

## I. The Person of the Holy Spirit

### A. The Holy Spirit: The Empowering Presence of God

1. Theme: The Holy Spirit is the Empowering Presence of God Himself, sent to grant wisdom, power, gifts, and character from the Holy Trinity to the people of God.
2. Text: 2 Corinthians 13:14
3. Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5

### B. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

1. Theme: The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. He indwells us Personally, and this gives us the unique ability to know and experience His Presence on a continual basis. Therefore, it is important that we come to know this Person, Who is God.
2. Text: Romans 8:26-27
3. Reading: John 16:7-15

## II. The Work of the Holy Spirit

### A. The Spirit, the Word, and the Means of Grace

1. Theme: God wants to fill His people with His Spirit, and this is primarily done as we consistently participate in faith with the means of grace He has ordained for His people.
2. Text: Acts 2:42
3. Reading: Ephesians 5:15-21

### B. The Spirit of Creation and Redemption

1. Theme: The Spirit was active in both our creation and redemption, and in His ongoing work in our lives He is restoring God's original intent for creation and our place within it.
2. Text: Genesis 1:1-2; Deut 32:9-12
3. Reading: John 3:1-8

### C. The Spirit and Jesus

1. Theme: The Spirit has been sent by Jesus to testify to Christ, and to enable us to point others to Jesus as well.
2. Text: John 15:26-27
3. Reading: John 16:5-15

### D. The Spirit and the World

1. Theme: The Spirit has been sent to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, so that it may be drawn to Christ.
2. Text: John 16:5-11
3. Reading: John 3:15-21

### E. The Spirit and the Church

1. Theme: The Spirit is working to join us to the Church to be the place where God dwells.
2. Text: Ephesians 2:19-22
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

#### F. The Fruit of the Spirit

1. Theme: The Spirit is at work in believers to enable them to resist the desires of their fallen nature and to be conformed to Christ.
2. Text: Galatians 5:13-26
3. Reading: Colossians 3:5-14

#### G. The Gifts of the Spirit

1. Theme: The Holy Spirit gives gifts, which are concrete expressions of God's grace, manifested by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, in order to strengthen the church and enable us to serve others in love.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
3. Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

### **III. Experiencing the Holy Spirit – Baptism, Filling and Being Led by the Spirit**

#### A. The Glorious New Covenant Ministry of the Spirit

1. Theme: In the New Covenant the ministry of the Spirit in believers is much more personal, internal, and powerful than it was under the Old Covenant.
2. Text: Joel 2:28-29
3. Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

#### B. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

1. Theme: The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the promised experience of the Spirit being poured out, coming upon, and filling God's New Covenant people.
2. Text: Mark 1:1-8; John 1:29-34
3. Reading: Acts 1:1-8

#### C. What Happens When We Are Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

1. Theme: When we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, we were initiated into the New Covenant, placed into the Church, given spiritual gifts, and empowered to be Christ's witnesses.
2. Text: Acts 1:4-5
3. Reading: Luke 24:45-53

#### D. Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit A "Second Blessing"?

1. Theme: The baptism in the Holy Spirit, while theologically distinct from regeneration and justification, occurs at the same time – when we become believers in Christ.
2. Text: Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Corinthians 12:13
3. Reading: Advent readings

#### E. Filled With the Holy Spirit

1. Theme: Christians are called to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, living lives under His control.
2. Text: Ephesians 5:18-21
3. Reading: Advent Readings

### **IV. Led by the Spirit: Knowing and Doing God's Will**

#### A. The Two Aspects of God's Will

1. Theme: God's will refers to both His secret plan to work everything in conformity with His purposes, and His revealed commands for how we are to live.
2. Text: Deuteronomy 29:29
3. Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

#### B. What is God's Will for My Life?

1. Theme: God's will for my life is not an obscure set of choices that I must divine using various methods, but His revealed plan and commands as found in the Scripture.
2. Text: Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-17
3. Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

#### C. The Way of Wisdom: Making Decisions in God's Will

1. Theme: We are called to make decisions based on wisdom, which obeys God's revealed will in Scripture and applies the principles of God's Word to all of life.
2. Text: Ephesians 5:15-18
3. Reading: Colossians 1:9-14

#### D. Led by the Spirit

1. Theme: The Holy Spirit leads God's children by revealing God's will in Scripture, enabling us to understand, giving us a desire to follow, and empowering us to obey.
2. Text: Romans 8:12-17
3. Reading: Galatians 5:16-26

#### E. Transformed by the Spirit

1. Theme: Christians live in the New Covenant, and are being progressively transformed by the Spirit into the image of God as we consistently behold His glory.
2. Text: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18
3. Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

## V. Excursus: Tongues and Prophecy

### A. What is the Gift of Tongues?

1. Theme: The gift of tongues is the enablement of believers by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language they have not learned and do not understand.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 14:13-19
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

### B. The Gift of Tongues for Private Prayer

1. Theme: The main use of the gift of tongues is for private worship and prayer, and as we use this gift we are built up in our faith so that we can better serve God and others.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 14:13-19
3. Reading: Jude 17-25

### C. The Gift of Tongues for Public Use

1. Theme: When spoken for others to hear in public worship, tongues must be interpreted so that others may benefit from the prayer, blessing and praise to God.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 26-28
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

### D. The Gift of Prophecy

1. Theme: God gives His people the gift of prophecy, the ability to give a spontaneous word from God, which can edify, exhort and comfort believers and convict unbelievers.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 29-33
3. Reading: Joel 2:28-32

## The Holy Spirit - God's Empowering Presence