

## Small Group Study Guide

“The Spirit Moves” | Joyfully Spirit-Filled Series |  
From Sunday November 24, 2019

### Appetizer:

**Question:** Have you ever felt that you were “moved” by the Spirit? What did that mean to you and what did that look like?

Our passages today are a bit longer to go through. Get someone to read Acts 20:17-38 out loud to the group. Then choose another individual to read Acts 21:1-17.

**Ask the group:** What do you notice about Paul’s attitude in the passages? What about the attitude of the people he is interacting with?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit “compelled” Paul to go to Jerusalem? (After some discussion, get someone to look up Acts 1:8. This passage works as a summary for the direction the Holy Spirit wants to take the message of the Gospel. Ask: Why Jerusalem, when the next stage of Paul’s journey is supposed to be “The ends of the earth?”)

### Main Course:

The Spirit-filled life is often associated with the language of signs and wonders. There is an excitement attached to it, a sense of power, or a boldness that is not our own.

However, in the passages that we are dealing with today, we see Paul full of the Spirit but heading to his death. The Spirit has empowered Paul but has empowered him to suffer.

We know that that Christian life includes the challenge of taking up our cross to follow Jesus. But our approach to the Spirit-filled life is often more focused on “overcoming” and “victory”.

**Question for the group:** How has our view on the Spirit-filled life affected our perspective on suffering and difficult situations?

**Read the story of Agabus again:** Acts 21:10-11

Agabus was already known as a prophet during the time of Paul (See Acts 11:28). He had obviously experienced a vision from God that he felt compelled to share with Paul. Agabus only delivered the message; he didn’t interpret it. However, Paul’s friends interpreted the message as a warning: Paul should not go into a difficult place.

**Question:** What does this story teach us about the gift of prophecy? What is the responsibility of the prophet when they experience a revelation from God? What is the responsibility of the hearers of the prophecy? And what is our responsibility when the prophecy is directed towards us?

Paul already knew that the Holy Spirit was directing him towards difficult places. Why did Agabus have to tell him what he already knew? What does this mean for our confidence in hearing God’s voice ourselves in the midst of experiencing the prophetic?

**Question:** In the midst of difficult circumstances it is a temptation to think that we are not being directed by the Spirit. Have the group share with one another experiences where God led them into tough circumstances which ended up leading to a redemptive ending.

**Question:** It was mentioned in the sermon that in the midst of difficult places, we are to still remain faithful to our calling, which is to testify to the good news of Jesus. How does our calling and testimony look different in difficult situations vs. peaceful situations?

### Dessert:

The Holy Spirit is always on the move, directing, challenging, motivating, emboldening, and leading us forward, always with the purpose of having the message of Jesus known.

Sometimes the Spirit has to give us a swift kick in the pants to get us going to do His will.

Where is the Spirit leading you? Share with the group challenges you are facing and opportunities before you that you feel the Spirit is urging you to act upon. Pray for one another, that the Spirit would empower each other to go to the difficult places they are being called to.