



Turning Lost Students into Christ-Centered Laborers

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD • The Holy Spirit

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

John 15:26-16:33

On the Way to the Cross

You may remember that the book of John divides into two parts: The Book of Signs, chapters 1-11, covers three years of Jesus' ministry. The Book of the Hour, chapters 12-21, covers the last week of Jesus' life.

At this point in our study, Jesus is already in Jerusalem. He has celebrated the passover feast with his disciples in the city, and one of his followers, named Judas Iscariot, has left to betray him. Jesus, knowing what lay before him, took time to share some final words with his followers.

He taught them about service and the nature of true leadership (chapter 13). He talked about Heaven and told them to always abide in him (chapter 14). He also talked a lot about the Holy Spirit (chapters 14-16).

The Trinity

God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit compose the Godhead, or the three Persons of God. God is one in essence (see, e.g. John 10:38, Deuteronomy 6:4 and Mark 12:29). And He is also composed of three distinct persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Way back in the second century, a Christian leader coined the term Trinity to describe the Godhead. Of course, our language and understanding cannot fully capture who God is. The study of God's identity is called Theology Proper.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Member of the Trinity. He is not an impersonal force. He has all the attributes of personhood (intellect, emotion, and will). But He is also divine. Like God the Father and Jesus, He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14), omnipresent (Psalm 135:7), omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10), and omnipotent (Job 33:4). He inspired the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:21) and played a role in creation (Genesis 1:2).

And He plays a number of special roles in the lives of believers. He guides, directs, and empowers us as we follow God. In the Old Testament era, the Spirit empowered Samson with great strength, David with strength and skill, prophets with knowledge of the future, and many others.

The Spirit began a new era in the Biblical story when He came to empower believers in Acts 3. That event, called Pentecost, initiated the era known as the Church age. That's the era we live in now.

What's the Big Idea?

We can draw close to God and experience all that He has through us through the power of His Spirit.

What's the Problem?

We're naturally sinful and we live lives of independence from God.



The Presence

The Spirit **indwells** all true believers. Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV) states:

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The word "sealed" was a familiar one to Paul's original audience. Roman officials would drip wax onto letters or important documents and imprint that wax with a ring. This procedure announced the authority and importance of the letter and protected it from any tampering. Every believer is likewise protected by God's Spirit.

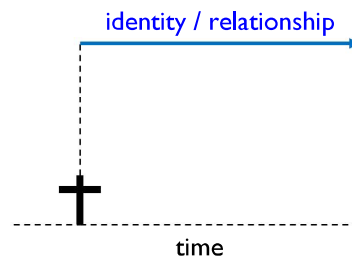
The Power

And the Spirit also **fills** believers. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul commanded his audience to be filled with the Spirit. Being indwelled is not the same as being filled. There is one indwelling, but there are many fillings. To be filled with the Spirit is to be directed and empowered by the Spirit.

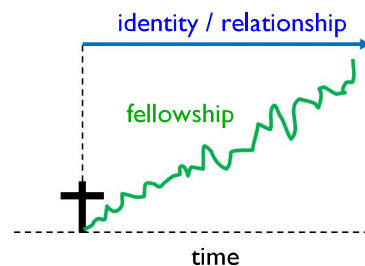
To make room for the King of Kings in our life, we must, in Dr. Bright's words, "prepare the throne." We cannot be directed and empowered by the Spirit if we are directing our own lives ourselves. We must confess our sins and offer control of our lives to Christ. Independence is a great American concept, but it's not a Christian ideal. We draw close to God by surrendering to God. He knows how to run our lives much better than we do.

The difference between God's presence and God's power in our lives is often illustrated with a simple diagram.

The moment a person comes to Christ, their identity and relationship with God changes instantly. That person becomes a child of God.



But relationship doesn't always imply intimacy. Sin and independence from God bring a lack of intimacy. A person grows closer to God over time as they confess sins and trust Him with more and more of their life.



We don't have to earn God's favor. We couldn't if we tried. But as His children we can draw close to Him through confession, obedience, and surrender. Encourage your group to confess their sins and surrender their lives to Him.

What's Our Response?

Lead your group in a discussion about the Holy Spirit and encourage them to confess their sins and surrender their lives to Him.

What Are the Questions?

John 15:26-16:33

LAUNCH

What are some of the characteristics of close relationships?

EXPLORE

Today we're entering a new era in the ministry of Jesus. He has entered Jerusalem and he's planning to give his life on behalf of mankind. He is also preparing his disciples for his departure. He made them a significant promise. He told them that the Holy Spirit would soon come in power.

Read 15:26-6:4

1. According to verse 26, how will the Holy Spirit and Jesus' disciples continue the ministry begun by Jesus?
2. What kind of treatment will those disciples endure from those who do not know Christ?
3. Do we ever face persecution in our society for following Jesus? If so, how?

Read 16:5-15.

4. What can we learn about how the disciples were feeling from verses 6 and 12? Why were they so sad?
5. How did Jesus comfort them?
6. According to this passage, Who is the Holy Spirit?

Special Focus: The Holy Spirit

7. Turn to **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit? Is this comforting? Why?
8. Now read **Ephesians 4:30** and **Galatians 5:25**. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these passages? Does this make sense? Why?
9. Check out **Ephesians 5:18-20**. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

Read 15:16-33

10. Did the disciples understand what Jesus was saying?
11. What does it mean to ask God for something "in Jesus' name"?
12. What did Jesus mean when he said, "A time will come when you will be scattered"?
13. Jesus knew that when the Holy Spirit comes to empower the disciples (Acts 3), they will no longer hide but will proclaim Jesus boldly. Have you ever had a chance to share your faith in Jesus?

APPLY

In a booklet entitled How to Be Filled With the Holy Spirit, Bill Bright tells a story about a sheep herder in a west Texas town named Ira Yates. During the Depression era Yates progressively lost business and became impoverished. But then a seismographic company asked if they could drill an oil well on his land. The first well struck a huge oil reservoir that produced 80,000 barrels per day. That's \$2.5 million per day. Many more wells followed. Yates owned it all. He was a billionaire. He just didn't know it.

14. God has given us all we need to live fruitful lives for Him. Yet we fall short. How have you grieved the Spirit lately? Is there anything you need to confess and correct?
15. How can you "keep in step" with the Spirit?
16. Would you like for God to direct you and empower you?

What Are the Answers?

1. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come in power after his departure. He called Him the Helper and the Spirit of Truth.
2. The disciples were about to go through some serious suffering.
3. Discuss
4. They were sad. Jesus told them he was going to leave them.
5. Jesus actually said it was better for them that he go away, because then he would send the Holy Spirit. Instead of Jesus' physical presence on Earth, the Spirit would come and be present on Earth in a special way.
6. Jesus called Him the Helper, and the Spirit of Truth. Jesus promised that He would convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. That includes everything bad, good, and all that's coming.
7. The Spirit lives in all believers individually. This has implications for how we treat our bodies and how we treat others. See I Cor. 6:17-20 and I Cor. 12.
8. Paul counsels us not to grieve the Spirit by continuing in sin, and to keep in step with the Spirit by following God. This makes sense because this is what we observe. Christians can either walk with God or disobey.
9. A person who is filled with the Holy Spirit is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
10. Yes and no. They understood that Jesus was leaving the world and going back to God the Father. But they didn't know how tough that would be or what was coming next.
11. To ask in Jesus' name means to desire the same things Jesus desires and to ask God the Father for them. Because of Jesus' death for our sin and resurrection, we can draw close to God in Jesus' name. And God will answer every prayer that aligns with His perfect will.
12. Soon Jesus will be arrested, and the disciples will flee in all directions.
13. Discuss
14. Living a fruitful life for God isn't about us getting more of Him. It's about Him getting more of us. We can offer God more of us by confessing known sins, surrendering ungodly ambitions, and offering our lives to Him. You might give your group a few minutes of personal time to pray, and then regather.
15. Discuss
16. End in prayer.

Memorize

And do not get drunk on wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

Read it!

You can access Bill Bright's fantastic little booklet entitled [How You Can Be Filled With the Holy Spirit](#), and other resources at:

www.cru.org/training-and-growth/classics/transferable-concepts

Cru.Comm is the small group material for Campus Crusade for Christ's Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We'd love to hear your feedback on this study. Please write us at centerfield@uscm.org