



Empowerment

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P_{review}

When I hear the word “empowerment” I think of a country preacher that defined the word as “power” was “ment” to be in ‘em. Let me translate: “See that person over there? The power was meant to be in him.” The dictionary defines it this way: “to invest with power” and “to equip or supply with an ability.” Maybe you know someone who needs some power. Maybe you are just the person to empower him.

P_{raise}

Psalm 150:2 says, “Praise [God] for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.” Another version (NIV) says, “Praise him for his acts of power.” Share stories of how you have seen the power of God at work.

P_{arable}

There was once a girl whose shyness made her very nervous being around other people. The shy girl would keep quiet and watch the other kids in her class. She always noticed another girl who was loud and outgoing. The other girl seemed to have all the confidence in the world.

One day, the shy girl was standing near the mirror in the school bathroom when the confident girl walked into the bathroom and started talking to her. (In case you are a guy, this is to let you know it’s very common for girls to talk in the bathroom. Have you ever seen just one girl leave the lunch table to go to the bathroom by herself? No. They always go in pairs so they can talk away from the group.)

“Hello,” the confident girl said to the shy girl. “You’re in my math class, right?”

“Yes,” the shy girl said, shocked that the confident girl recognized her.

“My name is Laura,” the confident girl continued. “What’s your name?”

“Rebecca.”



"I'm going to a Bible study after school," Laura said. "Do you want to come with me, Rebecca?"

"Okay," Rebecca said. She couldn't believe that popular Laura just invited her somewhere.

The rest of the school day went by quickly and Rebecca was gathering her books at her locker when Laura came up beside her. "You haven't forgotten the Bible study, have you?" Laura asked.

Rebecca smiled, "No, I haven't forgotten." The girls walked to a classroom where several students had already gathered for the Bible study.

Another student spoke to the group: "Today's lesson is about empowerment. Does anyone have a story about a time when you were empowered?"

Laura was the first to speak up, "I do! I used to be very shy and feel terrible about myself because I could never share what I was thinking or feeling. It's like I was locked up. Until one day when a lady in my neighborhood brought me to church. She became my mentor and spent time with me. She told me she believed in me and that God loved me. It took me awhile to believe what she said about me, but one day I woke up and realized it was true. God made me and has a plan for my life. Now I feel empowered to tell everyone that God has a plan for their lives too."

Laura finished sharing her story and smiled at Rebecca and Rebecca smiled back. It was the start of a new friendship, one that would lead Rebecca to know Jesus and to be empowered to be a witness for Him.

Present

There are many kinds of empowerment in the world today. There are organizations of people that have only one objective: empower others for their cause. Some groups are all about women's empowerment. Others are for racial empowerment. Teachers empower us with knowledge. Coaches empower us with spirit for the game.

Most empowerment groups have positive motivation behind what they do. Most of them are for bettering people who are often oppressed or underprivileged. Many people in the world want to empower others to do good and make the world a better place.



But only one person can empower us with the Holy Ghost. He's the only One who can give us supernatural power and authority so He can work through us. That One is Jesus. In the first chapter of the Book of Acts, Jesus told His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come and empower them to be witnesses.

Pactice

We can learn a lot and become empowered from the people in our lives. Maybe you already are empowered and you need to empower others to make positive changes in their lives and to grow as people.

Either way, today I want to challenge you to ask Jesus to be your mentor. Ask Jesus what He wants to empower you to do. Ask Jesus to give you boldness and strength of character and the confidence and authority to reach up to Him knowing you are forgiven. He will give you the gift of the Holy Spirit and empower you to witness of God's goodness to your world.

Walk in empowerment for Jesus. He is the greatest cause you can give your life to. He is the only One who can change the world; He does it one heart at a time. Will you let Him empower your heart today?

Pray

Lord Jesus, we ask You to fill us with the power of Your Spirit. Empower us to be a witness for You and help us to give our lives to empower others to know You and to change their world for the better. Lord, we ask You to bless every organization that empowers people to make positive change in their lives, but we also ask that You would empower those same people to know You and to begin to do their good works to glorify Your name on earth. We ask these things in Jesus' name.

Plus

What will you do with the power God has given to you today? Who will you share His power with?