

Winning with the Authority of the Holy Spirit

"For the Win" series- Part 10

Use the next few minutes to connect with and learn about the other members of the group by speaking to the following situation: Can you describe a time when, after learning a truth from Scripture, that it significantly changed previously held beliefs or your actions/behavior.

Let's turn our attention to a discussion of the Holy Spirit and His powerful work in the believer's life:

Read the following quote from the Bible scholar, John F. Walvoord and discuss the following questions:

"Those who become Christians by faith in Christ soon discover that being born again does not automatically solve all their spiritual problems. Satan, who has done everything he can to keep a person from becoming a Christian, now changes his tactics to keeping a Christian from achieving a real testimony for Christ." (from "12. Spiritual Powers" at www.walvoord.com)

- After Christ became your Savior, what about your life was still a spiritual struggle?
- How does Satan change his strategy to defeat believers?
- For the Christ follower, what are our best spiritual weapons to combat Satan's devices?

For our study of God's word, let's consider what Jesus told us about the Holy Spirit and what power and authority He should have in our lives:

Book: John 16:7-15

John 16:7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you.

John 16:8 And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

John 16:9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me.

John 16:10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no more.

John 16:11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

John 16:12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.

John 16:14 He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me.

John 16:15 All that belongs to the Father is Mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from Me.'

Let's see what Bible truths we can learn from the above passage of Scripture, by using the following questions in a group discussion:

1. The Holy Spirit is called the "Advocate". What does this title imply and how does it benefit Christians?
2. According to John 16:8-11, the Holy Spirit has a "job description". Using these two verses, discuss the three aspects of His ministry to the world.
 - A. First, list the three different aspects:
 - B. What is the "real bottom-line" sin of the world?
 - C. How is God's righteousness proven by Christ's return to the Father?
 - D. Why is it important to know that the final judgment of Satan is sure?
3. What kind of authority or power is necessary for the Holy Spirit to complete His job description as listed in John 16?
4. Why were the disciples unprepared to hear more truths from Jesus (verse 12)?
5. How does the Holy Spirit relate to a believer's inadequacy?
6. How does the Holy Spirit relate to Jesus Christ?
7. Explain why it is impossible for a Christian in his own power to lead a Christian life.

It is time to discuss how we can take the truths learned today and make application in our own lives:

1. In what area of your life do you sense that you need the help of the Advocate?
2. What misunderstandings exist today concerning the relationship of the Holy Spirit and the Son, Jesus?
3. What do you need to do on a spiritual level, so as to be more in tune with what the Holy Spirit is trying to teach you?