

Study Notes: Holy Spirit Series Week 1

Message Summary

This week's message kicks off a four-part series on the Holy Spirit. The sermon introduced who the Holy Spirit is, emphasising that He is fully God and not merely an "add-on" to our faith. While the Holy Spirit empowered specific individuals for specific assignments in the Old Testament (like craftsmen, kings, and prophets), under the New Covenant, He dwells within all believers. The Holy Spirit is relational and desires to make His home in our lives. The message outlined five vital ways the Holy Spirit actively works in us today: He teaches us, intercedes for us, leads and restrains us, brings healthy conviction, and empowers us for God's purpose.

Key Points

- **The Holy Spirit is God:** He is distinct from the Father and the Son, yet fully and eternally God. He is God with us, God within us, and God working through us.
- **Resident, not a Visitor:** The Holy Spirit is not an occasional visitor in our lives; He has made His home within us and desires personal relationship.
- **The Role of the Spirit:**
 1. *He teaches us:* Guiding us into truth and giving us the right words to say when sharing our faith.
 2. *He intercedes for us:* Standing in the gap when we do not know what or how to pray.
 3. *He leads, directs, and restrains:* Guiding us into God's will, which sometimes includes leading us through the wilderness or closing doors.
 4. *He convicts and reveals truth:* Bringing conviction that draws us toward repentance and grace, rather than condemnation which pushes us away in shame.
 5. *He fills and empowers us:* Supplying us with strength and boldness.
- **Power is for Purpose:** The empowerment of the Holy Spirit is given so that we can be witnesses for Jesus, not for our own status.

Discussion Questions

- How does shifting your perspective to see the Holy Spirit as a permanent "resident" rather than a temporary "visitor" change the way you approach your daily life, your decisions, and your relationship with God?
- Which of the roles of the Holy Spirit resonates with you the most in your current season of life? Can you share a time when you clearly experienced the Holy Spirit working in one of these ways?
- Instead of viewing being "empowered by the Spirit" as something that only happens on a church platform with a microphone, what are some practical, everyday ways (like the "Spirit-empowered spreadsheets" mentioned in the message) that you can use the power God has given you in your workplace, home, or community this week?