



**Welcome to Unity's Interactive  
Worship Service**

**Today's Topic: Spiritual  
Empowerment**

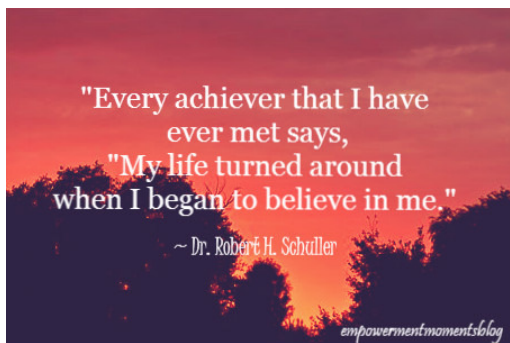
**Power Point notes available at:  
[www.unityofbakersfield.org](http://www.unityofbakersfield.org)**

**Spiritual Empowerment**

What does spiritual empowerment mean to you?

As today's Daily Word stated, "I see myself through divine perception as a spiritual victor, an over-comer and not a victim of life's circumstances." I see this statement as an affirmation of one who understands and believes in living their life through spiritual empowerment.

**Spiritual Empowerment**



**Spiritual Empowerment**

Over two thousand years ago a young rabbi started a ministry, and who's spiritual insights into the human condition set the stage for a quantum leap in consciousness. That leap would help free the mind of humankind and bring about a whole new understanding of what it meant to be spiritually empowered through the power of God as a loving parent as their source for all their needs.

**Spiritual Empowerment**

Many people suffered from the concept that they were powerless to do anything about their lives or situations, and Jesus tried to free their minds of it. The statements found in John 10:10 "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly,"; and John 14:12: "One who believes in me will do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these," are about his mission of empowering the people through connecting with a personal God.

**Spiritual Empowerment**



Author Paul Ferrini takes a look at the life and times of Jesus and brings out some very interesting insights in his book, Love Is My Gospel. Paul writes:

*Much is misunderstood about the teachings of Jesus. The Jesus whom we know through the Gospels is but a glimpse of the real man, his teachings and his passion.*

## Spiritual Empowerment

*As innovative as Jesus' message was, it was still shaped by the religion and the culture of the era in which he lived. Jesus was a Jew speaking to Jews at a time when Roman values, culture and military strength dominated the world. His message today is just as clear, direct, and completely resonant for us as it was then, for his empowerment teachings go beyond the limit of time, place, or history.*

## Spiritual Empowerment

There's an incident where a man, hearing about Jesus, ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. (Mark 10:17-18)

Don't look at me to be the answer, the answer is within you. God made you, God put the law in your heart, God gave you purpose and everything you need to accomplish spiritual empowerment for the good you desire.

## Spiritual Empowerment

When you look at the parables, stories, and teachings that Jesus shared with the people you can almost see the questions he was asking them to answer for themselves:

**Do you believe** that with God you can overcome this situation in your life?

**Do you believe** that you can overcome shame, selfishness, pride, greed, envy, drugs, alcohol, or any destructive behavior?

## Spiritual Empowerment

**Do you believe** you can walk through your fears and stand in your power unafraid of what anyone will say about you or do to you?

**Do you believe** you can connect directly to your Creator's love and learn to be yourself fully, completely, confidently, and fearlessly?

In effect he was saying, *When you can answer yes to all of these questions then you are on your way to demonstrating spiritual empowerment in your life and affairs.*

## Spiritual Empowerment

One of Paul's insights in his book states that: *The teachings that Jesus gave us are to be used to enhance who we are and to embrace our spiritual empowerment. After all, we're not just a bag of skin and bones with emotional needs and an ego structure. We are a unique expression of the Creator's love and wisdom, and the key to our spiritual empowerment is to realize our own Christhood, thus serving the greater good.*

## Spiritual Empowerment

What does spiritual empowerment and serving the greater good look like?

- 1) It means that we are willing to stand in our power without being powerful over others.
- 2) It means letting our true Self emerge to be Itself. "The Christ in you..."
- 3) It means allowing yourself to be a unique expression of Spirit.

### Spiritual Empowerment

- 4) It means saying “no” to those laws and customs of the worldly voice of compliance that keep you from being different.
- 5) It means you must be courageous in your exercise of your truth by not playing the victim or making excuses for it.
- 6) It means you must be willing to forgive if you are to be an expression of the Creator’s love and wisdom.

### Spiritual Empowerment

- 7) It means to look at your attacker or transgressor and see the fear behind their actions and then say “no” to their need to control you through intimidation and anger.
- 8) It means creating a time for prayer and meditation just for you. A time when you can reflect on all the activities of the day, to correct any errors and restore balance in your heart and relationships.

### Spiritual Empowerment

- 9) It means that all are innocent in the eyes of the Creator. Divine justice is one of the gifts of the kingdom, rarely found in the world of appearances. It is up to each of us to remember and we all must be humble for it is in the mistake that we learn the lesson and restore ourselves to the awareness of our connectedness with each other.

### Spiritual Empowerment

- 10) It means that making peace with our wounds of unworthiness. It does not matter when or why they occurred. It only matters that we bless and forgive them so we can heal and move forward with peace and love in our hearts.
- 11) It means that we want only good for all concerned, including ourselves. Therefore we pray daily, “Father, forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me.”

### Spiritual Empowerment

- 12) It means going into the world with an open heart, mind, and soul, solid in the knowledge that we are love and supported by our Creator without conditions, this is the way of Unconditional Love.

*As someone once said, “It’s not what you are that holds you back or keeps you from moving forward, it’s what you think you are not.”*