

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 08.09.2020

WAY OF JESUS SERIES – THE WAY OF POWER – LUKE 4

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel shared this "I wonder if you've ever found yourself in a season of life where you felt powerless. Perhaps you're there now. You're still going through the motions, but on the inside you feel numb. You're still running, but just barely. You're barely holding on. You feel weak. Defeated. Beaten down. You go to bed tired and then wake up tired. You're ready to give up. You're still going to church but God seems distant. The life marked by victory and power and abundance that you keep hearing the preacher talk about seems out of reach. Instead of flourishing, you're floundering. Instead of thriving, you're barely surviving. To anyone who is currently there or has ever been there, I want to talk to you about one connection that has the potential to unlock all kinds of new power in your life. If we're going to talk about power, then we need to talk about Jesus. After all, by any measure of the word, Jesus was powerful. He moved in power. His ministry was powerful. His preaching was powerful. The miracles He performed were powerful. His authority over unclean spirits was powerful. No one would dispute that. Even His enemies couldn't deny His miracles. They had to come up with some other explanation for how He was able to do the things He did because they couldn't deny His power. So here's my question; where did all of that power come from? What was Jesus' power source? Today in Luke 4 we will discover Jesus source of power and find the source of power we need to live a victorious christian life. "Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Daniel's message this weekend?
2. Describe a time when God used your lack in a given area to prove His sufficiency.
3. Who do you believe the Holy Spirit to be? What role does the Holy Spirit play in both your daily life and your mission in life?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

Many of us sincerely want to follow the Lord and obey His word, but we find that no matter how hard we try, we keep failing. This leads to an ever-increasing sense of frustration. It's been said that the Christian life is not just hard, its impossible! we cant do it with out the help of the Holy Spirit! In Luke 4, we will see that Jesus Himself relied on the guiding of the Holy Spirit in His life. An important part of understanding Jesus is understanding the key role the Holy Spirit played in His ministry. The Spirit's leading and power were vital in Jesus' ministry. Learning to discern His leading and power was necessary for Jesus' disciples in His early ministry and is critical for His disciples today.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 4:1-13

1. What happened prior to this passage (cf. Luke 3:21-22)? How is Jesus described in verse 1?
2. Why is it significant that the first place the Holy Spirit led Jesus was the wilderness?

Prepare! in 2020

As Jesus started His ministry there were no “softballs” lobbed to Him; rather, He was led to a point where He was physically exhausted and then interrogated by Satan. Many other saints of the past had been tested in the wilderness and it didn’t go very well for them. Yet, it is in this condition that Jesus shows us something very important about Himself: He succeeds where all others in the past had failed.

3. Have you ever faced a significant “test” in your life? If so, what was it? How did it turn out?
4. What do you think it means to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit? How do we get filled with the Holy Spirit? (Eph. 5:18, Gal. 5:25)

Luke 4 opens with these words; ‘Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil...’ {Luke 4:1-2} So immediately following His ordination ceremony and baptism experience with the Holy Spirit, we read about Him being ‘full’ of the Holy Spirit. In the same verse we see Him being ‘led’ by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days and nights. The Devil pulled out all of the stops and tried everything He could think of to get Jesus to sin but the Lord defeated the devil by the power of the Spirit and through the word of God and He overcome every temptation. Then verse 14 tells us that, ‘Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside...’ {Luke 4:14}

5. Why is it significant that Satan attacked Jesus’ identity as the Son of God? Similarly, in what ways does Satan attack our identity as children of God?
6. How do you feel about the fact that the three temptations Jesus faced are typical of what we face today? What does it prove about our identity when we don’t give in to temptation?
7. Think about the last time you were tested or tempted by Satan. How did you respond?

(OPTIONAL) HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 4:14-44 (Jesus goes on the preach powerfully, Spirit Led)

From the wilderness, Jesus was directed by the Spirit to go to His hometown, Nazareth. Jesus was back in His “home” synagogue and everyone was amazed by what they saw and heard. Jesus read a prophecy from Isaiah and said it was fulfilled immediately after His reading it. They were astonished! Then suddenly their approval transferred into skepticism when they said, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” Saying this reminded them that Jesus couldn’t possibly be all that important because He had the same humble origins as they did.

1. How do you think those who knew Jesus and watched Him grow up in Nazareth felt about Jesus’ proclamation?

Jesus talked about the healing ministry of Elijah and Elisha. These past prophets had angered Israel because God healed the “wrong” kinds of people through them. God used these prophets to heal the “outsiders,” and doing this made the insiders in Israel furious. As Jesus referenced this point, His hometown—the ultimate insiders on Jesus, who witnessed Him grow up—became enraged.

2. Have you ever felt frustrated to learn that an “outsider” or someone “too far gone” has professed to know Jesus? How can you guard against that kind of hard-heartedness?

Jesus’ interaction with His hometown demonstrates the danger of letting familiarity with Jesus serve as a substitute for actual knowledge of Him. Jesus is confrontational toward those who “think” they have Him figured out and placed neatly into a box. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” Yet those who pose this query are the very ones who need to have their foundations about Jesus reexamined altogether.

3. How have you seen familiarity with Jesus turn into something negative?

Prepare! in 2020

As Jesus confronted His hometown, remember that this was in the direction of the Holy Spirit. He went home in the power of the Spirit and was rejected. This is the typical pattern of the initial reaction many people have to Jesus “coming home” in the power of the Spirit. We don’t like it and desire to push Him out. It is uncomfortable when Jesus comes in power and rearranges areas of our lives that are complacent and comfortable. The Holy Spirit led Jesus to places where He was rejected. This is true for us today as well, but we sometimes resist change and conviction and in reaction reject the One who is bringing the change.

4. How would you respond to this phrase “The same Holy Spirit that lives in Jesus Christ, lives in you!” What are the implications of phrase?

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

If Jesus’ was God and He relied upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit to empower Him for a life of ministry and service, then who do we think we are that we can get by without Him? You see, by walking in the Spirit, Jesus was modeling for us the way He wants us to do life. He was showing us the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. To put it another way, Jesus was showing us that the Holy Spirit is the power supply for Christian living.”

1. Knowing Jesus was fully human, what tactic can you take from His wilderness experience to use the next time you are being tempted?
2. How does having the Holy Spirit inside of you not negate the fact that you will face both temptation and rejection? Knowing trials are certain, how can you rely on the Holy Spirit for both power and direction?
3. Jesus constantly talked to His disciples about the Holy Spirit. Read John 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:6-11. And discuss all the things that the Holy Spirit will do for us and through us.

PRAYER - Close in prayer, with a spirit of humility as we seek the Lord. The Bible says that God humbles the proud but gives grace to the humble. All of us need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives everyday. Eph. 5:18 tells us to be constantly being filled which means we must constantly surrender and yield to the Lord. Pray for each one to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit and then we will be fruitful for the Lord. Remember, the same Spirit that lived in Jesus Christ, lives in us!

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -”

(Luke 14:16)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE POWER SOURCE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING!