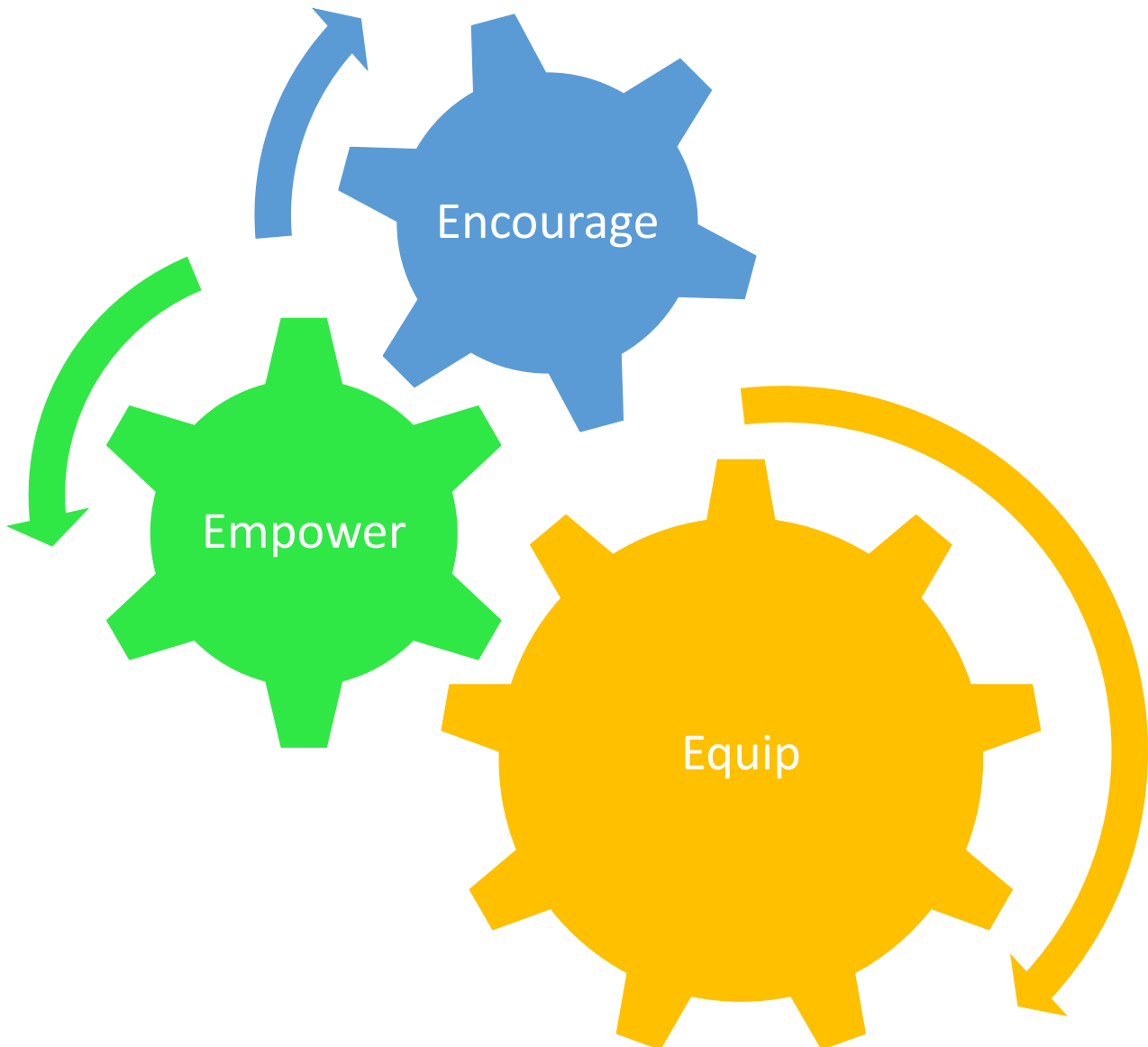


# EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST

Booklet #1



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# Equipping Message # 1

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## Guarding the Gift in you

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**2Ti 1:6-8 GW** You received a gift from God when I placed my hands on you to ordain you. Now I'm reminding you to fan that gift into flames. (7) God didn't give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment. (8) So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord or be ashamed of me, his prisoner. Instead, by God's power, join me in suffering for the sake of the Good News.

**2Ti 1:11-12 GW** I was appointed to be a messenger of this Good News, an apostle, and a teacher. (12) For this reason I suffer as I do. However, I'm not ashamed. I know whom I trust. I'm convinced that he is able to protect what he had entrusted to me until that day.

**2Ti 1:14 GW** With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us, protect the Good News that has been entrusted to you.

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### Truth to know:

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1. God gave us all gifts to be used for His Kingdom while here on planet earth.
2. It is our responsibility to fan the flames of the gift. The Gift starts off as a spark from a match, then it is transferred to some leaves so small embers are made, finally it is transferred to the wood to form a large fire. We are called to be a large fire not a small spark.
3. God has empowered us to use our gift. He empowers the gift with his power, his love, and self-control.
4. We should never be ashamed to prove the gift he has given us. He empowers us to overcome the enemy and the sufferings of this life.
5. We are called to guard and protect His message and the gifts he has placed within us. We should treat them like precious pearls.
6. The Holy Spirit is the source for all things. We need his power to walk this holy life out each day.

## Equipping Message # 2

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### Focusing on the Giver more than the Gift.

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**Joh 14:15-18 GW** "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (16) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. (17) That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be in you. (18) "I will not leave you all alone. I will come back to you.

**Act 1:6-8 GW** So when the apostles came together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you're going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (7) Jesus told them, "You don't need to know about times or periods that the Father has determined by his own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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### *Truth to know:*

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1. The Wisdom and Power for ministry come from Holy Spirit.
2. Many rely more on their gift than they do the Giver.
3. The Gift is useless without the empowerment from the Giver.
4. Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead and should be honored as such. He is not an "it" or the "other guy". He is the promise keeper, the promise giver, the promise equipper, and the promise to be fulfilled in your life.
5. He only dwells in holy vessels and desires to indwell all who will allow him to do so.
6. Holy Spirit is the like a plug attached to a lamp. He plugs us into the source of power and in return illuminates our lives through the power he distributes.

## Equipping Message # 3

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### Shak'in and Bak'in

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**Heb 12:26-29 GW** When God spoke to your ancestors, his voice shook the earth. But now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the sky." (27) The words once more show clearly that God will change what he has made. These are the things that can be shaken. Then only the things that cannot be shaken will remain. (28) Therefore, we must be thankful that we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Because we are thankful, we must serve God with fear and awe in a way that pleases him. (29) After all, our God is a destructive fire.

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### Truth to know:

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1. The heavens and the earth will pass away once they meet the power of the living God.
2. God's kingdom is unshakeable. We must live our lives within His unshakeable promises and truth
3. God wants to shake things up in our lives. When the shaking is over then what remains is His greatness in you.
4. God is a destructive fire. He is a refining fire. His fire burns out the impurities and leaves behind the pure gold.
5. We owe our lives to the living God who can shake the nations and consume them with his fire.

## Equipping Message # 4

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### Well Equipped Body of Christ

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**Eph 4:11-16 GW** He also gave apostles, prophets, missionaries, as well as pastors and teachers as gifts to his church. (12) Their purpose is to prepare God's people, to serve, and to build up the body of Christ. (13) This is to continue until all of us are united in our faith and in our knowledge about God's Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard. (14) Then we will no longer be little children, tossed and carried about by all kinds of teachings that change like the wind. We will no longer be influenced by people who use cunning and clever strategies to lead us astray. (15) Instead, as we lovingly speak the truth, we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, who is the head. (16) He makes the whole body fit together and unites it through the support of every joint. As each and every part does its job, he makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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### Truth to know:

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1. God gave the church five types of ministers or leadership roles to the church. He gave Apostles (Ambassador or sent ones), Prophets (Foreteller or inspired speaker), Evangelists (preacher of the gospel), Pastors (Shepherds) and Teachers (Instructor).
2. The purpose of these five types of leaders is to serve and build up the body of Christ. (They help to perfect the body of Christ and edify the church to do remarkable things for Christ.)
3. They work together to make the Body of Christ united and to ensure everyone within the Body is doing the work of the Lord.
4. The greatest purpose of the Five is to help steer the Body of Christ into a deeper relationship with Christ.

# Equipping Message # 5

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## Gifts for the church

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1Co 12:1-11 GW Brothers and sisters, I don't want there to be any misunderstanding concerning spiritual gifts. (2) You know that when you were unbelievers, every time you were led to worship false gods you were worshipping gods who couldn't even speak. (3) So I want you to know that no one speaking by God's Spirit says, "Jesus is cursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. (4) There are different spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. (5) There are different ways of serving, and yet the same Lord is served. (6) There are different types of work to do, but the same God produces every gift in every person. (7) The evidence of the Spirit's presence is given to each person for the common good of everyone. (8) The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom. The same Spirit gives another person the ability to speak with knowledge. (9) To another person the same Spirit gives courageous faith. To another person the same Spirit gives the ability to heal. (10) Another can work miracles. Another can speak what God has revealed. Another can tell the difference between spirits. Another can speak in different kinds of languages. Another can interpret languages. (11) There is only one Spirit who does all these things by giving what God wants to give to each person.

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## Truth to know:

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1. Holy Spirit gives gifts or Charisma to the followers of Christ.
2. The gifts are used to edify, equip, and bring correction to the body of Christ.
3. The gifts are used to prove the power of Christ to the lost world and to the church.
4. The gifts bring unity to the body of Christ if used properly.
5. Holy Spirit seals us with his power and works through us to perform and prove the gifts to the world. It is important that we allow Holy Spirit to work in us.

## Equipping Message # 6

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### Set Free Life

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**Joh 11:38-44 GW** Deeply moved again, Jesus went to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone covering the entrance. (39) Jesus said, "Take the stone away." Martha, the dead man's sister, told Jesus, "Lord, there must already be a stench. He's been dead for four days." (40) Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you would see God's glory?" (41) So the stone was moved away from the entrance of the tomb. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. (42) I've known that you always hear me. However, I've said this so that the crowd standing around me will believe that you sent me." (43) After Jesus had said this, he shouted as loudly as he could, "Lazarus, come out!" (44) The dead man came out. Strips of cloth were wound around his feet and hands, and his face was wrapped with a handkerchief. Jesus told them, "Free Lazarus, and let him go."

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### *Truth to know:*

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1. Lazarus was physically dead and placed in the family tomb.
2. Jesus knows our true circumstances and knows when to bring the miracle. (He waited before coming to Lazarus aid.)
3. Living a set free life means understanding the depth of Jesus' message and truth.
4. Jesus is right beside you and encouraging you in the faith. He performs this through Holy Spirit.
5. We need to allow Jesus to shout loudly at the things which hold us bondage and allow Him to call the out of us. Jesus called the death out of Lazarus.
6. Jesus command the people at Lazarus's tomb to unravel the cloth bound to Lazarus so Lazarus could walk properly. Jesus unravels the things in our life which hold us back from walking rightly with Him. He is the resurrected life and that resurrected life lives inside of us.



## Equipping Message # 7

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### Finding God in the Silence

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**Zec 2:1-13 GW** I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. (2) I asked him, "Where are you going?" He answered, "I am going to measure Jerusalem to see how wide and how long it is." (3) Then the angel who was speaking with me left. Another angel came out to meet him (4) and said to him, "Run, and say to that young man, 'Jerusalem will be inhabited like an unwalled village because it will have so many people and animals in it. (5) I will be a wall of fire around it, declares the LORD. I will be the glory within it.' (6) "Hurry, hurry! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. I've scattered you to the four winds of heaven. (7) Hurry, Zion! Escape, you inhabitants of Babylon! (8) This is what the LORD of Armies says: Afterwards, the Glory sent me to the nations who looted you. Whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye. (9) I'm going to shake my fist at the nations, and their own slaves will loot them. Then you will know that the LORD of Armies has sent me. (10) Sing for joy and rejoice, people of Zion. I'm going to come and live among you, declares the LORD. (11) On that day many nations will join the LORD and become my people. I will live among you. Then you will know that the LORD of Armies has sent me to you. (12) The LORD will claim Judah as his own in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. (13) "Everyone be silent in the presence of the LORD. He is waking up and setting out from his holy dwelling place."

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### Truth to know:

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1. It is important we know our future with the living God.
2. Israel is the Apple of his eye; we are adopted into this holy family and are the apple of his eye. (Apple of Eye means seeing the reflection in one's eye)
3. There is a time, when we are sensitive to his presence, we need to be silent in his presence. We need to allow him to awaken in our lives and to usher in his holiness.

## Equipping Message # 8

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### *This is how we fight our battles*

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**2Ki 6:8-17 GW** Whenever the king of Aram was fighting against Israel, he asked for advice from his officers about where they were to camp. (9) So the man of God would send a message to the king of Israel, "Be careful not to go by that place. The Arameans are hiding there." (10) Then the king of Israel would send someone to the place that the man of God told him about. Elisha warned them so that they would be on their guard. He did this repeatedly. (11) The king of Aram was very angry about this. He called his officers and asked them, "Won't you tell me who among us is a spy for the king of Israel?" (12) One of his officers answered, "No one, Your Majesty. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel everything you say—even what you say in your bedroom." (13) The king said, "Find out where he is. Then I will send men to capture him." The king was told, "He is in Dothan." (14) So the king sent horses and chariots and a large fighting unit there. They came at night and surrounded the city. (15) When the servant of the man of God got up in the morning and went outside, he saw troops, horses, and chariots surrounding the city. Elisha's servant asked, "Master, what should we do?" (16) Elisha answered, "Don't be afraid. We have more forces on our side than they have on theirs." (17) Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes so that he may see." The LORD opened the servant's eyes and let him see. The mountain around Elisha was full of fiery horses and chariots.

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### *Truth to know:*

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1. This great army came against Elisha and his apprentice. Their purpose was destruction.
2. Elisha used the empowerment of Christ to warn the Nation of Israel against their enemies. God will give us the strategic plans of the enemy to avoid his fiery darts from hurting us.
3. The enemy will send their worse to destroy us. Sometimes it seems hopeless and you will feel powerless. There is hope.
4. When the apprentice lost faith, Elisha asked if God would open his eyes to see the true army of God. They were surrounded by fiery horses and chariots. On those chariots were warrior angels ready to fight for Elisha and his apprentice.

## Equipping Message # 9

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### Deep conviction

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**2Ki 23:2-3 GW** The king, everyone in Judah, everyone living in Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people (young and old) went to the LORD'S temple. Josiah read everything written in the Book of the Promise found in the LORD'S temple so that they could hear it. (3) The king stood beside the pillar and made a promise to the LORD that he would follow the LORD and obey his commands, instructions, and laws with all his heart and soul. He confirmed the terms of the promise written in this book. And all the people joined in the promise.

**2Ki 23:21-23 GW** The king ordered all the people to celebrate the Passover for the LORD their God as it is written in this Book of the Promise. (22) The Passover had never been celebrated like this during the time of the judges who governed Israel or during the entire time of the kings of Israel and Judah. (23) But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah's reign, this Passover was celebrated in Jerusalem for the LORD.

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### Truth to know:

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1. When Josiah first heard and read the word of God, he tore his clothes and wept before God. He shared his deep conviction with the people of God. Conviction is useless unless shared with others.
2. Josiah declared that he and the nation of Judah would follow the words found in the book of promise. He promised that every command, instruction and law would be taken seriously and followed with deep conviction. Conviction is a priceless jewel that is kept deep within the soul of man. It is protected and fought for.
3. Josiah's deep conviction brought back, prophetically, the Passover practices. Josiah was used of Holy Spirit to help prepare the people Judah for the coming Messiah. When we follow Holy Spirit's conviction deep revelations from Him are revealed with clarity and purpose.

# Equipping Message # 10

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## *The Fear of the Lord*

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**Act 5:1-11 GW** A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some property. (2) They agreed to hold back some of the money they had pledged and turned only part of it over to the apostles. (3) Peter asked, "Ananias, why did you let Satan fill you with the idea that you could deceive the Holy Spirit? You've held back some of the money you received for the land. (4) While you had the land, it was your own. After it was sold, you could have done as you pleased with the money. So how could you do a thing like this? You didn't lie to people but to God!" (5) When Ananias heard Peter say this, he dropped dead. Everyone who heard about his death was terrified. (6) Some young men got up, wrapped his body in a sheet, carried him outside, and buried him. (7) About three hours later Ananias' wife arrived. She didn't know what had happened. (8) So Peter asked her, "Tell me, did you sell the land for that price?" She answered, "Yes, that was the price." (9) Then Peter said to her, "How could you and your husband agree to test the Lord's Spirit? Those who buried your husband are standing at the door, and they will carry you outside for burial." (10) Immediately, she dropped dead in front of Peter. When the young men came back, they found Sapphira dead. So they carried her outside and buried her next to her husband. (11) The whole church and everyone else who heard about what had happened were terrified.

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### *Truth to know:*

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1. Ananias and Sapphira had a choice to give whatever they wanted to the kingdom. There was no pressure nor was there a declared amount.
2. They held back some of the money they had pledged to give to the Kingdom. They could have just told the Apostles and God that they could not give the previous pledged amount. Instead they chose to lie before Holy Spirit.
3. Peter did not cause Ananias to die on the spot nor did Holy Spirit. Ananias died from being overwhelmed by conviction and regret. The power of Holy Spirit was strong within this moment.
4. Sapphira had a chance to come clean but she chose to keep up the lie.
5. The Fear of the Lord brings us to a place of great reverence to the Lord. Holy Spirit is our guide. He reveals the presences of the Lord and holy respect and honor comes to play within us. The Fear of the Lord keeps us in check and keeps us humble.

# Equipping Message # 11

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## Spiritual Instructions

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**1Th 5:12-22 GW** Brothers and sisters, we ask you to show your appreciation for those leaders who work among you and instruct you. (13) We ask you to love them and think very highly of them because of the work they are doing. Live in peace with each other. (14) We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone. (15) Make sure that no one ever pays back one wrong with another wrong. Instead, always try to do what is good for each other and everyone else. (16) Always be joyful. (17) Never stop praying. (18) Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this. (19) Don't put out the Spirit's fire. (20) Don't despise what God has revealed. (21) Instead, test everything. Hold on to what is good. (22) Keep away from every kind of evil.

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### Truth to know:

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1. Appreciate leaders in the church that serve you and instruct you in the ways of the Lord.
2. Live in peace with each other. (Find a way to not argue and hate. It is ok to Debate)
3. Teach those who are not living according to God's word. To instruct means admonish gently.
4. Inspire those who get discourage and help the weak.
5. Be patient with everyone.
6. Always be happy.
7. Pray without ceasing.
8. Give thanks to God in all things.
9. Keep the Spirit's fire burning.
10. Honor God's prophetic voice.
11. Test everything and keep close to what is good.
12. Keep away from everything which can lead to evil intentions.

## Equipping Message # 12

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### Grace in the Face

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**Heb 4:14-16 KJV** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### Truth to know:

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1. Jesus had to leave this planet for grace to take its full effect on all believers.
2. Jesus gave us grace. He put the grace right in front of our faces. We can receive it our choice to ignore.
3. Because Jesus walked this earth thousands of years ago, he was equipped to give us his grace.
4. Grace is God's unmerited favor on our lives. We deserve to die but Christ has given us life.
5. Because of Jesus' sacrifice; we can come to the throne of the Lord. His grace is the key to praying and seeking advice from the Lord.
6. Grace gives us a front row ticket to God's breakthrough for our lives.

## Equipping Message # 13

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### Don't get Sleepy

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**1Th 5:1-8 GW** Brothers and sisters, you don't need anyone to write to you about times and dates. (2) You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) When people say, "Everything is safe and sound!" destruction will suddenly strike them. It will be as sudden as labor pains come to a pregnant woman. They won't be able to escape. (4) But, brothers and sisters, you don't live in the dark. That day won't take you by surprise as a thief would. (5) You belong to the day and the light not to the night and the dark. (6) Therefore, we must not fall asleep like other people, but we must stay awake and be sober. (7) People who sleep, sleep at night; people who get drunk, get drunk at night. (8) Since we belong to the day, we must be sober. We must put on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

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### Truth to know:

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1. We do not need to worry about the times or dates of when the Lord is returning. We simply need to know and understand that He is returning.
2. He will come at a time when many believers and the world is not looking.
3. Jesus will come when the world is caught up in their own desires and passions.
4. Paul stated for the church to not get caught sleeping. We should be ready for his return 24/7. Don't fall asleep.
5. We should be careful as to not get lost in the darkness of the world.
6. We are commissioned to stay awake and be sober until the return of the Lord. Believers should become more sensitive to Holy Spirit.
7. We put our whole faith in the Lord.

# Equipping Message # 14

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## Living through the Spirit

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**Gal 5:16-26 MKJV** I say, then, Walk in *the* Spirit and you shall not fulfill *the* lusts of *the* flesh. (17) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are contrary to one another; lest whatever you may will, these things you do. (18) But if you are led by *the* Spirit, you are not under law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, (21) envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) But those belonging to Christ have crucified the flesh with *its* passions and lusts. (25) If we live in *the* Spirit, let us also walk in *the* Spirit. (26) Let us not become glory-seeking, provoking one another, envying one another.

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### Truth to know:

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1. We are commanded to walk by the Spirit daily. How does living by the Spirit look?
2. The Flesh lusts or fights against the Spirit of God. The Flesh desires the opposite things from what the Holy Spirit desires.
3. Living Spirit filled means becoming free from the Law and human bondages.
4. The works of the flesh are clear to see. They are adultery, fornication, impurity, lust, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings and any other ungodly things
5. Spirit led works are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.
6. Living in the Spirit means walking in humility.



## Equipping Message # 15

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### Knowing the Spirit of God and being Known by Him

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**Act 19:11-20 GW** God worked unusual miracles through Paul. (12) People would take handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul's skin to those who were sick. Their sicknesses would be cured, and evil spirits would leave them. (13) Some Jews used to travel from place to place and force evil spirits out of people. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to force evil spirits out of those who were possessed. These Jews would say, "I order you to come out in the name of Jesus, whom Paul talks about." (14) Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. (15) But the evil spirit answered them, "I know Jesus, and I'm acquainted with Paul, but who are you?" (16) Then the man possessed by the evil spirit attacked them. He beat them up so badly that they ran out of that house naked and wounded. (17) All the Jews and Greeks living in the city of Ephesus heard about this. All of them were filled with awe for the name of the Lord Jesus and began to speak very highly about it. (18) Many believers openly admitted their involvement with magical spells and told all the details. (19) Many of those who were involved in the occult gathered their books and burned them in front of everyone. They added up the cost of these books and found that they were worth 50,000 silver coins. (20) In this powerful way the word of the Lord was spreading and gaining strength.

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### *Truth to know:*

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1. God works through those that holy and are followers of Christ.
2. The Power of God comes from Holy Spirit living in us.
3. The Sons of Sceva tried to cast out spirits with their own power and religious knowledge.
4. The power of God brings people to repentance and causes them to come closer to the Lord.
5. It is vital that we walk in God's miracle power.

## *Questions:*

1. What does being equipped mean?
2. How important is the equipping process for the church?
3. What are the gifts?
4. Who empowers the gifts?
5. How important is the Holy Spirit to the equipping process?
6. Does God want His people fully equipped?
7. How important is the fear of the Lord?
8. How does the equipped church effect the world?
9. List some of the different equipping topics. How important are they?
10. What will you do with what you have been equipped with?