



Lesson Title: The Work of the Holy Spirit

Right before Jesus ascended, He met with His disciples to give them final instructions and clarification on how to move forward in His absence.

For 3 years Jesus had personally and physically been with them – in the good times, bad times, stresses and in celebrations. They could always connect with Jesus in His public ministry. But when Jesus was preparing to leave Earth to return to His heavenly home, He wanted to ensure His disciples understood that they would not be left helpless or hopeless in His absence. The Holy Spirit was soon to come!

As Christians, you must know and recognize the way the Holy Spirit wants to operate in your life. If you allow Him to do the work He really wants to do, there will be a dramatic difference in how you live and how you walk out your faith from day to day.

UNDERSTANDING WHO THE HOLY SPIRIT IS

Just to be clear, so there is no confusion, the Holy Spirit is God. There is one God expressed in 3 persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is all powerful; co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existing with God the Father and God the Son.

The reason it is so important to recognize Him as God is that first of all, that's who He is. But second it is so we can give Him the respect He deserves. The Holy Spirit shares every trait attributed to God – for example, He is omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowing). He is also omnipresent – everywhere at the same time...because He is God - and that's one of the reasons that Jesus went away. Because He was confined to His human body Jesus could only be in one place at one time. He went away so the Holy Spirit could come in His place and be everywhere at the same time. The Holy Spirit can live in you and me and we can be miles apart.

Any understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and the way He works must start with this understanding.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” (John 16:7)

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; 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. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” (John 14:16-18)

In our Christian life we are to grow in the image and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, but you can only grow by the help of the Holy Spirit. The moment you receive Christ Jesus, your body becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit. He lives inside of you to help you live the Christian life and be all God has called you to be and do all God has called you to do.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit Convicts Us Of Sin.

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” (John 16:8)

The Holy Spirit uses a mother’s prayers, or a tragic experience, or a pastor’s sermon, or some other experience to convict us of sin and our need to turn our lives over to Jesus Christ. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. He points to us and says, “You are a sinner. You need to repent.”

2. The Holy Spirit Gives New Life

The Bible says that we are dead in our sins and trespasses. Our spirit within us, made in the image of God, is dead toward God. All have sinned,

therefore, all are dead toward God. Mankind needs life. The Holy Spirit gives us new life in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again” (John 3:3). You must be born again.

3. The Holy Spirit Helps You To Overcome Sin

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

If you have ever struggled to overcome sin, the problem is not willpower. The problem is Spirit power. Simply put, you have been trying to do it yourself. God has given you the Holy Spirit to strengthen you and give you the resolve to overcome sin’s influence and pull in your life. One way He does this is by changing your appetites. As you draw nearer to God and allow His Spirit to work deeper in your life, He moves you away from certain things. Have you ever noticed how there are things in your life you used to do that you have no desire to do anymore? That is the Holy Spirit’s power at work in your life.

4. The Holy Spirit Dwells In Believers And Fills Us

The Holy Spirit is God’s presence in the lives of believers.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

In this scripture, God could have used words such as “home,” “house,” or “residence.” But by choosing the word “temple” to describe the Spirit’s dwelling, He conveys the idea that our bodies are the sacred place, in which the Spirit not only lives, but is worshiped, revered, and honored. Therefore, how we behave, think and speak, and what we let into the temple through our eyes, ears and mouth becomes critically important as well, for every thought, word and deed is in His view.

5. The Holy Spirit Transforms Your Character

One of the greatest evidences of the Holy Spirit’s power being at work is when He changes your character.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

When you let the Holy Spirit work in you, He will reform and reshape your character. Suddenly, how He responds will become the way you respond. Instead of anger, you will have peace. Instead of being impatient and rude, you will be kind. When the person who gets on your last nerve comes around, you will exercise patience. This is the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life, molding and shaping your character.

6. The Holy Spirit Leads You Into All Truth

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...” (John 16:13)

Another aspect of the Holy Spirit’s power working in your life is his ability to help you discern the truth. This becomes so important when studying scripture and listening to people teaching about God. You may not recognize this, but the Holy Spirit is your greatest asset in studying the Bible. He is the one who can unravel any of the mysteries of scripture, especially because He is the author of the book.

However, let’s take it to another level. With the abundance of voices in the world today, especially because of social media, how can you tell who is speaking the truth or not? One way is by the discernment that comes from the Holy Spirit. He can inform you when something seems off or is not right. This is not only true of teaching, but in any situation.

7. The Holy Spirit Will Comfort You

At times, hope feels scarce. Jesus told us that in this world we would have troubles, but to take heart because He has overcome the world. By this, we know that our battles have been won and that we are more than conquerors. But what happens in the meantime? We have to live through our battles.

Jesus overcoming the world doesn't mean that life will be without injustices and disappointments. Our days need hope. The Holy Spirit is our source of hope in the times when hope is threadbare. The Holy Spirit comforts us with an overflowing of hope so that we can face our difficulties with faith.

8. The Holy Spirit Will Assist You In Prayer

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)

If you have ever been stuck in prayer, here's good news – the Holy Spirit can help you get unstuck. The Holy Spirit will help you to pray. In fact, before you begin praying it is perfectly ok to ask God how you should pray or who you should pray for. Because the Holy Spirit knows the will of God, He will help you pray in accordance with God's will. Why is this important? If you remember 1 John 5:14-15, everything you ask for that is in alignment with God's will He will do.

The Spirit of God can help your prayers line up with the will of God and God will always do what is in line with His will. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26)

9. The Holy Spirit Teaches and Reminds

In John 14:26, Jesus told his disciples, “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 14:26).

10. The Holy Spirit Gives You Boldness To Witness

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

The Holy Spirit will not only give you the boldness to witness – He can even tell you what to say. The greatest example of a person moving from fear to boldness is Peter. He went from denying Christ to just a few people at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, to standing before thousands boldly proclaiming the Gospel after the resurrection. The difference in Peter was the Holy Spirit.

Are you struggling to stand up for what you profess? Maybe you are a little nervous to reveal to people around you that you are a Christian. The answer for you is the Holy Spirit. He wants to and will give you the boldness to do it. This doesn't mean you stand up on your desk at work and start preaching the Gospel (that probably won't keep you employed). But it does mean you can walk with confidence and boldness, unashamed or unafraid to identify with the One in whom you believe. The Holy Spirit can give you that boldness. All you have to do is ask.

Closing Thoughts

Living this life without the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives would spiral us close to the edge of despair. Life holds challenges that vary in severity. But God holds us closer than we can imagine, and He is able to be with us and in us by the work of the Holy Spirit.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

2. According to John 16:7, what is the reason that Jesus had to go away?

3. List 10 ways the Holy Spirit operates in the lives of believers.

1) Answer: The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of our sin.

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

4. Fill in the blanks:

But the fruit of the Spirit is _____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____: against such there
is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)