

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit drawing you closer to Jesus in your own life? Can you share a specific moment when you felt convicted or inspired to take a step of faith?

In what ways has your understanding of baptism and its connection to receiving the Holy Spirit evolved over time? How might this impact your view on the timing and significance of baptism?

Reflecting on the concept of justification, how does the idea of being declared 'not guilty' by God impact your daily walk with Christ and your sense of identity?

How do you practically distinguish between your own intuition and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in making decisions or resisting temptation?

In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to surrender control to the Holy Spirit? What steps can you take to grow in this area?

How does the idea of progressive sanctification challenge or encourage you in your spiritual journey? Can you identify areas where you've seen growth over time?

What are your thoughts on the teaching of a 'second work of grace' or instant sanctification? How does this compare with your experience of growing in holiness?

How does the promise of future glorification impact your perspective on current struggles or suffering? In what ways does this hope shape your daily life?

Considering the four stages of transformation mentioned (drawing, regeneration, sanctification, glorification), which stage do you feel you understand least? What questions do you have about it?

How might a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit's transforming work change the way you approach evangelism or discipleship with others?

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. The Holy Spirit is involved in transforming our lives from before we know Jesus until we enter eternity.
2. This transformation happens in four main stages: drawing us to Jesus, regenerating us, sanctifying us, and ultimately glorifying us.
3. We have supernatural power through the Holy Spirit to overcome sin and live for Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you share your conversion story? How did you first come to faith in Jesus?
2. The sermon mentions that the Holy Spirit works providentially in our lives. Can you think of a time when you felt God was orchestrating circumstances to draw you closer to Him?
3. How would you explain the concept of justification to someone who isn't familiar with Christian terminology?
4. The pastor emphasizes that baptism is the moment when the Holy Spirit moves into our lives. What are your thoughts on this? How does this align with or challenge your understanding of baptism?

5. Reflect on your spiritual growth over the past year. In what areas have you seen progress in becoming more like Christ?

6. How do you personally experience the Holy Spirit's guidance in your daily life?

7. The sermon contrasts progressive sanctification with the idea of instant, complete sanctification. Why do you think it's important to understand sanctification as an ongoing process?

8. How does the promise of future glorification impact how you live your life today?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally listen for the Holy Spirit's prompting in your daily life. Keep a journal of moments when you feel convicted, encouraged, or guided by the Spirit.

2. Choose one area of your life where you struggle with sin. Pray daily for the Holy Spirit's power to help you overcome this specific challenge.

3. Identify a spiritual discipline (e.g., prayer, Bible study, fasting) that you'd like to grow in. Create a plan to practice this discipline more consistently, relying on the Holy Spirit's help.

4. Share your testimony of how the Holy Spirit has been transforming your life with at least one person this week.

Closing Prayer:

Thank the Holy Spirit for His transforming work in our lives and ask for His continued guidance and empowerment to live for Christ.

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the sermon:

Day 1: The Spirit's Drawing Power

Reading: John 6:44-51

Devotional: Just as Jesus taught that no one can come to Him unless drawn by the Father, we see the Holy Spirit's role in drawing us to faith. Reflect on your own journey to faith. Can you identify moments where you felt a divine nudge or conviction? Perhaps it was through a sermon, a conversation, or even during a difficult time. Thank God for His persistent love that sought you out. Today, be attentive to how the Spirit might be working in the lives of those around you, and consider how you might participate in that drawing process through your words and actions.

Day 2: New Life in Christ

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Devotional: The moment we put our faith in Christ, we become new creations. The old has gone, the new has come! This transformation is not just a change in status, but a complete regeneration of our spiritual being. Consider the areas of your life where you've seen God bring about change since you came to faith. Are there still areas where you're clinging to the "old self"? Invite the Holy Spirit to continue His transformative work in those areas. Remember, you are now God's ambassador, carrying the message of reconciliation to a broken world.

Day 3: Growing in Holiness

Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: Sanctification is the ongoing process of becoming more like Christ. As we learn to walk by the Spirit, we find ourselves producing the fruit of love, joy, peace, and more. This growth doesn't happen overnight, nor does it happen without our cooperation. Examine your life - are you seeing more evidence of the Spirit's fruit? Choose one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit to focus on today. Ask God to help you cultivate this quality, and look for opportunities to practice it in your interactions with others.

Day 4: Empowered for Obedience

Reading: Romans 8:1-17

Devotional: Living the Christian life in our own strength is impossible. But praise God, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit to empower us! When we face temptation or struggle to obey God's commands, we're not alone. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in us. Reflect on a current challenge you're facing. How might you approach it differently, knowing you have the Spirit's power within you? Take time to pray, surrendering your struggle to God and asking for His strength to overcome.

Day 5: Our Glorious Hope

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Devotional: The Holy Spirit's work in our lives doesn't end with our earthly existence. We have the glorious hope of resurrection and eternal life with Christ. This hope isn't just for the future; it transforms how we live today. Knowing that we will one day be fully glorified, free from sin and in perfect communion with God, how does that change your perspective on current trials or temptations? Let this hope fuel your perseverance and joy. Thank God for the promise of complete transformation, and ask Him to help you live today in light of eternity.