

START HERE

Week Two • Start With The Holy Spirit • Message Notes

Introduction: Hello my name is.... Welcome to church. I want to welcome everyone today as we begin a new message series called Start here where together over the next few weeks we are going to be talking about three essentials to the Christian Life: The Gospel, The Holy Spirit and The Local Church.

PLUG – Get your devotional and on this bookmark, there is a password for the digital companion resources at starthere.church or we have copies at Energy Bar available for purchase for \$5?

Transition: Last week we dug into the Gospel and we learned more about God's plan for each of us in Jesus. This week we are shifting to The Holy Spirit and learning more about the importance of His Work in our life as Christians.

PERSONAL: Three types of people when talking about the HOLY SPIRIT.

- The Curious – You're new to faith and you have questions?
- The Concerned – You've maybe experienced someone weird.
- The Closed – You've been hurt in the name of the Holy Spirit.

The BIBLE – LAST WEEK! OVERHEAD – Only it forms us.

Illustration: I hate crowds, how many of you just love a good line. Like you're always patient. I don't know about you but that isn't me! There's a passage of scripture that shows Jesus interacting with a crowd. It had been a long day and it appears this crowd was unexpected and look at how Jesus responded:

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Scripture tells us we were all like sheep without a shepherd.

Personal: Everyone is hating on sheep today... don't be a sheep or you're just a sheep... So, what does the Bible say is the alternative. What are the other options...

- You can be a stubborn Goat – leading others to harm. (fool in proverbs)
- You can be a lone Wolf – devouring others. (used by devil)
- Or you can be an obedient sheep – living your best life.

Today, We are going to learn how to **START WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

First we must see that:

1. Jesus is our great Shepherd.

As Jesus walked with his disciples, as the disciples walked with Jesus, 100% God and 100% human, they found the great shepherd..

For three and a half years, They spent every day with Jesus. He walks with his disciples. They see everything they've been waiting for. The messiah, a king with real power. **Then one day Jesus starts talking about leaving them.** He looks at them one day makes this incredible statement:

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.

Think about how the disciples must have felt when they heard this from Jesus. They didn't want to accept it but it was true, how, because it was better for them and better for us that Jesus go be with the father. Why? How?

Illustration: Have you ever had to stand in line. Early I mentioned how much we hate lines and waiting. Now think about Six Flags or Disney World in June! Think about the line of all of the people needing healed, set free, advice, access to Jesus! The crowds at times almost crushed him and his disciples, that was just thousands, what about millions, or billions?!

John 14:25–27

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he**

will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Here Jesus gives us his solution to the long lines:

2. The Holy Spirit is our guide.

John 14:18-20 ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

By telling His disciples “**I’ll not leave you as orphans**”, he assured them that, he would not abandon them, that through the Holy Spirit he will be in them, with them always

So, What’s This Holy Spirit like? There is no God in Heaven who is unlike Jesus! The presence and power of the Holy Spirit IS the presence and power of Jesus. Jesus was full of grace and truth. The Holy Spirit is full of grace and truth. Jesus leads and guides His disciples. The Holy Spirit does too. Jesus rescues spiritual orphans enslaved to the power of sin. And He does it by the power of the Holy Spirit, “**the Spirit of truth**” who shows you reality, by telling you the truth!

Where does the Holy Spirit first appear in Scripture? Page one, sentence two? **Just in case you need a refresher on the details, Genesis 1:2** shows us a Holy Spirit who is hovering over deep chaos, ready to create order and goodness.

In Genesis 1, the Holy Spirit brings beauty and goodness to the world through God’s words. In Exodus 31, the Holy Spirit brings beauty and goodness to the world through God’s people. That’s the Old Testament picture.

Here in **John 14**, Jesus reveals to us a Holy Spirit who is not only intimately involved in the work of the life of the Trinity, but wants to be intimately involved in *your* life.

Here's how it works:

The Father sends Jesus to rescue us. (John 3:16)

Jesus, the Son, purchases our freedom with His own blood, redeeming us from the power of sin by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).

The Holy Spirit, empowers us to call God "Father" (Romans 8:15) and constantly reminds us that we are in the family as God's children! (Rom. 8:16)

As we wrap up together and dig deeper this week, I want to ask you a question:

Have you ever felt like you *lacked confidence in standing up for Christ?* Perhaps you are living in a place where you feel a lack of boldness, and even ashamed of Christ at times.

Even the Apostle Peter, one of Jesus three closest friends, missed it. On the toughest day of Jesus' life, Peter denied Christ - not once, not twice, but three times.

- **But fifty days later**, on the day of Pentecost, Peter shared Christ boldly and thousands of people were saved. Then there is an account where he stands up and boldly professes Jesus to those who had Jesus crucified.:

Acts 4:13

The members of the council were **amazed** when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

It wasn't a different Peter; it was a different power. When the power of the Holy Spirit comes upon you – things begin to change for you.

3. The Holy Spirit is our power.

This power fuels the Christian life. Without it you are stuck! Paul writes in the book of **Ephesians 5:18**: Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- The verb tense of the word *filled* there is the present active continuous, so you can read this to say... be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- God gives you the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit to minister love, grace, and healing to a very hurting world. Paul shared of the many gifts that accompany the infilling of the Holy Spirit in

1 Corinthians 12:7-11: A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

As we close, dig deeper I want to encourage you to be open to the person of the Holy Spirit. [We need Him working in our lives, why?](#)

4. The Holy Spirit gives us life.

You can experience a deeper love for Jesus and see life-changing results as you welcome the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life.

Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Personal: Feeling tired, feeling empty. Challenges of the day, relationships, work, raising children, being persecuted for your faith. That's where God's power steps in and comes upon your life.

So what do you do to experience the power of the Holy Spirit?

You ask, the same way you receive anything. Ask for the Holy Spirit's presence, His power. It's crying out, "God, fill me." **Luke 11:9-10** says: "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

This week we are going to dig deeper in our devotionals about the person of the Holy Spirit, his work in our life and the power He offers us as Christians. My encouragement is to lean in and allow Him to speak to you, fill you and empower you every day.

Let's Pray