

Beyond the Gate: Living Out the Mission

Part 3: “Empowered for the Mission”

February 1, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea: Jesus never calls you to a mission He doesn’t empower you to fulfill.

I. Jesus Is Our _____ For Mission

“As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

II. The Spirit Is the _____ Behind Our Mission

He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

III. We Are Empowered to Be _____

“You will receive power... and you will be My witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

You are not on mission *for* God — you are on mission *with* God.

Takeaways:

1. You don’t need all the answers—just your story.

Witness is about testimony, not perfection.

2. Listening creates bridges for the Gospel.

Slow down. Pay attention. Let people be heard.

3. Your life is the platform; your words are the explanation.

Changed lives create natural curiosity.

4. Witness flows from dependence on the Spirit, not pressure.

You don’t close the deal—you set the stage.

Closing Challenge:

Each morning this week, pray:

“Holy Spirit, empower me to represent Jesus today.”

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WEEK 3 — Empowered for the Mission

Text: John 20:21–22; Acts 1:8

Icebreaker:

- Describe a time you tried to do something without the power or tools you needed.
- When in your spiritual life have you felt most empowered by God?

Read the Passage: John 20:21–22 & Acts 1:8

Discussion Questions:

1. “As the Father sent Me...”

What does it mean that Jesus sends us in the same way He was sent?

2. Power of the Spirit

What is the difference between doing ministry *for* God and doing ministry *with* God?

3. The Spirit equips ordinary people

Where do you feel inadequate in the mission?
How might the Holy Spirit meet you in that place?

4. Identity as witnesses

What does it mean to be a *witness* rather than just “doing witnessing”?
How can your story be used by God?

5. Real examples

Where have you seen the Holy Spirit give someone boldness, clarity, or compassion beyond their natural abilities?

Personal Reflection:

Which area of your life most needs the empowerment of the Holy Spirit right now?

Next Step Challenge:

Every morning this week, pray:

“Holy Spirit, empower me to reflect Jesus today.”

Closing Prayer Prompt:

“Holy Spirit, breathe on us as Jesus breathed on His disciples. Fill us with power, wisdom, and love to live out Your mission.”

Your voice matters. We’d love to hear what God is showing you through these questions. Please share your thoughts by emailing us at info@thegateoc.com — your insights will help shape the renewal and restoration of The Gate.