

FLYING CLOSER TO THE FLAME

STUDY TWELVE

Power, Power . . . We've Got the Power!

Selected Scriptures

The filling of the Spirit includes living our lives yielded to the Spirit. We need His power, His working, His cleansing, and His freeing.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WHEN the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, His flame lit a fire in the fearful disciples gathered in the upper room. Emboldened, they took to the streets declaring the gospel in languages they had never spoken before (Acts 2:1–12). Peter and John healed a lame man in the name of the living Jesus (3:1–8), which set off a wave of phenomenal signs and wonders—all signaling a new age of the Spirit's ministry (2:43; 5:15–16; 8:6–8; 15:12; 19:11–12; 28:8).

Such displays of the Spirit's power were spectacular, but are they the norm for us? What manifestation of the Spirit should we expect to see? Does the Spirit display His power in other ways besides miracles? What are the typical, everyday acts of the Holy Spirit? Let's find out in this *Searching the Scriptures* study.

**PREPARE YOUR HEART**

As you begin your study of God's Word, pray for the Spirit to reveal His message for you. Pray the psalmist's simple and heartfelt prayer:

*Open my eyes to see
the wonderful truths in your instructions. (Psalm 119:18)*



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TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

A survey of the New Testament uncovers plenty of mentions of the Spirit's everyday manifestations. The number of evidences of the Spirit's power in this study may surprise you, and the list in the chart below is only a sampling. There's no end to the ways the Spirit ministers in our lives.



Observation: Finding Evidence of the Spirit's Empowering

After carefully reading each verse in the chart, write down the evidence you see. The list is long so it may take a little time. Don't rush. Make it personal by starting each evidence with the pronoun, "I"—such as, "I am," "I can," "I have," "I experience," and so forth. The first blank is filled in as an example.

Verses	Evidence of the Spirit's Power in My Life
<i>John 14:16</i>	<i>I am never truly alone because the Spirit never leaves me.</i>
<i>John 16:13</i>	
<i>Acts 1:8</i>	
<i>Acts 19:21; 20:22</i>	
<i>Romans 5:5</i>	
<i>Romans 7:6</i>	
<i>Romans 8:11</i>	
<i>Romans 8:23</i>	
<i>Romans 8:26–27</i>	
<i>Romans 14:17</i>	

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Verses	Evidence of the Spirit's Power in My Life
<i>Romans 15:13</i>	
<i>Romans 15:30</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 2:10</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 2:12</i>	
<i>1 Corinthians 12:7, 11</i>	
<i>Galatians 4:6</i>	
<i>Galatians 5:16</i>	
<i>Galatians 5:22–23</i>	
<i>Ephesians 1:14</i>	
<i>Ephesians 6:18</i>	
<i>Philippians 2:1–2</i>	
<i>Philippians 3:3</i>	
<i>1 Thessalonians 1:5</i>	
<i>2 Thessalonians 2:13</i>	
<i>1 John 2:27</i>	
<i>1 John 4:4</i>	



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None of these demonstrations of the Spirit's power appear phenomenal. No flashes of supernatural power light up this list. No ecstatic utterances, no visions, no healings, no casting out demons, no miracles.

Rather, these displays of the Spirit's power are more subtle and ongoing. Like spring showers that refresh the earth, the Spirit refreshes our souls and our relationships, helping us to mature in character, to feel Christ's peace and joy, to deepen our fellowship, and to connect intimately with our heavenly Father.

Do you feel encouraged by these evidences? Do you long to experience them more personally? What motivates you about this list?

Which of these evidences have you witnessed in your life recently?

These are not exceptional, phenomenal things. They are routinely ours to enjoy and claim because the Spirit of God is filling us. This is the normal, Spirit-filled Christian life, about which we say too little. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Interpretation: The Ministry of Intercession

In the interpretation phase, let's dig deeper into the Spirit's everyday ministry of intercession. Read again *Romans 8:26–27*, and explain the meaning of these verses by putting them in your own words.

What situations of “weakness” might cause Christians to be at a loss to “know what God wants us to pray for” (8:26)?

What are “groanings that cannot be expressed in words” (8:26)? How do they put expression to our wordless prayers?



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When the Spirit “pleads for us believers,” His prayers are in perfect “harmony with God’s own will” (Romans 8:27)—after all, He is God. What do the Spirit’s prayers on your behalf tell you about the nature of Holy Spirit and your relationship with Him?

How can the Spirit vitalize your prayers, especially when you don’t know what to pray for?

The Spirit of God is, in fact, God. We are dealing with the person and work of the Triune God. Much of His work is beyond our comprehension. He is limitless and mysterious at times. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Correlation: The Benefit of Freedom

Walking in the everyday power of the Spirit includes one benefit that weaves through all His ministries and ties them together: freedom. In *2 Corinthians 3:7–18*, Paul contrasted the “old way” of living by the law with the “new way” of living in the power of the Holy Spirit. Read the passage and write down the features of the new way in 3:8, 12, 17–18.

Based on the context of this passage, what did Paul mean by *freedom* (3:17)? Freedom *from* what? Freedom *for* what?

How might the Spirit free you from condemnation to live more confidently in His power?



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When we are filled with the Spirit, we have freedom from constraint and fear, from tedious perfectionism and bondage. We are free to cry when we grieve, to laugh when we're joyful. We are free to be. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Admitting Our Need

Let's pull out a few gems from the Spirit's box of treasures to claim as our own. Review what you wrote in the chart. What aspects of the Spirit's everyday power from this list do you need most today?

In the space below, express your dependence on the Spirit's power in this area of need.

Perhaps you're in one of those situations in which you don't know what to pray for or even hope for. In what ways does it help knowing that the Spirit is interceding for you?



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What truth from this study can you share with someone else today who needs the Spirit's encouragement?

Walking in the "new way" of the Spirit, we find strength to grow in faith, experience peace, and find God. The Spirit's freedom is ours to experience, and His power is ours to claim in every aspect of our lives. That's the true wonder of flying closer to the flame.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for the mysterious ways in which You move in my life through Your Holy Spirit. I confess that I'm drawn to the spectacular. But I need the everyday manifestations of the Spirit's power today. I'll leave the miracles to You in Your time and Your way. In Jesus' name, amen.

