

THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS

+ **SESSION IN A SENTENCE:**

The Holy Spirit begins the work of salvation through the ministry of conviction and then continues by guiding the person toward truth and leading those who trust in Christ.

+ **BACKGROUND PASSAGES:**

John 16; Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 2

+ **SETTING:**

The Old Testament prophets promised a day when the Spirit of God would dwell in God's people (Isaiah 44:1-5; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Joel 2:28-32), and Jesus modeled a life with the Spirit's presence and power (Luke 4:1,18; Matthew 12:28). Jesus promised that the Spirit would come (John 14:16-17,26; 16:7) and the church experienced this arrival at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Today, the Holy Spirit works through all believers, empowering them to live for Christ and assisting them as they proclaim the gospel to all nations.

DAY 1

READ:

John 16:7-11

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 16:8

NOTES

In John 16:7-11, Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. This means that the Spirit brings a sense of conviction to our hearts, helping us to understand the truth about our sinfulness and our need for Christ. However, this conviction is not just for those who have not repented, but the Holy Spirit also continues to convict believers of sin, that they may be pure and righteous before God.

As disciples of Christ, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to help us live for Him. It's easy to become complacent or to justify our actions, but the Holy Spirit convicts us of our wrongdoing and helps us to turn away from it. The Spirit leads us to confess our sins and to seek forgiveness, allowing us to walk in purity and righteousness before God.

It's essential to understand that this conviction is not meant to condemn us, but rather to lead us to repentance and forgiveness. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, it is an act of grace, reminding us of God's mercy and love. The Spirit helps us turn away from our sins, restoring our relationship with God and allowing us to live in fellowship with Him.

The Holy Spirit's conviction of believers is a continual process that helps us grow in our faith and become more like Christ. The Spirit leads us to pursue holiness and righteousness, reminding us of God's standards for our lives. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance, we can learn to live in a way that is pleasing to God and glorifies Him in all we do.

Let us open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to bring conviction to our hearts, that we may live for Christ and bring glory to God.

How has the Holy Spirit's conviction of your sin helped you to grow in your faith?

DAY 2

READ:

John 16:7-11

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 16:9-11

NOTES

Sharing the gospel with unbelievers is a crucial part of the Christian faith. We must also remember that our gospel proclamation has to have the Holy Spirit's power to bring about salvation to those who are listening. The role of the Holy Spirit's conviction cannot be overstated. In John 3:1-21, Jesus explained to Nicodemus that in order to see the kingdom of God, one must be born again. This spiritual rebirth can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life in Christ.

As we share the gospel with unbelievers, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to do His work of conviction in their hearts. Without the Spirit's guidance, our words will fall on deaf ears. The Spirit brings to light the truth about our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. He helps us to understand the reality of our separation from God and our need for forgiveness and redemption.

Furthermore, in John 16:7-11, Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. This conviction is necessary for salvation because it helps us to see our need for Christ. It leads us to repentance and faith, drawing us into a deeper relationship with Him.

Therefore, as we share the gospel with unbelievers, we cannot convince them through our own strength or persuasion. Instead, we must trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to draw them to Himself.

In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit drawing others to faith in Christ?

DAY 3

READ:

John 16:12-14

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 16:13-14

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

“The Spirit teaches the believer many things, but His supreme subject is Christ: to emphasize His claims, to exalt His Person, to reveal His perfections, to make Him superlatively attractive. Many things in Nature are very beautiful, but when the sun shines upon them, we appreciate their splendor all the more. Thus it is when we are enabled to view Christ in the light of the Spirit’s teaching.”¹

—A. W. Pink (1886–1952)

In John 16:12-14, Jesus spoke to His disciples about the role of the Holy Spirit in teaching and guiding them. He explained that the Spirit would reveal the truth to them and reminded them of everything He had taught them. This includes the words that Jesus spoke, which were recorded in the Bible for us to read and study today.

As believers, we can trust the Bible because the Holy Spirit revealed Christ’s words to the authors of the Bible. The Spirit worked through the writers to ensure that the Bible is accurate and trustworthy. Second Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that all Scripture is inspired by God, useful for teaching, correction, and training in all righteousness.

The Holy Spirit’s work in revealing the truth of Christ’s words to us through the Bible is crucial for our faith. It ensures that we have a reliable source of guidance, teaching, and wisdom. It also helps us to understand the truth about God and His plan for our lives.

As we read and study the Bible, let us rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us and reveal the truth of Christ’s words to us. May we trust in the accuracy and reliability of the Bible, knowing that it is God’s inspired Word. And may we be transformed by its truth, growing in our faith and becoming more like Christ each day.

How has relying on the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your study of the Bible impacted your understanding and application of God’s Word in your life?

DAY 4

READ:

1 Corinthians 2:14

FOCAL PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 2:14

NOTES



KEY DOCTRINE #64: WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

The Spirit's work in the life of a Christian begins in the work of salvation in bringing a person to faith in Christ and is continued through the work of sanctification in helping the Christian to become progressively more like Christ throughout the course of his or her life. He also empowers and indwells believers, intercedes on their behalf, and equips them with special gifts for the service of God's kingdom. He is the Comforter to the believer and aids us in properly interpreting the Bible.

In 1 Corinthians 2:14, Paul wrote that the natural person—without the Holy Spirit—does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. This means that those who do not have the Holy Spirit cannot understand the truth of the gospel message.

As believers, it can be difficult and even hurtful when we share the gospel with someone and they reject it. We may take it personally, wondering what we did wrong or why they don't believe. However, we must remember that the Holy Spirit is the One who convicts and converts hearts, and we cannot force someone to believe.

We should not be personally offended when someone rejects our presentation of the gospel to them. Instead, we should pray for them and continue to share the truth of Christ with love and compassion. We should trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives, even if we cannot see it.

Furthermore, we must remember that it is not our job to convince people to believe in Christ. Our job is to share the gospel message, leaving the rest up to God. We should do so with humility, recognizing that it is only through the Holy Spirit's work that anyone can come to faith.

How does this understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in conversion impact your approach and desire to share the gospel with others?

DAY 5

READ:

Romans 8:12-17

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Romans 8:15-17

NOTES

What an incredible privilege and joy we have in being a child of God. Through salvation, we are adopted into God's family and become heirs with Christ, sharing in all the blessings and promises that come with being part of His household.

As children of God, we have a new identity and a new purpose. We are no longer slaves to sin and death, but rather children of God who have been set free by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can now live according to the Spirit, walking in obedience and experiencing the fullness of life that God intends for us.

Furthermore, as children of God, we have the assurance that we will one day inherit eternal life in heaven. We are joint heirs with Christ, and all that He has received, we have as well. This means that we have the hope of eternal life, the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, and the joy of spending eternity with our heavenly Father.

It is truly amazing to think that we can become children of God through salvation. We who were once far from Him, separated by sin, are now brought near through the work of Christ on the cross. We are adopted into His family, given a new identity and purpose, and made heirs with Christ. This is a gift that we could never earn or deserve, but one that is freely given to us through the grace and love of our heavenly Father.

How has the realization of your identity as a child of God through salvation impacted your daily walk with Christ and your perspective on life?

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"Where there is no conviction by the Holy Spirit of sin, there is no saving faith in Christ. The Spirit of God so thoroughly convinces a man of his sinfulness that he gladly takes his place with the publican and cries, 'God be merciful to me; I am the sinner.'"²

—Don Fortner (1950–2020)

POINT 1: The Holy Spirit convicts the world (John 16:7-11).

Christ sent the Holy Spirit as a helping presence to His disciples in His physical absence.

? How is the Holy Spirit a counselor, helper, comforter, and advocate in our everyday life?

The Holy Spirit convicts the world by showing them their sin and need to repent, showing them the path toward righteousness in Christ, and showing them the consequences of judgment.

? From Day 2: In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit drawing others to faith in Christ?

POINT 2: The Holy Spirit guides toward truth (John 16:12-14; 1 Corinthians 2:14).

The Holy Spirit is given to guide us to the truth of Christ's purposes and teachings.

? How can we walk in step with the Spirit's guidance?

Without the Holy Spirit's guidance, we cannot comprehend the things of God.

? What are you thankful for in regards to the Spirit?

POINT 3: The Holy Spirit leads God's people (Romans 8:12-17).

KEY DOCTRINE #64: WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

The Spirit's work in the life of a Christian begins in the work of salvation in bringing a person to faith in Christ

and is continued through the work of sanctification in helping the Christian to become progressively more like Christ throughout the course of his or her life. He also empowers and indwells believers, intercedes on their behalf, and equips them with special gifts for the service of God's kingdom. He is the Comforter to the believer and aids us in properly interpreting the Bible.

? **How do we put sins to death?**

The Holy Spirit leads believers as they are newly identified as children of God, heirs of God, and coheirs with Christ.

? **How does the knowledge that we are heirs with Christ through adoption by the Holy Spirit give us hope for the future?**

MY RESPONSE

Because we have been saved by God, we seek to fulfill our mission of sharing the gospel—trusting not in our own power, but in the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit to change lives.

- **HEAD:** How can you cultivate a deeper reliance on the Holy Spirit in your life and grow in your relationship with Him?
- **HEART:** What can you confess that happened recently when you felt a prompting from the Spirit and chose to not act upon it?
- **HANDS:** In what ways can you use your spiritual gifts to serve others around you this week?



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"Without the spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are ships without wind, or chariots without steeds, like branches without sap, we are withered; like coals without fire, we are useless; as an offering without the sacrificial flame, we are unaccepted. . . . We are but the stones and he is the sling, we are the arrows, and he is the bow."³

—Charles H. Spurgeon
(1843–1892)