
Study 5 – Praying For Holy Spirit Power

Introductory Question

1. In what ways could you say that you have experienced the Holy Spirit?

Observe

Acts 8:14-17 and 19:1-7

Read Acts 8:14-17 and 19:1-7

2. What seems to be the emphasis in these passages?

Ephesians 3:14-21

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

3. This might vary a little depending on the translation but try to fill in these gaps.

I pray that _____ (v.16)

so that _____ (v.17)

And I pray that _____

_____ (vv.17-19)

So that _____ (v.19)

4. What does Paul say at the beginning (vv.14-16) and end (vv.20-21) of this prayer about God's ability, and willingness, to answer it?

Colossians 1:9-14

Read Colossians 1:9-14

5. Fill in these gaps.

The one request: _____
_____ (v.9)

The one desired result: so that _____ (v.10)

The four aspects of that result: _____ (v.10)

_____ (v.10)

_____ (v.11)

_____ (v.12)

Understand

6. Why, do you think, the apostles emphasised receiving the Holy Spirit?

7. Who do you understand the Holy Spirit to be?

8. If Paul visited a church, how would he be able to tell if the Holy Spirit was present or absent?
What would be the signs?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:19-20. Do you think that “power” is a key indicator of the presence of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

What would “power” look like? What would Paul be looking for?

9. What persuaded the enquirer in 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 that “God is really among you”?

10. How do you respond to the suggestion that “power” includes both a) the power of God working in us, changing us, and b) the power of God working through us, changing others?

11. List some examples of how the power of God works in us.

12. List some examples of how the power of God works through us.

13. In Ephesians 3:14-21, was Paul praying for a work of the Spirit in the Ephesians or through the Ephesians? What is the basis for your answer?

14. In Colossians 1:9-14, was Paul praying for a work of the Spirit in the Colossians or through the Colossians? What is the evidence?

15. From what you have seen, and what you already knew, make a list of the things you long to see more of in your church but which only the Holy Spirit can do?

Apply

16. Are there individuals you might pray for that they might receive the Holy Spirit? Are there people in your group who would like that prayer now? Or other people you know who want a greater experience of God?

17. Use the list from Question 15 as a prompt for your prayers both now and regularly.

