is the Holy Spirit inviting you to connect evidence of its power with the Good News of Jesus?
- Pray for opportunities to use the power of the Holy Spirit to point others to Jesus.

THURSDAY: DEUTERONOMY 6.6-7

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- The image of impressing something upon your children is powerful. The word for impress carries a meaning of "pointing intensively", even "piercing" to a deep level. When Jesus is pressed into our hearts we want to ensure that the next generation experiences that as well.
- Pray with and for rising generations and tell them what God has done for you.

FRIDAY: PSALM 71.18

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

- The Psalm writer David seems to be focused on legacy as he gets older. But his focus is not on his own legacy but God's. He wants future generations to tell about the power of God to do mighty things.
- Pray that your legacy would be one that reminds others of God's power.

SATURDAY: PSALM 145.3-4

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

- The sharing of stories about the Holy Spirit's power is intergenerational. Grandparents tell grandchildren and grandchildren tell parents. The young see visions, the old dream dreams!
- Pray for a recognition of the gifts God's Spirit has placed in you and a desire to use them for God's glory.