



WE BELIEVE IN THE  
H O L Y  
S P I R I T

## THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Week 2)

Opening Song (if you are able): *ALIVE IN YOU* (Jesus Culture)

### Introduction:

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He comes from the Father and is sent by the Son.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit include wind and breath (Genesis 1:2; John 3:8; Acts 2:2), water (John 4:10,15; John 7:37–39), fire (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16; Acts 2:3), oil/anoointing (Exodus 29:7; Acts 10:38), a seal (Ephesians 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22), and a dove (Luke 3:22). All of those symbols make sense in the way we experience the Holy Spirit.

### WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

**Conviction and calling** - "The Holy Spirit works in the conversion process as the agent who fosters conviction of sin. In addition to convicting people of sin, the Spirit is at work in conversion as the agent of God's call directed towards sinful humans" (Grenz, *Theology for the Community of God*).

What does the Spirit show the world according to John 16:8?

How can we distinguish the difference between our conscience and the Holy Spirit?

In 1 Corinthians 4:2-5, Paul doesn't merely trust his conscience, but relies on the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth.

Our *conscience*, because it has been with us from the beginning, will many times try to find ways to condone or excuse our actions when they are sinful. Essentially our consciences don't go away when we follow Jesus, but they are now subjected to the Spirit of God.

What does the Spirit point us to? John 15:26

**Adoption/Being Born Again** - Adoption is the act whereby the Spirit makes us members of God's family. When you were born the first time you became a part of your human family. You became a child of your parents. When a person is born again, he becomes a part of God's family--A child of God (John 1:12).

What happens to us when we receive Jesus through the Holy Spirit? John 1:12-13

What does the Spirit do to us and give us when we become part of God's family? Ezekiel 36:25-27

What does Jesus say about the experience of being born again? John 3:3-6

What does the Spirit make us realize according to Romans 8:14–17?

**Sanctification** – A theologian named Grenz, wrote in his book, "Theology for the Community of God"- "In sanctification, the Spirit of God works to make us more and more like Christ. "It is our cooperation with the Spirit in living out in daily life the regeneration, justification, freedom, and power which is ours through conversion, so that we grow into Christlikeness and service to God." Read the following verses and discuss the work of the Spirit based on each verse.

Galatians 5:22–23

Romans 8:26–27

John 16:13

1 Corinthians 2:10

**Empowerment** - When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and thereafter, he gave power that enabled the ministry of Christ to be carried forward. It was not power in a general sense—that is, an increment of supernatural strength that could have many uses—but power for ministry that flowed from the Father through the Son" (Williams, *Renewal Theology*).

What does the Spirit give us as we witness in Acts 1:8? How come so many people don't share the gospel or invite people despite this promise?

What does Romans 15:18–19 say about the Spirit's work in telling others about Jesus or inviting others?

Remember this: *Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.*

### Introspective Questions

1. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit live through you? What about as advocate and teacher? Share your experience.

2. Have one of the three things hindered the work of the Holy Spirit in you?

Theological: do you have misunderstandings concerning the Spirit that kept you from experiencing Him fully?

Worldview: do you have misunderstanding concerning the Spirit because of your view of how the world works?

Self-image: do you think that you are not worthy for the Spirit to work through you?

### Application

Do you seek to be filled with the Spirit? Read Ephesians 5:18. In the original Greek, "be filled" means "keep on being filled constantly and continually."

Living a godly life is a vital part of this process.

- What characterizes the life of the Christian who is "being filled" constantly and continually? (John 15:1-11, Galatians 5:16-25)
- Which two commandments do you think are most important to living the Spirit-filled life? (Matthew 22:36-40) Why?
- To be filled continually with the Holy Spirit, you must abide in Christ. Read John 14:21. How can you do that? (
- Read John 15:1-11. Why is being planted in Christ so important?