

# SPIRIT-EMPOWERED LIVING

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**Focus** God wants us to live in total victory through a Spirit-empowered life. As believers, we're called to live dependent upon the Holy Spirit. By living a Spirit-empowered life, we'll be able to have full security in knowing that God can take our weaknesses and make us strong.

**Open** As a child, did you have a security blanket or something that helped you sleep? How old were you when you finally relinquished this item?

**Read** In Revelation 3:15–16 it says, “I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other. So because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” God doesn't want His children to live lukewarm lives, and one way to know if you are, is to ask yourself the question, “Am I living a life dependent upon the Holy Spirit or am I independent of God, trusting on my own strengths and abilities?” Jesus was not lukewarm in His commitment to God. He was fully submitted to God and dependent upon the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 5:19, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” We are called to have this same perspective.

As we become dependent on God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, God will then begin to transform our lives. As we embrace a Spirit-empowered and Spirit-dependent life, God's transforming power will be allowed to work in our lives, molding and shaping us. Romans 8:11 states, “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.” We can do nothing apart from God, but through Him all things are possible.

**Talk**

1. Why is it important to live a life dependent upon God's Holy Spirit? How can we gauge whether we *are* living dependent upon the Holy Spirit?
2. Think of a time in your life when you felt helpless or inadequate. How did you handle this feeling? If you were able to trust God to empower you by His Holy Spirit, what was the outcome?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. What does this verse have to say about our inadequacies? How are we to respond when we face our own weaknesses? How is our faith strengthened when we let God reveal His strength during our times of weakness?
4. What do you think it means to live a Spirit-empowered life? If you are not currently living that kind of life, what can you do today to commit to making this change? What will that look like in your life on a day-to-day basis?
5. Is it possible to help others to live a Spirit-empowered life if we ourselves are not fully submitted to God's Spirit? What are some areas of your life, plans and pursuits you think God is calling you to entrust to Him?

**Live**

This week, let's each commit to starting our day different than we have been. For the next week before we even get out of bed, let's each begin the day by saying this prayer: "Heavenly Father, I fully submit myself and this day to You. Lead me and guide me by Your Holy Spirit. Teach me how to live my life dependent upon You and fully empowered by Your precious Holy Spirit. Take my weaknesses today and turn them into Your strengths. And I give You all the glory and the honor for all You have done and are going to do. Amen."

**Pray**

Lord, thank You for Your abundant grace that You pour out on us. Help us to trust You with everything in our lives. Give us the boldness we need to come to You when we feel weak and inadequate. Help us to grow in our faith and in our dependency upon You. Amen.