

# Empowered by the Holy Spirit

By Kenneth L. Birks

**1 John 2:20, 27** *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.<sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

What comes to mind when you hear the words, “Being empowered by the Holy Spirit?” Is it merely a gentle sense of comfort—or a fearless, Spirit-fueled confidence that reshapes the way you think, act, and live? Scripture leaves no room for ambiguity: every born-again believer carries the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This means we are anything but ordinary. We are God-commissioned vessels, equipped with divine power for every battle, every assignment, every moment of our lives.

To believe we are empowered by the Holy Spirit is to reject small living. To embrace empowerment is to step into a life where excuses crumble, courage rises, and the supernatural becomes our normal.

The Holy Spirit stands ready to guide us, empower us, and act on our behalf.<sup>1</sup> But the piercing question to confront is: Are we living as Spirit-empowered people, or have we quietly settled for a lesser version of the life than what God intended? Are we drawing from His presence daily, or allowing His power to remain dormant—available, yet unused?

The Spirit is willing. The question is whether we are.

**John 14:15-17** *If you love Me, keep My commandments.<sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the*



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<sup>1</sup> John 16:13

## Holy Spirit Empowerment

*Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, for He dwells with you, and will be in you.*

For the Holy Spirit to truly be our Helper in all things, we must do more than simply linger in God's presence—we must trust Him enough to surrender every path, every plan, and every instinct. The passage in Proverbs below does not offer a polite suggestion; it issues a divine mandate: *acknowledge Him in all your ways*. Only then do our ordinary steps become infused with supernatural direction.

***Proverbs 3:5-6*** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Throughout our daily lives, we face struggles and obstacles that demand more than human strength—they demand the Lord's help. Yet far too often, these pressures drag our faith downward, not because God is distant, but because we have rushed ahead without Him. We move through our days without pausing to wait on God, without inviting the Helper—the very source of our joy—into the situation. And then, when confusion rises and our peace collapses, we wonder why we feel overwhelmed. The truth is sobering; we live as though the Holy Spirit is optional and then wonder why we end up in spiritual turmoil. The quandary is not His absence—it is our neglect of His presence.

Many times, the challenges we face demand more than quick fixes or human logic. Again, the passages in Proverbs above and below confront us with a sobering warning against leaning on our own understanding. The command is not a gentle suggestion—it is a call to surrender the very instincts we often trust most. God's thoughts tower above ours, and His ways cut across the grain of what we label as "common sense." What feels obvious to us may, in fact, stand in direct opposition to the wisdom of heaven.

***Proverbs 16:3,9*** *Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established. <sup>9</sup> A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs His way.*

If we genuinely believe Almighty God dwells within us by His Spirit, what comfort zones would suddenly feel too small? What prayers would erupt from our lips—prayers that once felt too daring, too impossible, too costly? What risks would we finally take, not recklessly, but boldly, because the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is the One empowering us?

## Holy Spirit Empowerment

We have also been given spiritual gifts to manifest His power in our lives, bringing hope and healing to those we interact with.<sup>2</sup> One of the greatest struggles many believers face is the pursuit and development of the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to us. These gifts are not optional accessories to the Christian life—they are essential to our calling. If we are to rise into the fullness of who God has destined us to be, we must actively engage, cultivate, and steward the gifts He has placed within us. This is part of “working out” our salvation—not earning it but unleashing what God has already deposited in us.

**1 Peter 4:10** *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

To ignore our gifts is to live beneath our calling. To pursue them is to step boldly into the life God designed. If we truly desire to be the kind of Christians through whom the Holy Spirit works powerfully, then we cannot remain passive—we must actively pursue the spiritual gifts He has freely placed within us. Every believer carries a divine assignment, a calling woven into God’s larger purpose on the earth. And if we are to walk in the fullness of what God has designed for our lives, it will require more than good intentions; it will require the intentional activation and use of the Holy Spirit's gifts.

This raises a crucial question—one we cannot afford to ignore: Do you know the specific gifts God has entrusted to you? And even more challenging: Are you pursuing them with the seriousness your calling deserves?

The Holy Spirit has equipped and empowered you. The question is whether you will step into what He has empowered you to do.

**Acts 1:8** *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 1 Peter 4:10