



Finding Our Strength

March 16, 2025 • Craig Rees

BIG IDEA:

Life hits different when you are plugged into the Spirit

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Acts 1:8

Romans 8:10–17, 26–28

Romans 9:30–32

2 Corinthians 5:16–17

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17. What does it mean that we are a “new creation” in Christ? How does restoring the Holy Spirit’s role in our lives help us experience that new identity on a daily basis?
2. Living without the Holy Spirit is like trying to move forward in the dark—without clarity or strength. What areas of your life currently feel like you are “pushing through” in your own strength? How might reconnecting with the Spirit bring clarity and power to those areas?
3. Read Romans 8:12-13. Paul says we have an obligation, not to the flesh, but to live by the Spirit. How does understanding this “obligation” as a response of gratitude (rather than compulsion) change your motivation to live Spirit-filled?
4. The Spirit-filled life is fueled, not forced. What would it look like for you to shift from forcing yourself through spiritual disciplines to fueling your life through the Spirit’s presence? What practical rhythms might help?
5. Read Romans 8:14-17. According to this passage, those led by the Spirit are children of God. How does being led by the Spirit increase your confidence in your identity as God’s child? What difference does that make in how you handle fear or insecurity?
6. A clogged fuel line keeps an engine from working even when there’s fuel in the tank. What are some “clogs” that might be keeping the Spirit’s power from flowing freely in your life right now? How can you begin to clear those blockages?
7. Read Romans 8:26-28. Since the Spirit is actively helping and interceding for you, what intentional choices would reflect that trust in your daily life?
 - A. How would you handle a difficult relationship if you believed the Spirit was giving you wisdom and strength in real time?
 - B. How could you approach work stress or parenting challenges knowing the Spirit understands your weakness and is praying for you?
 - C. What habit or practice would help you stay aware that God’s purpose is unfolding, even in places where you feel stuck or disappointed?
8. In Romans 9:30-32 Paul contrasts living for God by our own effort with receiving righteousness by faith. Where in your life do you feel like you’re working hard to be “good enough” or trying to hold everything together on your own? What would it look like to stop striving in that area and trust God to lead or provide you the strength you need instead?
9. Consider this question: What if this week, instead of trying harder, you simply stayed connected to the Spirit’s power? What is one specific situation in your life where you need to stop striving and start abiding? How will you remind yourself to stay connected to the Spirit this week?

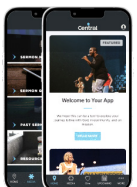
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mark 12:30--Colossians 3:2

Father, Open my heart to see how your Spirit is shaping my life.

Quiet my soul that I may know the power of the Holy Spirit at work within me. Set my mind on things above that I may be increasingly aware of your presence.

Amen



Get the weekly sermon questions on the **Central Holland App!**