

**Empowered by the Spirit - week 2**  
**January 11, 2026**

As you participate, remember that this is a space to listen, reflect, and grow together. There is no pressure to have the “right” answers. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide both the conversation and your heart.

**Open up together:**

- What kind of church do you want?

**Read the following scriptures aloud together:**

**Romans 6:7**

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

**John 14:26**

But the Counselor, 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.

**Romans 7:15, 19**

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

**Romans 7:24-25**

...Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Romans 8:1-2**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

**Romans 8:11**

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

### **1 Corinthians 4:2-5**

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

### **Reflect & Share:**

Use a few of these questions to guide discussion:

- What stood out to you about the idea that God's power is often most visible in weakness, not strength?
- What does it look like to depend on God rather than our own strengths—personally and as a church?
- What are you holding onto that you need to release?
- Where are you relying on your own strength?
- Where is God asking you to trust Him?

### **Pray Together:**

Invite God to show you where you've been striving in your own strength.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you release control and trust His power at work in you.

Thank God for the gift of new life and freedom from condemnation in Christ.

### **Personal Invitation:**

Choose one area of your life where you feel tired, stuck, or overwhelmed.

Each day, pause and pray a simple prayer like:

*"Holy Spirit, I need Your power here. I release control and trust You."*

Notice what shifts – not necessarily in circumstances, but in your posture.