

# Wind & Fire - Nov 8th - The Power of the Holy Spirit - Shawn Haws

## TALK IT OVER

### Key Scriptures:

Matthew 6:24

Titus 3:3-8

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 1:15-20

### Start reading

#### Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

#### Ephesians 3:14-21

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a time when you felt completely powerless over a situation or circumstance.

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Matthew 6:24. What does this Scripture have to say about trying to live this life alone; in your own power? We can have only one master; what or who is competing with God for that role in your life?
- Shawn talked about about some other things besides addictions that can rob us of the peace and stifle power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
  - Pride
  - Worry
  - Resentments
  - Only I’s
  - Loneliness
  - Escape
  - Selfishness
  - Separation
  - Emptiness

Name some other “unlikely” obstacles stifling the Holy Spirit in your life. How have you tried to control and/or have power over these obstacles?

- Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Paul explains how he prays for the people and their understanding of God’s love and power. What has He accomplished in and through you beyond your asking?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- If you are willing to share, what pain in your life are you still denying? Why are you still trying to control it on your own (guilty, shame, embarrassment, fear, etc...)
- Shawn mentioned Two Sets of Action Steps on how we give in and give “it” over to God.
  - (1) STOP denying the pain and START admitting you are powerless
  - (2) STOP playing God and START admitting that your life is unmanageable

What steps have you taken to give God more control over you and trust more in the power of the Holy Spirit? Have others noticed a difference in you and have you noticed a difference in yourself?

### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Shawn stated at the end of his message that only through the power of the Holy Spirit can we overcome the struggles and battles keeping us from a mature walk with God. Commit this week to prayer and asking God to reveal to you the things that are keeping you from truly experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit’s power in your life.

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Holy Spirit thank you for the role you have in our lives. Please help us to understand that we are powerless without you. Reveal to us the things in our own lives that are holding us back from truly being used by You. - Amen

### Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.



In Step 2 of Celebrate Recovery they go more in depth with the following “serenity robbers,” that Shawn talked about. These spell out in the acrostic POWERLESS.

### **Pride**

Ignorance + power + pride = a deadly mixture!

*“Pride ends in a fall, while humility brings honor.” (Proverbs 29:23, TLB)*

### **Only ifs**

Our “only ifs” in life keep us trapped in the fantasy land of rationalization!

*“Whatever is covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. So then, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in broad daylight.” (Luke 12:2–3, GNB)*

### **Worry**

Worrying is a form of not trusting God enough!

*“So don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.” (Matthew 6:34, TLB)*

### **Escape**

By living in denial we may have escaped into a world of fantasy and unrealistic expectations of ourselves and others.

*“For light is capable of showing up everything for what it really is. It is even possible for light to turn the thing it shines upon into light also.” (Ephesians 5:13-14, PH)*

### **Resentments**

Resentments act like an emotional cancer if they are allowed to fester and grow.

*“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)*

### **Loneliness**

Loneliness is a choice. In recovery and in Christ, you never have to walk alone.

*“Continue to love each other with true brotherly love. Don’t forget to be kind to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” (Hebrews 13:1-2, TLB)*

### **Emptiness**

You know that empty feeling deep inside. The cold wind of hopelessness blows right through it.

*Jesus said, “My purpose is to give life in all its fullness” (John 10:10, TLB)*

### **Selfishness**

We often pray: “Our Father which art in heaven; give me, give me, give me.”

*“Whoever clings to his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life shall save it.” (Luke 17:33, TLB )*

### **Separation**

Some people talk about finding God – as if He could ever get lost!

*“For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away... Nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.” (Romans 8:38 – 39, TLB)*