



Fifteenth Avenue BAPTIST CHURCH

UNCERTAIN

THE CHURCH DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

**Have you ever been in a situation
where you needed something that
you did not have?**

Examples

- **Missing ingredients for a meal**
- **Phone losing power but no charger available**
 - **Access to maps!**
- **Away from home but forgot an article of clothing**
- **Tools needed to complete a task**
- **Nothing worse than not having what you need!**

Equipped

- **In Uncertain Times**
 - You wanted to be well equipped.
 - Not missing anything needed for the moment.
- Much of what we see around us
 - Evidence of being ill-equipped
- As a believer, in times of uncertainty,
 - Are you **equipped** for the moment?

Equipped

- What is the believer equipped with
 - To handle moments of uncertainty?
 - To survive the ups and downs of life?
 - To walk with confidence and assurance when all around you have lost their way?
- **The Spirit of God!**

Romans 8.14-17

- Paul writes to the church at Rome:
 - For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” **Romans 8.14-15**

Equipped

- **Paul writes to the church at Rome**
 - **Aware of uncertainty surrounding the church.**
 - **Seeks to provide them with some confidence**
 - **Some hope to guide them through the turbulent times.**
- **Points to the Holy Spirit!**

Adoption in the Spirit

- **We are not longer alone!**
 - **Through faith and baptism we have been adopted into relationship with Jesus Christ as brother and with God as Father.**
 - **The Spirit of God abides with us and in us!**
 - **We do not walk alone!**

Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit is God's presence, power, and promise in the life of the believer.
- Because God has **adopted us.**
- Because God is **changing us.**
- Because God is **guiding steps.**
- We walk with a newness of life
 - Equipped to face every moment

God's Presence

Led by the Spirit

- **Being led of the Spirit**
 - Paul's is expressing the active influence of the Spirit in Christian life
- Christians are under God's guidance
 - Holy Spirit leads us when we allow Him.



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Presence

- Evidence of God's Presence
 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
1Corinthians 3.16
 - What are you exposing the Spirit to in your life?

Presence

- God's Presence Reveals God's will.
- Allowing us to discern the truth from lies.
- Spirit of truth (Holy Spirit) **guides us into all truth** (John 16.13).

Presence

- Provides the wisdom needed in every moment.
- 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3.5-6

God's Power

Power

- **God's Power Transforms Us**

- **16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Romans 14.16-18**

Power

- **22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Gal 5.22-23**

God's Promise

God's Promise

- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **Rom. 8:28**
- Not some things.

God's Promise

- **All things**
 - All elements of the Christian life are brought into harmony for those who love God,
 - Because they are all elements in God's divine plan.

God's Promise

- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **Rom. 8:28**
 - Not some things.
 - Work for the good.
 - Exclusive Promise.

Exclusive Promise

- What does it mean to love God?
 - The love of God is nothing less than the response of a person in every way to the love of God.
 - And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. **Mark 12:30**

Exclusive Promise

- **Working for the Good**
 - Reason all things work for the good is not found in Christians themselves, but in God.
 - God takes the initiative and sees that all things will work for the good.

Promise Prompts Hope

- Paul wrote about **those who have no hope.** (1 Thess 4:13)
 - Unsaved's entire orientation is to this world.
- Christians are different!
 - Christians have **hope** that gives Christians us the power to endure all the moments of life.

God's Promise

- **Christians live in the power of the Spirit**
 - **This is what provides the Christian with hope.**
 - **Same power that provides the strength to turn away from the old way of living,**
 - **Same power that sustains our hope in God.**
 - **Gives us confidence in victory in this life and the next!**

God's Promise of Prayer

Promise of Prayer

- **Without the aid of the Spirit,**
 - **Even our prayers of would fail.**
 - **Even with God, Christians are weak.**
 - **Remedy to this weakness is the Spirit's intervention and assistance.**

Promise of Prayer

- **26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

Promise of Prayer

- **God's Spirit:**
 - Makes us aware of our weakness and helps remedy the condition.
 - Brings comforts and strengthen us, enabling them to boast in the Lord.
 - Spirit prays along with our feeble utterings before God.