

The Holy Spirit Changes People

Lesson 04 of the series: "The Third Person"

A. Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit.

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you..." John 14:16-18 (NLT)

- The Holy Spirit is a person to be known, NOT a force to be controlled.
- The Holy Spirit is God.
- The Holy Spirit is living in me.
- The Holy Spirit is working through me.

B. The way the Holy Spirit does things is mysterious and wonderful.

"The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." John 3:8 (NLT)

Note: We may not understand how the Holy Spirit does things, but we can see life change wherever He goes.

- The Holy Spirit changes the way we think.
"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2 (NLT)
"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." John 14:26 (NLT)
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to do things we never thought we could do.
"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."
Philipians 2:13 (NLT)
- The Holy Spirit enables us to live fruitful lives.
"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing... When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father." John 15:5-8 (NLT)
"...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

C. The Holy Spirit can change me too!

"Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit..." Ephesians 5:17-18 (NLT)

"And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for."
1 John 5:14-15 (NLT)

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly." John 10:10 (NKJV)

"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"
John 15:11 (NLT)

Quotes

When we are at our wits' end for an answer, then the Holy Spirit can give us an answer. But how can He give us an answer when we are still well supplied with all sorts of answers of our own?

-Karl Barth-

“And to expose our hearts to truth and consistently refuse or neglect to obey the impulses it arouses is to stymie the motions of life within us and, if persisted in, to grieve the Holy Spirit into silence.”

-A.W. Tozer-

“When the soul is in our body, the Holy Spirit is in the body of Christ, which is the church.”

-Augustine-

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power *through his Spirit* in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being *rooted and established in love*, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-----that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Paul in Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV

Connect Group Questions

1. Describe a time in your life where you tried something but failed, fell short, were cut, outright rejected, or just gave up.
2. Read Philippians 2:13. Who actually gives us the motivation and thought to do something for someone or serve in a ministry? Why is this thought even important? Do you think that all believers have access to the same level of power from the Holy Spirit?
3. Read John 3:8. If we know that the Holy Spirit is a person to be known and not a force to be controlled; but at the same time the Holy Spirit is mysterious, then when can we use the spiritual gifts that we have been given?
4. Read Romans 7:21-8:2 and 8:5-6. The Holy Spirit can change our lives and allow us to live in freedom. What do you think our part is in this? Why is surrender such a big deal in the Christian life?
5. Read Galatians 5:22-26. If a peach tree can still be a peach tree without producing peaches, how is it that a Christian can have the Holy Spirit in their life without producing fruits of the spirit? (Verse 25 is key.)
6. Read Colossians 1:7-8. The church at Colosse was able to love others because of the Holy Spirit changing their lives. What is an area in your life that you have been working on or desire to change? How can the Holy Spirit help?