

YOU

Bible Study

Sermon Series: Essentials of Christianity

To be used with: The Work of the Holy Spirit

Sermon Title Possibilities: Focused on Jesus

Scripture: John 15:26-27; 16:7-15

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “Essentials of Christianity,” use this sermon to reinforce the session Scripture passage to explain the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. This sermon will also recognize that the Holy Spirit magnifies the work of Jesus.

Introduction: A quick search on Amazon for DIY (Do It Yourself) books yields more than 20,000 choices including such titles as “100 Easy Weekend Project Anyone Can Do,” “Yard and Garden Furniture,” “Growing Your Own Tea Garden,” and “The Natural Soap Making Book for Beginners.” Basically, anything you want to learn to do, there is a book or online video to help you do it. That’s very cool.

While DIY is very popular, there are no DIY guides to following Jesus. Well, technically there is, it’s called The Bible. But the basic point of DIY is “give me 5 or 7 simple steps and I’ll make something myself.” The Christian life, on the other hand, requires an ongoing commitment to following Christ. The good news is, God provides His Holy Spirit to help guide us.

1. The Holy Spirit empowers us. (15:26-27)

It’s been said that God will never ask you to do anything that He will not empower and equip you to do. He does that through the work of the Holy Spirit. To empower someone can mean to give them the authority or power to do something. It can also mean to make someone stronger and more confident in the task they are called to do.

One specific way the Holy Spirit empowers every believer is in the area of being a witness for Jesus. The Holy Spirit empowers us to proclaim Jesus to others. In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2. The Holy Spirit convicts us. (16:7-11)

In addition to empowering us, the Holy Spirit convicts every believer of sin. While we may rationalize things and say we just naturally feel bad when we do something wrong, that is not the case. Just look at the willful disobedience of a toddler. Rarely will they feel bad until they are reprimanded.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. This means He makes us aware of our sinful thoughts and actions. Feelings of remorse, guilt, and shame will often come along with this conviction. What's the point? The point is to bring us back into right relationship with God. When we feel shame and guilt, we are led to confess our sin and ask God for His forgiveness. It's as if the Holy Spirit turns on a light to reveal the darkness of our sinful thoughts and actions.

3. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus. (16:12-15)

The Holy Spirit is called The Spirit of truth. Why? The nature of God is that He does not lie; He always tells the truth. Since the Holy Spirit reflects the nature of God, He also is always going to tell the truth. So, when the Holy Spirit empowers us, He empowers us through the truth of God's Word and the truth of what God thinks about us. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, He will reveal the truth of our sinful condition so that we may find a restored relationship with God.

The Spirit of truth also glorifies Jesus by revealing in the life of a believer the truth of all Jesus taught. Truth itself is found in all the teachings of Jesus and the Holy Spirit reminds and teaches believers of those things. The Holy Spirit magnifies, or enlarges our perspective of, Jesus.

It is also interesting to see that all three persons of the Trinity are referenced in these four verses. Jesus is speaking in these verses, He talks about the Holy Spirit coming and teaching the things Jesus taught, and He references that everything that God the Father has is His.

Conclusion: Most people approach life by relying on their own intelligence, abilities, and resources to navigate their day to day lives. But God never intended that we should live this way. We are meant to live our lives in daily relationship with Him—and He had given us the indwelling Holy Spirit to help us live as He intends. The Holy Spirit magnifies the work of Jesus in and through a believer.

Author Bio: Rick Prall is a senior curriculum specialist with Ramsey Solutions and an ordained minister. He has served churches in California, Oklahoma, Texas, and Tennessee and has written Bible study curriculum material for over 30 years. Rick has been married to Helene for 37 years and they have two grown and married children and two wonderful granddaughters. Rick and Helene have a passion for international missions and have served in many countries together; they are members of Gladeville Baptist Church.