

CORE COMPETENCIES

Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- **Self-Control**

"I have the power, through Christ, to control myself."

- Hope
- Humility

Imagine sitting in front of a fan—you're hot and getting hotter as you try to keep spinning this fan by hand to cool you down. Someone comes along and asks you why you haven't plugged the fan in to the power supply. Your response: "What power supply?" As absurd as that is, many Christians attempt to live their lives in their own strength and power, not realizing that God's supernatural power is available. The result is, well, look around at many Christians, and you'll see the results. I invite you to immerse yourself deeply in the Scripture this week and to discover even more fully what God desires to do in your life and what power He has to offer. There are all kinds of power available—if we'll "plug in"!

In Him,

Richard Gotthardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Monday

Begin your time today asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten your heart and mind to the truth of God's Word.

Read Ephesians 5:15-21.

Paul is writing these words to the church at Ephesus. What is he warning them against?

In verse 18 Paul contrasts sin with being filled with the Holy Spirit. What do you think it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

This week we will take an in-depth look at another of Paul's writings to gain insight into the power that is available in a life indwelt by the Holy Spirit. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you have the Holy Spirit within you. Ignorance or disbelief regarding the power that is available can hinder us from living lives that are mature and powerful representations of Christ.

Close your time in prayer asking God to enlarge your understanding of the Holy Spirit's work and power in your life.

Tuesday

Begin your time by thanking God for providing us with the Spirit to empower us and teach us.

We will read Romans 8 on Tuesday and Wednesday to gain a deeper understanding of the Spirit's power. To understand the context for these verses, start by reading chapter 7.

Paul is writing this letter to the church at Rome. It contains basic theological truths that were important for the believers in Rome to wholeheartedly embrace and understand. For emphasis, Paul often repeats his ideas, but this can sometimes bog us down as we read. To help us to gain an even more firm grasp on the passage, write a summary statement beside each section division below.

Romans 7:1-3 -

7:4-6 -

7:7-13 -

7:14-25 -

Reread 7:24-25. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the true nature of your powerlessness over your sin. Thank Him for the Spirit who makes it possible for you to have victory over the destructiveness of sin.

Wednesday

Begin your time today by asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your thoughts as you study God's Word.

Read Romans 8:1-17.

Slowly reread this passage. As we did yesterday, write a summary statement for each section to help you understand Paul's meaning more fully.

- Romans 8:1-4 -
- 8:5-8 -
- 8:9-11 -
- 8:12-17 -

Reread verse 11. We have the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead within us; the same power that brought Jesus back from death is available to us on a minute by minute basis!

Spend a few moments thinking on this truth. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us. What implications does this have for your life? Where do you need His power in your life right now?

Thursday

Begin your time today asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's Word today.

Read Romans 8:18-27

For the final time this week, write a summary statement for each section as you read the passage.

- Romans 8:18-21 -
- 8:22-25 -
- 8:26-27 -

Reread verse 26. Sit in silence and ask the Spirit to reveal to you your areas of weakness.

Close your time asking the Spirit to help you in these areas. Ask Him to show you what His power could do in these areas.

Friday

This week we have focused largely on how our bodies are slaves to a sinful nature, but the Holy Spirit within us has given us a new nature that is empowered to live pure lives. Today we will focus on what this pure life looks like.

Read Galatians 5:16-26.

Paul contrasts acts of the sinful nature (vs. 19-21) with the fruit of a life lived *in step with the Spirit* (vs. 22-26).

Spend a few moments reflecting on your life over the last week.

List examples from your own life in the two categories below:

Acts of the sinful nature

Fruit of the Spirit

Confess the acts of the sinful nature to God and receive His forgiveness and renewal in these areas. Over the next week, how can you live a life more in step with the Spirit in these areas?

Thank the Holy Spirit for His work in your life producing godly actions and characteristics. Ask Him to continue to grow you in developing fruit that is evidence of the Spirit's work in your life.

Reread verses 22-23. Is there one particular *fruit* that you see lacking in your life? Ask the Holy Spirit what the next step might be in cultivating this *fruit* and then pursue that next step.

Close your time this week thanking the Holy Spirit for His empowering presence.