



THIS IS  
*Victory*



**Big Idea: We are a Spirit-Empowered Church!**

**Pastor Curt Seaburg**

### **Acts 1:4-5 NIV**

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is a gift, not something weird. As a church, we recognize this gift and use it. **We are a Spirit-Empowered church!** Jesus tells us, we don’t have to do this life by ourselves. Acts 1:8 goes on to say “..you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you..” That same Holy Spirit power within Jesus that was used to cast out demons, heal the sick, and raise from the dead. The Holy Spirit is a wonderful and beautiful gift from God to strengthen us and empower our lives.

The Greek word “Dunamis” - Power / Might / Strength

### **2 Things the Holy Spirit is NOT, and 3 Things He IS.**

1. He is **not** an “it”. – “Him” – When you **see** Him as a **person**, you will **relate** to Him **personally**. – John 14:17
2. He is **not** weird. – He’s a person, that longs to have an intimate relationship with you.
3. He **is** my **inner voice**. – We serve a speaking God. The Holy Spirit convicts, and He always points to Jesus. – John 16:8
4. He **is** my **teacher**. – We serve a teaching God. John 14:26
5. He **is** my **friend**. - In a relationally starved world, the Holy Spirit never leaves. The way you grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit is the same as any relationship. Communication. – John 14:16

The Greek word “Parakletos” = Counselor / Helper / Advocate

### **2 Corinthians 13:14 MSG**

“The **amazing grace** of the Master, Jesus Christ, the **extravagant love** of God, the **intimate friendship** of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.”

### **Three Prayers You Can Pray**

1. “Holy Spirit **show me**.” - Ezekiel 36:26-27, Psalm 139:23-24
2. “Holy Spirit **change me**.” - 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
3. “Holy Spirit **fill me**.” - Ephesians 5:1, Acts 13:52

“Ruach” – Hebrew for Wind or Breath

## **Discussion Questions**

- How has your understanding of the Holy Spirit affected your relationship with Him? As a group, discuss who the Holy Spirit really is. Share examples of how the Holy Spirit has changed your life
- Have you misunderstood or been confused by role of the Holy Spirit in the past? Share any hesitancy you may have with the group and encourage each other to pursue a Spirit-filled life.
- What would life look like if we said, “God, I want you take all of me. Anything you want to do!”?
- What are some areas in our lives we could use a fresh Ruach?
- Do you communicate with the Holy Spirit specifically? What does that relationship look like?

## **Prayer Focus**

Holy Spirit, do a work in me. Show me, change me, fill me. Take over in my heart and life, that there would be room for only You. Help me to rely on You and Your power. Show me who I need to be and change me to be more like Jesus. Teach me as Your word says and overflow in my life. Thank You Lord for this beautiful gift. In Your holy name, Amen.

## **Next Steps**

Toss out your preconceived ideas and notions. Forget and push aside weird stuff you may have seen or heard about growing up. Go straight to God’s word and see what the Bible has to say. The Holy Spirit is not outdated, He is biblical. There is such a large pushback on the Holy Spirit because we reject things we don’t understand. – If you don’t already. Start conversing with the Holy Spirit. Making a relationship with Him a part of your life. And watch how He will empower you in your life.

## **Leadership Tip**

Encourage members to dig into the Word. To see what the Bible has to say about the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to speak to them in fresh new ways as they read. The Word is alive!