

## SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

### OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

GOD'S PROMISE FOR YOU  
FULFILLING OF THE PROMISE  
SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 1, 2016



#### MAINPOINT

The Holy Spirit indwells all believers and leads them as they live for Christ.

#### THINKING THINGS THROUGH

*Connect the sermon to the study.*

**1. Share a time when you felt inadequate or ill-equipped for a task.**

**2. Why do we sometimes feel inadequate to serve the lord? How can we overcome such feelings?**

**Leader:** though we often feel inadequate to be used by god for his kingdom, jesus sent the holy spirit to indwell believers for the express purpose of empowering us to be his witnesses (acts 1:8). Today we will see how, by the power of the holy spirit, we can find confidence to be used by god for his kingdom and glory.

#### DIGGING DEEPER

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

>HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:15-17.

**3. Jesus decide to tell the disciples about the Holy Spirit at this particular point in His ministry with them?**

**Leader:** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity that indwells followers of Jesus and is the presence and power of God in their lives. The Holy Spirit helps us understand Jesus and remember His teaching (John 14:26). The Spirit bears witness to Jesus (John 15:26) and will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and God's judgment (John

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16:10). Jesus was coming to the close of His earthly ministry and would soon go to the cross. When that happened, He wanted His disciples to find the comfort He gave them while He was with them. Acts 2 shows us the fulfillment of these promises.

**4. When Jesus told the disciples that He would send “another,” He used the word that meant “another of the same kind.” The Counselor will be like Jesus Himself. In what ways is the Holy Spirit like Jesus?**

**5. How is the Holy Spirit our “Helper” (v. 16)? In what ways does the Spirit help us walk with Christ? Why do we need the Spirit today? What do we miss out on if we don’t see our own need for the Holy Spirit?**

***Leader:** The Greek word for “helper” in verse 16 is used to describe an advocate or a counselor (c.f. John 14:25, 15:25, and 16:7). The original meaning of the word carries the idea of “working on someone’s behalf” or “coming alongside someone.” The Counselor picked up where Jesus left off after His ascension. While Jesus physically walked the earth for a very short time, the “another” Counselor will be with us forever. He will remain our Advocate for eternity. If we fail to rely on His leading, we will be out of sync with our mission.*

**6. If we need the Spirit of God for mission, then what is the Spirit of God able to do that we would not be able to do on our own?**

***Leader:** The Holy Spirit is with us and in us. He is what allows us to obey what Jesus commands (v. 15). He is the authority, power, and presence that Jesus would promise in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus taught the disciples about the Spirit because of His crucial importance to the mission on which they were about to embark. The Spirit illuminates truth and guides us to life. Through His work in our lives, we overcome the world and go boldly where Jesus leads us to go.*

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:18-26.

**7. How does verse 18 speak to our identity as God’s children? What does it tell us about how we should view God? How does the Spirit apply this truth to our lives?**

**8. Why is it important that we ask the Spirit for wisdom and guidance as we study God’s Word (v. 26)?**

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**Leader:** *Jesus' sending the Holy Spirit is confirmation of our identity as God's children. Whereas orphans have no parents, children identify with their parents in a number of ways. On a most basic level, children take their parents' name. As children of God, we have the Holy Spirit and are called to identify ourselves solely with God. On a more personal level, we know that God never abandons us. In our ongoing relationship with the Lord, the Spirit teaches us about God and His character through His Word. This is how we are reminded of the things that Jesus has said and can put them into practice in our lives.*

### DOING LIFE TOGETHER

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**9. How are you prioritizing the Spirit's leading in your life? How is the Holy Spirit leading you now?**

**10. Is there any area of your life where you are minimizing the Spirit's work? Why do we often try to do things in our own strength that can only be done through the work and empowerment of the Spirit?**

**11. What are some ways we can remind one another of the Spirit's work and encourage one another to find comfort in our Helper and Counselor?**

### PRAYER

Thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit. Praise Him that you have not been left as an orphan, but are loved, guided, and made new by the work of the Spirit in your life. Submit yourself to His work and commit to following His leading this week.

### MEMORIZE

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." -John 14:15-16

### SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

#### JOHN 14:14-26

14:15–18. How do people know that they are Christians? How do you and I gain confidence that we are born again by the regenerating power of God's Holy Spirit? The world cannot know because the world cannot accept the Holy Spirit. But the disciples were told that the Holy Spirit lives with you and will be in you. Pentecost was still in their future, so at the present time the Holy Spirit was constantly with them. But after Pentecost, he would actually be in them and in every other believer since that day. Consequently, they were identifiable (as we are) as God's children, not orphans.

What did Jesus mean by the promise at the end of verse 18: I will come to you? Some interpreters suggest this refers to the resurrection, while others see another promise of the

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second coming. But in the context of these verses, it surely means the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus lives in us through the person and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit lives in us to identify his children. The doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit does not rest completely on this passage, but verse 17 is of great significance.

First, the spirit was dwelling “with” the apostles in the Gospel era. In Greek the words “with you” literally mean “beside you.” In that sense, the Holy Spirit had a companion ministry to the apostles. He was beside them, but not inside them.

Second, Christ predicted that the Spirit would be in them. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, the same Spirit who was beside them would be inside them. Christ also changed verbal tenses to show the difference in the two relationships of the Spirit to the apostles, from present to future.

Not only that, but this indwelling will be endless—the new Counselor will be with you forever. No orphans in the family of God, no abandoned people with no place to turn. The Holy Spirit will be a constant presence of Jesus with all believers.

14:19–21. How well we remember the song that states, “Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fears are gone.” Perhaps the idea for the lyrics had its birth in John 14:19. When did the disciples (later called the apostles) realize that Jesus was in the Father and that they dwelt in Him? Did they have to wait for the second coming for that? Of course not. The reference to that day must refer to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That frightened, hesitant group of believers huddled in an upper room knew the power of the Holy Spirit broke forth upon them because it literally blasted them around the city, around the country and around their world.

Notice again the emphasis on behavior. A person does not show that the Holy Spirit lives in him by bizarre behavior or belief, but by knowing and obeying the commands of the Lord Jesus. How desperately we need balance in the church. Making too much of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit leads to mysticism; making too little of him leads to legalism. Only the balance can lead to unity. How like sinful human beings to divide the church over the Holy Spirit, sent by God to unite us. As we might expect, interpreters have debated the meaning of the words on that day, although the context seems to point to the resurrection.

14:22–24. The Holy Spirit lives actively in us all the time; we do not need to pray for him to come to a certain meeting, or a certain occasion, or at a certain time. He is not some kind of theological or spiritual helicopter looking for a place to land.

The disciples always wanted to know why Jesus treated them differently than he did the world, and we find that question again in verse 22. But the answer is always the same. Jesus reveals himself to people he knows will respond to him and obey his teaching. The key word of these three verses is obey or perhaps even the phrase obey my teaching. Again the Lord linked himself with the Father and indicated that the Father and the Son through the Spirit take up residence in the lives of believers.

Judas is also mentioned in Luke 6 and Acts 1 but only here does he speak. Likely he is the same person as the Thaddaeus of Matthew 10:3 and Mark 3:18. His interruption, like those of Thomas and Philip, reminds us not only that the disciples were confused about all this doctrine, but also that they felt comfortable enough in the presence of the Lord to interrupt him with questions. But what is the answer to his question? Quite simply, love. The obedient children of the Father receive the Holy Spirit who will manifest (show) Jesus to them, although his true nature will still be hidden from the world.

14:25-26. The Holy Spirit reminds us of truth that Jesus taught. In the case of the disciples, it was an immediate application to their spiritual memories. In our case, it is assistance in understanding

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and applying the Word of God. In their lives and ours, constant awareness of the Spirit's presence is a daily practicality.