



New Creation Nov 5: The Holy Spirit in Our Lives

Series Summary: As a believer in Jesus, all who have professed Christ should know you are saved by faith in Him, with a confidence of eternal security. Yet, for many, there still lies a tension between what is read about their faith in the scriptures compared to what they see play out in their habits and day-to-day living. It's possible that many still struggle with a disconnect between their understanding of the Gospel in faith and its practical application. To fully understand the difference the Gospel has the potential to make in every area of our lives.

Big Idea: Today, everything is about the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit? What does He do for us and through us? What is His role in our lives?

Schedule:

- Live teaching
- Small group

LIVE TEACHING

RECAP: WEEK ONE - "The Gospel Changes Everything" explains that apart from God, humanity is spiritually dead due to sin. Through the Gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ), salvation is offered as a gift of grace received through faith alone.

Transition: As we move forward. Today, we will be learning about the Holy Spirit and His role in our lives.

Opening Thought: If someone walked up to you and asked Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? That last one, you got less confident, right? Why is that? Well, the good news is that scripture is not silent on the Holy Spirit. For believers, the Holy Spirit plays a central and transformative role.

Let's talk Doctrine - THE TRINITY: The Trinity is a core Christian doctrine that describes God as one being who exists in three coequal, co-eternal, and distinct persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. While they are distinct, they are not three separate gods but are one God.

One God: The Bible consistently teaches that there is only one God. The three persons of the Trinity are not separate deities. They share the same divine nature, will, and power.

Three Persons: While they are one in being, they are distinct in their personhood. This means they are not just different "modes" or "roles" of the same person. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father. Their relationship is eternal and unique. For example, the Father sends the Son, the Son obeys the Father, and the Holy Spirit is sent by both to act in the world.

Co-equal: All three persons are entirely God and possess all the attributes of deity. They all share in power, glory, or authority.

- Neither Jesus or the Holy Spirit was created by God. They have all been present since the beginning of time.
- Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not lesser than God the Father either (co-equal)
- Some religions such as Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus was created by God. This is heretical teaching. This is not Christian theology.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Compare to New World Translation and Joseph Smith Translation)
- It may sound harsh, but nonetheless, Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses are not Christians.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: ESSENTIAL ROLES

SALVATION

Conviction and Regeneration: The Spirit works in the world to convict people of sin, righteousness, and judgment, preparing them for the Gospel. Through the Spirit, a person—dead in sin—is made alive and "born again" (John 3:5-8).

LIFE OF A BELIEVER

1. **Indwelling and Sealing:** He permanently indwells believers, sealing their eternal inheritance in Christ.
2. **Guidance and Teaching:** As the "Helper" and "Counselor," the Spirit guides us into all truth and helps us understand Scripture.
3. **Sanctification and Empowerment:** He is the source of sanctification, producing the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23) in our lives. The Spirit also empowers believers with spiritual gifts to be Christ's witnesses.

THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES ABOUT JESUS

Jesus promises to send the "Advocate," the Holy Spirit, to His disciples after He leaves.

John 15:26-27 ²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:7-15 (Summary) Jesus tells his disciples that he has to ascend to Heaven and this is actually a good thing. This is because the Holy Spirit will come to be with every believer and convict the world of its sin. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will guide every believer in truth.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to be witnesses for Christ, as their personal experience of Jesus's ministry is now combined with the Spirit's power.

THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US SPIRITUAL TRUTH

Paul explains that spiritual truths cannot be understood by human wisdom alone.

1 Corinthians 2:10-14[...] these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that

come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Just as a person's thoughts can only be known by their own spirit, the "deep things of God" can only be known by the Spirit of God. As believers, we have received this Spirit, which enables us to understand what God has "freely given us." The Holy Spirit acts as a divine interpreter, revealing God's thoughts and making spiritual realities understandable to us, so that we can grasp the truth of our salvation and new life in Christ. Without the Spirit, God's truths are considered "foolishness."

Takeaway: We have everything we need to live a life as a New Creation by God's design, thanks to the Role of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not just a presence, but as the active, indwelling, and empowering presence of God who enables believers to live out their new identity and experience ongoing transformation..

Small Group Transition: Now that we understand who the Holy Spirit is and His work in our lives. Let's take time in our groups to identify the change the Holy Spirit is producing in us. What exactly are the fruits of the Spirit? How are they a byproduct of the work of the Holy Spirit that's necessary to grow in our faith?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Get Them Talking: Did anything stand out to you from the message? Something that you didn't know before?

Is the Holy Spirit the part of the Trinity that you know least about? Why or why not?

The message mentioned that the Holy Spirit works to bring a person who is "dead in their sin" to become "born again", and that he will make things known to us. In practical terms, this is called conviction. **What does it feel like when the Holy Spirit is "convicting" you or a non-believer?**

Leader Notes: Conviction is not just guilt; it's the profound realization of being wrong about sin, unbelief in Jesus, righteousness, and God's holiness.

How does conviction impact us to live a new and changed life?

Read: John 15:4-5 as a group

Jesus says in John 15:4-5, "Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me... apart from me you can do nothing." **Let's help each other out- What specific habits or practices help you "remain in the vine" and live in accordance with the Holy Spirit?**

Leader Notes: The fruit is natural *growth*, not *effort*. The main focus here is to focus on things that foster connection: prayer, Bible reading, worship, and fellowship.

Read: Galatians 5:16-18 as a group

This passage contrasts the "works of the flesh" with the "fruit of the Spirit". **What can we come to expect if we try to produce Christian behavior through our own understanding, rather than relying on the Holy Spirit?**

Leader Note: If you would like to compare the works of the flesh vs the fruit of the Spirit then you may feel free to. However, there are some heavy acts of the flesh that are mentioned in verses 19-21 that might need some explanation to a teenager.

Read: Galatians 5:22-23 as a group

Galatians 5:22-23 lists the nine qualities of the fruit. **Which of these virtues do you find to be the most challenging to live out consistently?**

What might that reveal about an area of life where you're resisting the Holy Spirit's influence?

Leader Notes: Remind the group that the fruit is singular—you don't pick and choose. A lack in one area (ex. *patience*) often indicates a lack of *peace* or *self-control*. Encourage sharing a concrete example.

If your Christian faith were measured only by the tangible fruit visible in your character and actions this past week, what kind of report would it give? Why do you think this?

Leader Notes: The fruit is meant to be visible to the world. Jesus said we will "recognize them by their fruit" (Matthew 7:20). In other words, we will know other believers by the virtues that we see in vs 22-23.

Introspective Question: Which of the fruit of Spirit do you see lacking in your life the most? In what specific scenario do you seem to fail seeing that fruit?

- **Challenge:** Be intentional in your personal prayer time this week. Ask God to help you in those scenarios where the fruit of the Spirit seems to lack. Ask Him to convict you in that moment so that you may live according to the Spirit, and not to the flesh.