

# LESSON FOUR: POWER

## BIG IDEA

The \_\_\_\_\_ is our guide, our teacher, and our friend. John 16:13 says, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come." The Holy Spirit lives within us, a source of power and comfort who guides and directs us on the journey to live a life of purpose, submitted to God. Being filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't make you better than anyone else; it makes you better than yourself.

## DISCUSSION

What have you believed about the Holy Spirit? Where do you think your beliefs come from?

Have you ever had an encounter with the Holy Spirit where He convicted or guided you to action?

Did you feel a signal from God, or hear His "still, small voice"? Did you listen and do what the Spirit was leading you to do? What were the results?

Share steps you can take to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

## TEACHING

Many people have encountered the Holy Spirit in their lives, often without realizing it's Him. When contemplating the three distinct persons of the \_\_\_\_\_ - God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit - you might find one more relatable than the others. This connection or resonance can vary among individuals, but what's important is recognizing that the Holy Spirit's presence and influence can be a subtle experience in our lives, guiding, comforting, and empowering us in ways we may not always readily attribute to Him.

## Common Mistakes in Our Belief / Practice

Understanding and experiencing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit is a crucial aspect of our faith. However, as we embark on our spiritual journey, common mistakes in our beliefs and practices can sometimes hinder the transformative potential of the Holy Spirit. In this exploration, we will look at some missteps to shed light on how they impact our relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures.

### Downplaying the role of the Holy Spirit

One prevalent error is the inclination to \_\_\_\_\_ the role of the Holy Spirit out of concern for potential misunderstandings or harm. However, this cautious approach often leads to a noticeable lack of spiritual power in our lives and prevents the life-changing purposes of the Holy Spirit.

### Failing to use scripture as a guide

Another common mistake is placing excessive emphasis on the Holy Spirit while neglecting the role of teaching and applying Scripture as a \_\_\_\_\_ principle in our lives. Overemphasizing the Holy Spirit without grounding our understanding and actions

in the wisdom of Scripture can result in confusion and chaos within our spiritual practices.

## Disconnecting the work of the Holy Spirit from the Bible

The Holy Spirit cannot be separated from the Bible. As 2 Peter 1:20-21 emphasizes, Scripture's prophetic words do not originate from individual interpretations but are divinely inspired, with men speaking from God as the Holy Spirit guided them. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible. Cultivating a meaningful relationship with the Holy Spirit is essential for a deeper understanding and connection with the Scriptures.

Have you ever encountered a moment when reading the Bible felt as if its words were directly addressing your unique circumstances or story? Such experiences are not mere coincidences but rather the result of the Holy Spirit's work.

This highlights the intimate connection between the Holy Spirit and the dynamic nature of the Scriptures in our spiritual growth. It serves as a reminder that the Holy Spirit plays a central role in making the teachings of the Bible relevant and applicable to our lives.

We should be clear that the person of the Holy Spirit will never contradict the words written by Him in the Bible. Although he continues to work, act, and speak, the Bible is our final authority on all experiences and perspectives..

## The Trinity in Relationship

The Trinity reveals a divine relationship and harmony among its three distinct persons. \_\_\_\_\_ this relationship sheds light on the roles each member plays in the grand narrative of our faith.

### The Will / Plans of the Father

First, we see the divine plans of God the Father, recognizing that when we reference the "will of God," it is \_\_\_\_\_ the Father's wisdom and purposes that we are seeking to discern.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, (Eph 1:3, 9-11)*

### \_\_\_\_\_ by the Son

Second, the plans of the Father are accomplished by Jesus the Son.

*So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him...Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (John 8:28-29, 42)*

### \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit

Finally, the role of the Holy Spirit is applying and sealing the work accomplished by Jesus, aligning it with the Father's will, and impacting our lives in the process.

*He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:14)*

*Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 12:3)*

## The Trinity in Biblical History

To better grasp this divine relationship, we can also examine the Trinity's \_\_\_\_\_ manifestations throughout the Bible.

- First, the Father, with the nation of Israel. (predominantly described in the Old Testament)
- Second, the Son, with the people of first-century Palestine. (predominantly described in the Gospels)
- Finally, the Spirit, with the church. (predominantly described in the New Testament)

## The Third Person of the Trinity

The Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit is not an abstract or impersonal force. He is a distinct and personal member of the Trinity. He is not a distant and unrelatable entity. He is someone who can and should be known, experienced, and enjoyed in a personal way.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He," and numerous passages in the Bible provide evidence of His personhood.

- He speaks (Acts 8:29, 13:2)
- He makes decisions (Acts 15:28)
- He can be grieved (Eph 4:30)
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
- He can be outraged (Heb 10:29)
- He can forbid and prevent human plans (Acts 16:6-7)
- He comprehends (1Cor 2:10-11)
- He gives (1Cor 12:11)
- He helps and intercedes (Rom 8:26-27)
- He bears witness to who we are in Christ and who Jesus is (Rom 8:16)
- He gives glory (John 16:14)
- He loves (Rom 15:30)

The Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_

In Jesus' own explanation of sending the Spirit, in John 14, He refers to the Holy Spirit as "another helper." This choice of words underscores the distinct personhood of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity. Furthermore, Jesus draws parallels between the Holy Spirit's relationship with believers and His own relationship with the disciples, emphasizing that this divine presence is intended to be a companion in our journey of faith.

The covering role of the Holy Spirit is highlighted in this passage, mirroring Jesus' leadership and care of his disciples during His earthly ministry. The Spirit teaches and continues to care for and help us with the same heart Jesus had for his disciples.

The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_

During His earthly ministry, Jesus was often referred to as "teacher" or "rabbi" by His disciples and followers. In the moments before His departure, Jesus assured His disciples that although His physical presence with them was coming to an end, He would send them another teacher—the Holy Spirit.

This promised Comforter would not only instruct them but also serve as a constant reminder of all that Jesus had taught them. This assurance, found in John 14:26, underscores the Holy Spirit's vital role in continuing the teaching ministry of Jesus, ensuring His teachings remain alive, consistent, and relevant in the lives of believers today.

### The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah's prophetic words in Isaiah 30:21 foreshadow the role of the Holy Spirit as our divine guide. This passage foretells a teacher whose guidance will be unmistakable, directing us with the words, "This is the way; walk in it."

In our spiritual journey, the Holy Spirit assumes the role of guiding us with wisdom and discernment. He not only imparts understanding but also directs our steps along the path of righteousness, ensuring that we navigate life's challenges and choices in alignment with God's will.

As the ultimate guide, the Holy Spirit provides us with the clarity and direction we need, helping us stay on the course of faith and righteousness.

### The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_

The relationship between believers and the Holy Spirit transcends the roles of teacher and guide; it extends into the realm of friendship.

The Apostle Paul's teachings to the Corinthians, as found in 2 Corinthians 13:14, shed light on this aspect of our connection with the Holy Spirit. Paul encourages believers to embrace fellowship with the Holy Spirit, emphasizing that He is not merely an instructor or guide but also a friend to be enjoyed.

### The Holy Spirit is not \_\_\_\_\_

At times, there may be a misconception that having a relationship with the Holy Spirit is an optional feature of the Christian faith. Despite the Holy Spirit's mysterious and sometimes perplexing nature, His presence and influence in our lives are indispensable in the same way Jesus and God the Father are irreplaceable in our faith.

Being a Christian without the Holy Spirit is impossible. It is the Holy Spirit who draws you to saving faith in Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit who calls us into more significant God-glorifying change. The Holy Spirit reminds us who God is and who we are in Jesus. The Holy Spirit gifts us with particular abilities that match our God-given calling. Without a deep knowledge and love for the Holy Spirit, one cannot fully experience the richness of God's divine plans and purposes. The Holy Spirit is not optional software or an add-on to your faith; he is a fundamental necessity in the life of every believer.

*"The sin of despising His Person and rejecting His Work now is of the same nature with idolatry of old and with the Jews' rejection of the Person of the Son" -John Owen*

## Three questions for the Holy Spirit

Engaging in a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with the Holy Spirit involves active communication and a willingness to seek His presence in our lives. Three fundamental questions serve as a valuable guide for believers in their interactions with the Holy Spirit. Regularly posing these questions to the Holy Spirit fosters a deeper connection and reliance on His guidance.

### Will you change me?

This question reflects our openness to the Holy Spirit's transformative power, inviting Him to work within us, shaping and refining our character to \_\_\_\_\_ with God's will.

## Will you show me?

This question signifies our desire for divine guidance, seeking the Holy Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_ to reveal God's truths, wisdom, and direction in our lives.

## Will you fill me?

This question expresses our longing for the Holy Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_ presence, filling our hearts and lives with His power, love, and comfort.

# DIG DEEPER

How could you grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Did hearing about who the Holy Spirit is change how you think about Him? If so, how will that new perspective change how you make decisions in the future?

What do you think is the difference between conviction and condemnation? What role does the Holy Spirit play in conviction?

# COMMON QUESTIONS

## What is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a person. He is, more specifically, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of God. The Spirit is not a feeling, a force, or an energy. For some additional Scriptural resources, look at John 16:13-15, and Romans 8:27. If someone in your group would like to learn more about the Holy Spirit, encourage them to read the Gospel of John.

## How do I know if I am hearing from God?

We can try to answer this in three parts. First, one of the best ways to discern whether or not you are hearing from God is to dive into His Word. God will not contradict Himself, so if you feel like the Spirit is telling you something, check it with God's Word.

Additionally, you can know that The Holy Spirit always offers hope, while the enemy beats down. The Holy Spirit calms, comforts, convicts, leads, and encourages, while the Enemy obsesses, worries, condemns, and confuses.

Finally, be humble and seek the guidance of the people in your life who love you, love God and have a testimony of wisdom with you. Seeking godly counsel is a good practice that allows us to hear from God through the people of God in our lives.

*You can ask yourself these 4 questions:*

- Does what I'm hearing line up with scripture?
- Is it consistent with God's character?
- Is it being confirmed through messages I'm hearing at church or studying in my quiet times?
- Would it please God?

## How do I grow in my relationship with the Holy Spirit?

If you would like a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit, a great next step for you would be to join a Freedom Small Group. The Bible talks about the Spirit-led life, but we realize this kind of living can feel hard to reach. Freedom Small Groups explain the principles of spiritual order and how to let the Spirit lead you. The hope is that through a Freedom group, you'll be able to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit by:

- Removing any barriers in life (like unforgiveness, sinful nature, misperceptions, etc. In other words, anything that is holding you back from getting right with God).
- Relating to the Holy Spirit in faith.
- Requesting the power of the Holy Spirit into your life.

## NEXT STEPS

Ask the Holy Spirit these two questions:

- "What am I doing that I should not be doing?"
- "What am I not doing that I should be doing?"

Listen for His answer, and make a decision to move forward in obedience to the Spirit.

## RESOURCES

- *The Holy Spirit* by Sinclair Ferguson
- *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* by R.C. Sproul
- *Who On Earth is the Holy Spirit?* by Tim Chester and Chris de la Hoyde

# MEMORY VERSE

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:26)*

## DAILY SCRIPTURE AND JOURNALING

### Day One

*Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Pet 1:20-21)*

Journal: How can you know the difference between God's interpretation of Scripture versus someone else's or your own?

### Day Two

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will (Eph 1:3, 9-11)*

Journal: What are examples of spiritual blessings that God has already blessed you with? What are you counting on God yet to fulfill?

### Day Three

*So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." ...Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (John 8:28-29, 42)*

Journal: Jesus was surrendered to the Father and did nothing on his own authority. In which arena of your life is this most challenging?

### Day Four

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:16-17, 26)*

Journal: What function does the Holy Spirit play according to this verse? Can you think of examples of how He has done this in your life?

### Day Five

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14)*

Journal: Which of these qualities are most pertinent in your life right now?

# PRAYER FOCUS

Cultivate an intimate and daily friendship with the Holy Spirit. Pray using Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Ask the Holy Spirit to operate in your life and for Him to show you, change you, and fill you daily.