

THE ~~ABCs~~, THE ACDCs of EMPOWERING

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live a life that is pleasing to God.

2 Peter 1:3, Philippians 2:13

Dynamic miraculous extraordinary feats of strength or skill:

The Dreams of Joseph, The Strength of Samson

The Skill of David killing Goliath, The Wisdom of Solomon

The Prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah or the Apostle John

“**A**” He gives us the **ABILITY** to **SERVE** one another.

Sometimes facing Goliath is easier than putting others first.

Philippians 2:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:2-3

“**C**” He **CONSECRATES** our **SERVICE** and makes it **ACCEPTABLE** to God.

Is anything I do ever 100% “pure”?

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-25

Romans 8:26-27

“**D**” He **DISTRIBUTES** the gifts according to His **WILL**.

Why doesn't He give me more of the gifts I want and less of the gifts I don't like?

But I want to do _____ instead of _____!

1 Corinthians 12:11

We can have joy and satisfaction in using our gifts, but that's not why we do it. Sometimes using our gifts to serve the Body is not enjoyable.

“**C**” We need to Courageously **COOPERATE** (yield Control) with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:15-18, 2 Timothy 1:7

We can choose to say, “YES” to what the Spirit is motivating us to do. We can also choose to say “NO.”

Am I regularly employing my gift to minister to the Body of Christ?

Am I relying on the Holy Spirit to consecrate my ministry, or do I think it's all up to me?

In what area do I need to step out in courage and engage in ministry to the Body?

EVERY TIME WE DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE OTHER PERSON, EVEN IF IT HURTS US, WE ARE COOPERATING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE ARE COPYING JESUS WHEN HE SAID, “NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS BE DONE.”

How many times are we told to LOVE ONE ANOTHER in the New Testament?

Life Application Questions – September 6, 2026

Philippians 2:1-2 *Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

DISCOVER

1. Why would you empower someone? What should happen after someone is empowered? Where does the authority to empower come from?
2. Share of a time when you had to show “tough love” to someone you cared about. Was it to enforce boundaries? Did you withhold support or something else? What sacrifice(s), if any, did you make? How was it received? How does the concept of “tough love” work?
3. The world says, “Nice guys finish last” or “Don’t be a doormat.” How does the concept of humility in Ephesians 4:2 challenge our modern understanding of self-worth and success? Explain how humility and surrender are actually strengths.
4. Even though the Holy Spirit indwells us, why is it still so difficult to consistently put others’ needs before our own and to also be cheerful while serving them? Is anything we do for others ever done in 100% purity of thought or intent? How can we gain victory in these areas?

EXPLORE

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:7. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. How can the diversity of gifts within Auburn Grace Church be a source of strength and unity?
3. Read Romans 8:26-27 and Ephesians 3:20. What do these scriptures imply about our limitations in faith? What does the Holy Spirit do to our inadequate prayers to make them presentable to God? Reflect on a time God exceeded your expectations. How did that impact your faith journey?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. What is the primary purpose of our spiritual giftings? What is a secondary purpose? How would you counsel brethren who have been in ministry for a long time, are burned-out and no longer have joy in their service areas? Are spiritual gifts given for life or for seasons of life? Do they ebb and flow? Have you ever prayed for spiritual gifts that you don’t have or are weak in? What was driving that desire?
5. Read Galatians 5:16-17. How does understanding the role of the Holy Spirit help you in resisting the desires of the flesh?

EXPERIENCE

1. Share of a time when you experienced the Holy Spirit’s guidance. How did it impact your decision-making during the experience? Is that a sustained character trait in you today?
2. When you truly love someone, what are some associated costs you are willing to make?
3. Explain why doing what’s best for another may displease them. How could choosing to please them instead be a possible act of grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit?

PRAY

Father in Heaven, the desires of the flesh abound in me. Thank You for Your indwelling Spirit that countermands worldly desires. Help me to cultivate a spirit of power, love and discipline. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.