



September 22, 2024

We Are: Spirit-Empowered

Big Idea: A Spirit-empowered church experiences freedom through the transformation of our desires.

Overview: Romans 8 must be one of the high points of New Testament writing on the transformed life. In this text, Paul expands on his theology of what Jesus has accomplished and how this changes everything. Contrasting life in the flesh, and life in the Spirit, Paul gives hope to sinful people that change is possible, and new life is available for those who believe in Jesus Christ. As a church, we long to be a Spirit-empowered church that experiences the freedom and transformation through the Holy Spirit. We are moved forward by a dependency and urgency to walk and live in the power of the Spirit as individuals, Life Groups, and our Church.

Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together.
2. Share openly and authentically about your life: what is the good that needs to be celebrated? What is the challenge that needs encouragement and prayer?
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

Conversation starters:

- We had 51 people sign up to join Life Groups at our Ministry Fair last week. This is unprecedented! Talk as a group how you can welcome and be hospitable to a few new people in your group.
 - Remember, we welcome others as this group at one point welcomed you, and as Jesus has welcomed us!
- In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

Read Scripture: Romans 8:1-11

Questions for Discussion:

1. **The Spirit-empowered life experiences freedom vs. 1-4**
 - What does it mean to live without condemnation from God? Do we live without our own self-condemnation?
 - What does the concept of freedom mean and look like based on our culture's view of it? (Hint: unhindered pursuit of our own desires)
 - What does a Spirit-empowered freedom mean and look like? How do these two differ?
 - If Jesus has "set us free from the law of sin and death," are you experiencing this freedom in your life?

- Jesus has set us free and given His Spirit so “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us.” Or, that we would be able to live the life we were created to live. How does your life testify to the Spirit being active in your life?

2. The Spirit-empowered life transforms desires vs. 5-9

- What does a flesh-driven life look like? In what ways do Christians still live this flesh-driven life although belonging to Christ?
- How does the Spirit help transform and redirect our desires?
- A Spirit-empowered life leads to “life and peace” (vs. 6). Where in your life are praying for this life and peace?
- Work, control, power, comfort, self-gratification, sex, food, and reputation are all sinful desires that can lead to addiction. Where is the Spirit’s freedom needed in your life?

3. What does this mean for KAC?

- Pastor Chris mentioned 4 implications of a Spirit-empowered church.
 - They were:
 - We pray for a special move of the Spirit amongst us.
 - We live out the fruits of the Spirit.
 - We employ the gifts of the Spirit.
 - We re-present Jesus to our city and world through the power of the Spirit.
 - Which one of these hopes can you pray for tonight?

Listening to God:

- How has God been present in our discussion so far? What themes have emerged?
- Brainstorm how your life group can be more than just a conversational prayer group, and a group that is committed to justice and righteousness.

Prayer Prompts and Application:

Feel free to lead your group through the Alliance Vision Prayer:

O God, with all our hearts, we long for You. Come, transform us to be Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere.

For more, you can Journey through the Alliance Vision Prayer devotional [here](#).

For more great content on the concept of freedom and the Spirit’s work in our lives, check out John Mark Comer’s book *Live no Lies*.