



▶ DAILY DEVOTIONAL.

Saturday/Sunday, 8/22-23/18

“The Heart Set Free: The Power of the Holy Spirit”

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

During the devotions this week, we will explore what it means to be weak, what the Holy Spirit does for us, and how we can have power in the Holy Spirit. I look forward to what God has in store for each of you this week. Make sure to try the family activity below. I think it’s a fun one and easy to do. If you are in an office, it could be fun to try as well. Just make sure your boss isn’t looking! Also, just a quick note on why I am using words like “us” and “we,” particularly in the prayers. There are others who will be using this resource and we pray for one another.

Family Activity: Today’s activity involves a science experiment you can do with items around your own home. Find two books and place a piece of paper between them like a bridge. Set an object on top of it to show how the paper is too weak to hold the object. Next, take the same piece of paper and fold it to make multiple corrugations. Place the object on top of the corrugated paper and show how its strength has changed. We are all like this piece of paper. When we try to overcome things ourselves, it may not work. When we allow God to use our weakness, it can become something strong.

Step 1



Step 2



Monday, 8/24/18

“God Chose Weakness”

John 1:14 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- God is all powerful (omnipotent), all knowing (omniscient) and in all places (omnipresent). That’s what makes this passage so intriguing. God entered the world in the form of a human body. In doing so, God accepted the limitations of that body. In the form of Jesus Christ, God could only be in one place at time. God willingly chose to become weak! God could have made a different choice. God could have come as a conquering ruler. Would God’s power have been made known if that was the choice?
- God experienced all of humanity’s weakness here on earth. How does it make you feel to know that your God has literally walked in your shoes (maybe sandals is more appropriate)?

Prayer: Almighty God, we praise you for the way you willingly give of yourself. You took on weakness. You experienced life on earth. You walked and talked with your children. You saw people who suffered. Thank you for being the type of God that does not lord over us. You truly are with us. Amen.

Tuesday, 8/25/18

“The Holy Spirit Is Here”

John 14:26 (NIV)

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- In this passage, Jesus is preparing the disciples for his eventual departure from earth. They are perplexed and concerned. They are worried that the future will be dim without Jesus here. Jesus reassures the disciples by saying that they will have help. The Holy Spirit will be with them. It’s a welcome reminder, one that I need on a regular basis. Let’s recognize that the Holy Spirit is here with us at this exact moment in time moving in us and around us.
- The passage states that the Holy Spirit will teach and remind us of the things Jesus said. Even though we didn’t live with Jesus like those in the first century, we can still know him through the Holy Spirit. How can we pay attention to the Spirit that is reminding us of Jesus and his teaching? What is the Spirit currently revealing to you at this season in your life?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us. Reveal to us the true nature of Jesus so that we can strive to be more like him. Remind us of the central tenets of our faith. Help us cling to righteousness and justice. Our will is to do yours. Amen.

Wednesday, 8/26/18

“Led by the Spirit”

1 Samuel 7:7-9 (NIV)

When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel’s behalf, and the LORD answered him.

- Samuel was a prophet of God who was a leader of the Israelites. During this time, there were no kings. That state of Israel was comprised of tribes who (surprise, surprise) didn’t always get along. That made it extremely difficult to organize a strong military that was needed against the mighty Philistines. As you can imagine, there was a lot of fear. In what areas of your life are you fearful or concerned about?
- Samuel stepped in as an intercessor. He gathered the Israelites together. He prayed on their behalf. He is a living model of what the Holy Spirit does for us. The Holy Spirit gives us the words when we don’t know what to say. Where do you need the Holy Spirit to intercede for you?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, we come before you to sit in your presence. We do not come with words. We come with our hearts. You know what is in here. You know what we need better than we know ourselves. Intercede on our behalf.

Thursday, 8/27/18

“Power in Weakness”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Sometimes I think the Apostle Paul must be crazy for writing something like this. Boast in our weakness? Really?!?!?! I understand being humble, but should our weakness really be on display? I think the argument Paul is trying to make is that God is revealed most to the world whenever we present our weakness. After all, if God can do something amazing with all our deficiencies, what can God do for others?
- One of the most powerful things we have is our story as it relates to God. Some would call this our personal testimony. I am always amazed when I hear how God has used imperfect people in phenomenal ways. It usually involves some vulnerability. What weakness might you have that God will use to bless other people?

Prayer: Holy God, bring to the surface the areas of our lives that would glorify you. Use our past transgressions and current struggles to show that anything can be overcome. Transformation in You is real. Reveal Your healing power through our weakness. Amen.

Friday, 8/28/18

“Wisdom by the Spirit”

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 (NIV)

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

- We can gain a lot of wisdom through worldly education. I have been a part of many great classes. I've seen fascinating documentaries. This passage tells us that the Holy Spirit gives us something much different. What may seem logical from our point of view may not be wisdom from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to get rid of our biases. The Spirit helps bring understanding in things we don't understand. One of the main places we need understanding is in the political realm. How could someone vote a certain way? I just don't understand why! What places or people can the Holy Spirit help bring you understanding?
- I love the last verse of this passage. When we speak, we use spiritual words. That means our words have spiritual implications. That makes me want to pause and think before the next time I speak. How can we be sure our words are pleasing to and guided by the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Loving God, give us the words of wisdom. Give us the words that bring life and hope to people and a world that so desperately needs it. Whenever others speak behind someone's back, help us to not engage. When people enter heated debates, let us speak slowly, clearly and humbly. It's not about winning the debate or convincing others. It's about meeting them where they are and understanding their point of view. Let our words be words that build people up. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

***This week's devotions were written by
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