



Week 3: Empowered Intimacy

Main Idea:

Transformation is sustained not by striving harder, but by abiding deeper in the Spirit.

Scripture Reading

John 15:4-5

1 Corinthians 2

1 Corinthians 14

1. The 7 Churches Grid

Use Revelation 2–3 as a spiritual mirror. Where do you see yourself?

Church	Commendation (Good)	Correction (Issue)
Ephesus	Hard work, perseverance, sound doctrine	Left their first love
Smyrna	Faithful under suffering and persecution	No rebuke given
Pergamum	Held fast to Christ's name, did not deny faith	Tolerated idolatry and immorality
Thyatira	Love, service, faith, patient endurance, growth	Tolerated false teaching leading to sin
Sardis	Reputation of being alive	Spiritually dead, needed to wake up
Philadelphia	Kept God's word, did not deny His name	No rebuke given
Laodicea	None given	Lukewarm, self-sufficient, spiritually blind

Summary:

- 2 churches with no rebuke (Smyrna, Philadelphia).
- 1 church with no praise (Laodicea).
- The rest → some faithfulness, but also drift/compromise.
- Jesus celebrates faithfulness, confronts drift, and invites intimacy:
"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The greatest threat to transformation is not sin out there but drift in here.



2. Practicing Empowered Intimacy

Step 1: Use the 7 Churches as a Grid

- Ask: *“Lord, where am I drifting? Where am I faithful?”*
- Let Scripture not only inform you—but search you.

Step 2: Ask for a Picture of Your Spiritual Life

- Pray: *“Holy Spirit, show me a simple picture of where I am with You right now.”*
- Write down the image.
- Ask: *“Lord, what do You want me to know about this picture?”*
- Let the Lord reveal the depth of the image in His time

Step 3: Respond with Confession & Surrender

- Confess where the Spirit reveals drift.
- Thank Him where He shows faithfulness.

Step 4: Abide & Listen

- Read a short passage in your devotional time
- Sit quietly with one word/phrase that the Spirit presses into your heart.
- Carry that word into your week.

Step 5: Safeguards for Hearing the Spirit

- **Scripture First** – His voice never contradicts His Word.
- **Test the Fruit** – Does this lead to love, humility, obedience?
- **Community Check** – Share what you sense with a trusted believer.
- **Stay Humble** – Don’t chase experiences; chase Jesus.

3. Weekly Pathway

Hear → Receive → Abide

- Hear His voice.
- Receive His truth.
- Abide in His Spirit.

Transformation overflows into others when you live in empowered intimacy.