

Step Out of the Crowd

Live in the Power of the Spirit

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **October 08, 2023**



The people of God are seldom the majority—being willing to honor God with your life sets you apart as you courageously say, “I will follow the Lord. I will walk uprightly before Him.” Most of us are not confused about what the truth is. Our struggle tends to be obeying the truth that we know. As Christ-followers, we want to lead distinctive lives that reflect different choices than those who do not follow the Lord. This requires stepping out of the crowd and living in the power of God’s Holy Spirit.

I. LIVE IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

Luke 4:14 *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

Acts 1:7–8 ⁷ *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 10:38 *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

1. **How has the power of the Holy Spirit helped you live a Christian life? Give an example that shows the difference between operating on your own strength versus relying on the Holy Spirit’s power.**
2. **Describe how you would invite someone to be more disciplined and purposeful toward listening to God.**
3. **In what ways has not sharing our biblical worldview caused evil to flourish? What can you do in your sphere of influence to begin leading people toward God’s truth?**

II. FOR EXAMPLE

Abraham...Saw the Promise of God

John 8:56 *“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”*

Joseph...Embraced the Courage to Forgive

Genesis 37:26–27 ²⁶ *Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.*

Moses...Accepted an Assignment that Intimidated Him

Exodus 3:11 *But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”*

Samuel...Continued to Lead After Painful Rejection

1 Samuel 8:7–8 ⁷ *And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.”*

David...Demonstrated a Zeal for God

1 Samuel 17:36 *Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.*

Nehemiah...Rearranged His Entire Life to Serve God's People & Purposes

Nehemiah 13:6–9 ⁶ *But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Sometime later I asked his permission ⁷ and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. ⁸ I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. ⁹ I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.*

Esther...Stepped Out of the Shadows and Raised Her Voice for God's People

Esther 4:12–14 ¹² *When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For **if you remain silent at this time**, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"*

Peter, James & John... "We Have Left Everything for You"

Matthew 19:27–29 ²⁷ *Peter answered him, "**We have left everything to follow you!** What then will there be for us?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."*

Paul...Imagined Hardship as an Expression of Faithfulness

2 Corinthians 11:18–24 ¹⁸ *Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast...²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.*

- 4. When was a time you felt the Lord calling you to step out of your comfort zone? How did you respond?**
- 5. What opportunities have you forfeited by not leading with your faith? How could you have responded with more courage?**
- 6. Take the time as a group to pray for the state and the people of Israel. Would you be willing to fast and pray this week?**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we have sinned and turned our backs upon You. We have put our agenda before Your assignment. We stand in Your presence to acknowledge our failures and our rebellion. Now, look upon us with mercy and pardon our transgressions. We choose to humble ourselves before You. Do not respond to us according to our deeds, but respond to us from Your great love. We choose this day to walk a new path, to live uprightly before You, to walk in righteousness. Bring healing to our hearts, our homes, and our land. In Jesus' name, amen.