

WARM-UP

- Tell about a time you got something you had been saving up for and wanting for a long time.
- What is one “right decision” you’ve made? Share the first thing that came to your mind.
- Share a time when you achieved something that wouldn’t have been possible without the help of others.

WORD *¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ISAIAH 11:1-2*

(Read also **ACTS 2:2-4**.)

Isaiah here prophesied about the kind of rule the Messiah will bring when He comes. His final word is not judgment, but restoration. Isaiah said that *the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him*—the Messiah who will rule. This was fulfilled in Matthew 3:16-17, when the Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. After His resurrection, when He ascended back to heaven, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would also come to His people. This means that the kind of Spirit-empowerment described in Isaiah 11 is made available to believers today. In this lesson, we will look at three ways the Spirit of God empowers us as we live in Christ.

1 | In Christ, God's Spirit empowers us to live in His wisdom and understanding.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding . . . **ISAIAH 11:2**

¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁶ . . . "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:13, 16

The pairing of *wisdom and understanding* in verse 2 points to a kind of leadership that acts with divine insight and righteous discernment. Through the finished work of Christ, we are given this wisdom and understanding. Through the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to understand spiritual truths that we cannot know on our own. In view of our current circumstances, how can we tap into the wisdom and understanding that God has given us through His Spirit?

2 | In Christ, God's Spirit empowers us to live in His counsel and might.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him . . . the Spirit of counsel and might . . . **ISAIAH 11:2**

¹¹"And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." **LUKE 12:11-12**

Today, the words *counsel and might* are synonymous to "strategy and strength." The combination of both words speaks of the ability to devise a right course of action, powered by the ability to see it through. There are

circumstances in our lives where we are hard-pressed or unable to respond due to our human limitations. God empowers us, through His Spirit, to live with counsel and might. Because of this, we are enabled to execute the right course of action in different situations. Is there a specific area in your life where you feel that you are hard-pressed? How have you experienced the counsel and might of the Holy Spirit?

3

In Christ, God's Spirit empowers us to walk in His knowledge and fear of the Lord.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him . . . the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. **ISAIAH 11:2**

¹⁷. . . that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you . . .

EPHESIANS 1:17-18

As we believe in God, we can also draw near to Him and know Him in the truest sense; not just with head knowledge, but with intimacy. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to walk in holy reverence for the Lord. Through God's work in us, we can live a life that demonstrates true loyalty and worship to God. This is our call as believers: To know God and walk in reverence towards Him. This gives Him pleasure and glory. What are some practical ways you can have a deeper knowledge of God?

APPLICATION

- Are you living a Spirit-empowered life? How is this seen in your day-to-day actions?
- What things can you do differently to understand more of God's word and obey His voice? Are there areas in your life that hinder you from living a life of obedience to Him?
- How can you continue to grow in intimacy with God? How can you share this intimacy with God to others, whether verbally or through your actions?

PRAYER

- Thank God for sending His Spirit to dwell in His people. Thank Him for enabling us to live Spirit-empowered lives.
- Ask God for the grace to continue living through the power of His Spirit and not your own strength. Pray to clearly hear His voice as He empowers you to live in wisdom and understanding, counsel and might.
- Pray for your family, friends, and community that have yet to experience living in the might of His Spirit. Pray that they would encounter God in a powerful and life-changing way.

NOTES



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