

Empowerment

Reflection by
Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins



INTRODUCTION

Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins takes us through the definition of empowerment as it relates to global economic and social structures. She discusses how the word is a contested term frequently used in relation to Western values defining personal agency and individual freedoms rather than social change and power dynamics. Women and marginalized populations in several societies are often uneducated and under-resourced. But if this were to change, they would have the power and means to build better communities and a brighter future for their families.

EXCERPT

The key to empowerment is to recognize that it is about power – social and economic power structures. It is about the power of women and people in poverty to change how they see themselves, and also to change the social structures that keep them at the margins... When the Kingdom of God is present empowerment is for everybody.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Understanding Empowerment:** What does the word “empowerment” mean to you after reading about its impact on the disciples, and the story of the Olivers?
2. **The Holy Spirit’s Role:** How does the Holy Spirit give us power to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others, according to Acts 1:8?
3. **Education and Opportunity:** Why is education important for empowerment? Can you think of a time when learning something new empowered you or someone you know?
4. **Challenging Structures:** Who needs empowerment in your community? How can we, as individuals or as a church, help challenge unfair systems and structures in our society today in order to share power with those who have none (or little)?
5. **Living into Transformation:** What are some small but significant ways we can help to empower others for individual and community transformation?



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