

## Empowered for Kingdom Living

Ryan looked at Ariel and Alice, who were still processing the powerful truth of the Holy Spirit's role in their lives. He could see their minds working, each trying to grasp the enormity of what they had learned. Ariel's eyes were wide with curiosity, while Alice was biting her lip, deep in thought, trying to understand what this meant for her. "Do you both see how significant Jesus' promise is? The Holy Spirit is more than just a comforter or guide. He is the source of power for our Christian walk, giving us everything we need to live in alignment with God's purpose for us."

Ariel nodded thoughtfully, her mind whirring as she imagined what God might call her to do—maybe help a friend in need or speak up for someone who was being treated unfairly. "The story of Peter comes to mind," Ryan added. "After Jesus' resurrection, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and he went from being afraid to boldly preaching about Jesus, leading thousands to believe." Ariel's eyes lit up as she thought of Peter's transformation. "So, the Holy Spirit doesn't just help us understand the Bible—He also gives us the power to live like Jesus, to obey God, and to do the things that God calls us to do."

"That's exactly right," Ryan said, his voice filled with excitement and a deep conviction. "The Holy Spirit is God's power at work in us, transforming us from the inside out. He changes our hearts, helps us think differently, and gives us the strength to act in ways that please God. For example, He helps us become more patient, more loving, and more forgiving, even when it feels difficult. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, the Spirit comes to live within us. And it's through the Spirit that we have the strength and courage to be the people God has called us to be."

Ariel's face brightened with understanding. "So, it's not just about trying hard to do good things—it's about letting the Holy Spirit work through us?"

"Yes! It's about surrendering to the Spirit's work in us. The Spirit is like a guide, yes, but He's also the one who equips us to live as we should. He is the driving force behind our growth, empowering us to reflect Christ in all we do. He helps us overcome challenges like fear, anger, or selfishness, giving us the strength to grow and change. He helps us overcome temptation, guides us in prayer, and empowers us to share the love of Christ with others. Without the Holy Spirit, we'd be powerless to live the Christian life, but with Him, we have all the power we need."

### A Personal Relationship with the Holy Spirit

Ariel's eyes widened as she grasped the idea that the Holy Spirit wasn't just an abstract concept or distant figure. It was like a gentle breeze always around her, unseen but felt, guiding her steps and comforting her heart. Suddenly, God felt closer—like a loving friend who was always by her side, ready to guide, help, and comfort her in every situation. "So, the Holy Spirit isn't just something we read about in the Bible—He's actually with us, inside us, guiding us every day?"

"Exactly!" Ryan said, proud of how deeply Ariel was connecting the dots. "Jesus made sure that His followers—and we—would never be alone. He knew the challenges we would face and ensured we had the Holy Spirit, His constant presence within us. The Holy Spirit is with us to lead, encourage, and remind us of God's truth. In a way, the Holy Spirit is our most personal relationship with God because He is with us every moment."

Ariel was quiet for a moment, taking in the enormity of the promise. “So when we feel scared, or confused, or like we don’t know what to do, the Holy Spirit is there, guiding us?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, nodding. “He’s the one who helps us hear God’s voice in our hearts. When you feel peace about a decision, or you feel empowered to do something you couldn’t do on your own, that’s the Holy Spirit working in you. Remember when you helped your friend at school, even though you were nervous? That courage wasn’t just yours—it came from the Holy Spirit giving you strength. He’s our constant helper, teacher, and companion on this journey.”

### The Holy Spirit and Jesus’ Peace

Ryan continued, “And you know, one of the most beautiful things about the Holy Spirit is that He brings us the peace of Jesus. Unlike the peace that the world offers—which often depends on everything going well—the Holy Spirit’s peace is like a calm harbor in the middle of a storm. It’s the assurance that even when everything around us seems chaotic, we can be at rest because we trust that God is in control. Remember when Jesus told His disciples, ‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you’ (John 14:27)? That peace was a promise that His followers would never need to be overwhelmed, no matter the circumstances. The peace that the Holy Spirit brings is a supernatural peace that surpasses anything the world could offer. It’s a peace that remains steady even in the middle of chaos. It’s like when you faced that big test last year and still felt calm, knowing God was with you—that’s the kind of peace the Holy Spirit brings. It’s a peace that doesn’t depend on circumstances—it comes from knowing that God is in control, and that we are secure in Him.”

Ariel smiled. “So, when we have the Holy Spirit, we have God’s peace even when things around us are hard?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “The world can give us temporary peace, but the peace of Christ—which the Holy Spirit brings—is a lasting peace, no matter what happens around us. When you face difficult things, the Holy Spirit can help you remain calm, trusting, and secure in God’s love and faithfulness.”

### Reflection: Living by the Spirit’s Power

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down with a soft whirring sound, leaving the room filled with a quiet stillness that invited reflection and thought. The warmth of the garage lights contrasted with the deep reflections the family was having about Jesus’ comforting words and promises about the Holy Spirit. Ariel’s eyes were focused, while Alice rested her head on Ryan’s shoulder, her stuffed bunny Mr. Fluffernutter clutched in her arms. Ariel, who had been quiet for a while, was the first to speak.

“Jesus really did think of everything. He didn’t leave His disciples alone, and He doesn’t leave us alone either. The Holy Spirit is always with us, and He helps us in ways we don’t even realize.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The Holy Spirit is God’s incredible gift to us. He helps us love others even when it’s hard, like showing kindness to someone who wasn’t nice to us, or being brave enough to share the gospel with a friend who doesn’t know Jesus. He empowers us to live as Jesus lived, to love others selflessly, to boldly share the gospel, and to be a shining light in the darkness of the world. He gives us everything we need to live the Christian life and to follow God’s will.”

Ariel was filled with peace as she thought about the Holy Spirit's presence in her life. “So, when we face challenges, or when we feel unsure, we can trust that the Holy Spirit will help us—because He’s always with us.”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said, his voice filled with conviction. “When we invite Jesus into our lives, we are never alone. We have the Holy Spirit, our Helper, who is constantly guiding, teaching, comforting, and empowering us to live for God.”

#### Takeaway: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

In John 14:15-31, Jesus promises His disciples—and all believers—the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit, who will be their Helper, Comforter, Teacher, and Guide. The Holy Spirit is not only a spiritual helper but also an active force empowering us every day. The Holy Spirit is not just a distant concept but the very presence of God within us. He empowers us to live the Christian life, guiding us into all truth, helping us to pray, and reminding us of Jesus’ words. The peace the Holy Spirit offers is not based on circumstances but on the secure, loving presence of God in our lives. Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit assures us that we are never alone—He is always with us, providing the strength and wisdom we need to follow God’s will. Through the Holy Spirit, we experience the peace of Christ and the empowerment to live out our calling as His disciples. How have you felt the Holy Spirit's guidance in your own life? Think about the times you’ve experienced peace or courage that felt beyond what you could do on your own.

This section highlights the personal nature of the Holy Spirit's work in believers' lives. It also emphasizes the peace, guidance, and empowerment the Holy Spirit provides in living out the Christian faith, showing how His presence is both comforting and empowering for everyday living. The Spirit equips believers for the challenges of the world while pointing them back to Jesus' love and teachings.

#### Empowered for Kingdom Living

Ryan looked at Ariel and Alice, who were still processing the powerful truth of the Holy Spirit’s role in their lives. “Do you both see how significant Jesus’ promise is? The Holy Spirit is more than just a comforter or guide. He is the empowerment for our Christian walk, helping us to live the way God intended.”

Ariel nodded thoughtfully, her mind whirring. “So, the Holy Spirit doesn’t just help us understand the Bible—He also gives us the power to live like Jesus, to obey God, and to do the things that God calls us to do.”

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#### Interactive Reflections: Empowered for Kingdom Living

- **When have you felt afraid or unsure but found the courage to do the right thing?**  
Reflect on how the Holy Spirit might have helped you in those moments.
  - **What does it mean to rely on God’s power instead of your own strength?**  
Think about ways the Holy Spirit can help you when something feels too hard to handle on your own.
  - **How can you share the peace of Jesus with others?**  
Consider practical ways to bring peace into a situation, like being a peacemaker at school or helping a friend in need.
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## **Song for Little Hearts: “The Spirit in Me”**

*(To the tune of “This Little Light of Mine”)*

### **Verse 1**

The Spirit lives in me,  
I’m His for all to see,  
He gives me strength each day,  
To follow Jesus’ way!

### **Chorus**

Oh, He’s my guide, my friend,  
With me to the end,  
The Spirit helps me shine,  
His power is divine!

### **Verse 2**

When troubles come, I pray,  
He helps me find my way,  
With peace so deep and true,  
He shows what I should do.

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## **Mr. Fluffernutter’s Perspective: “Hopping with the Spirit”**

**Hello there, my fluffy friends! Mr. Fluffernutter here, reporting live from Alice’s lap.**

Today, we learned about the Holy Spirit! Now, I’m not as smart as Ariel, but I know what it’s like to need a helper. Have you ever tried to jump up somewhere really high, like onto a couch? Sometimes, you need someone to give you a little boost. That’s kind of like what the Holy Spirit does!

When Alice gets scared of the dark, she talks to me (and Jesus, of course), and I remind her that she’s never alone. The Holy Spirit is like the best helper ever—He gives you courage, peace, and even ideas for how to do what’s right. Pretty amazing, huh?

Here’s my question for you: What’s one way you could ask the Holy Spirit to help you today? Write it down or share it with someone you love—and remember, you’re never hopping through life alone!

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## **Ariel’s Journal: Modern Connections to the Holy Spirit**

*Dear Journal,*

I’ve always thought of the Holy Spirit as something far away, but today, I realized He’s so close—closer than I ever imagined. Daddy said the Holy Spirit helps us feel God’s peace and guides us when we’re unsure.

Last week, my friend Emma was really upset because some kids were teasing her. I wanted to help, but I didn't know what to say. I prayed, and suddenly, I felt this calm feeling, like I knew what to do. I walked over and told those kids to stop and reminded Emma that she's loved just the way she is.

Now I see that wasn't just me being brave—the Holy Spirit gave me the courage and the words to say. I'm learning that when I listen for God's voice, He helps me do things I couldn't do on my own.

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### **Alice's Reflection with Mr. Fluffernutter: "Talking About the Spirit"**

Alice flopped onto her bed, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter close. "Fluffernutter," she began, her voice serious, "did you know we have a helper who's with us all the time? Daddy said He's called the Holy Spirit!"

Mr. Fluffernutter "replied" in his squeaky bunny voice, "Ooh, that sounds fancy! What does He do?"

Alice nodded, her eyes bright. "He helps us when we're scared, and He gives us peace even when things are hard. Like when I lost you last week—I was so sad, but then I felt like everything would be okay, and we found you under the couch!"

"Wow," Fluffernutter said, "He must be really good at helping!"

Alice smiled. "He is! I think I'll ask Him to help me be brave tomorrow when I read my story in front of the class. What about you, Fluffernutter?"

"I'll ask Him to keep you from dropping me again!" the bunny replied.

Alice giggled. "Good plan!"

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### **Key Scriptures (KJV)**

- **John 14:16-17** – "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."
- **John 14:26** – "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
- **John 14:27** – "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."