

# Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of September 4, 2022 A.D.

## God's Spirit Working in You

It is the Holy Spirit's job to produce Christlike character in you. You cannot reproduce the character of Jesus on your own strength. However, by making right choices, you can cooperate with the Holy Spirit to become the person that Jesus wants you to be.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

### **Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

1. According to these verses, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer? Have you experienced this working of the Holy Spirit in your life? If not, why not? If so, how and why?
2. Freedom is a big deal for everybody. Read 2 Cor. 3:17, John 8:36, and Gal. 5:13. Please answer and discuss these questions: Are we absolutely free in Christ? Or, are there limits to a Christian's freedom? Feel free to discuss these questions at length.

### **Read Philippians 2:12-13**

3. If we are free in Christ, why does Paul tell us to work out our salvation with "fear and trembling"? What does it mean to "work out" your salvation: (a) as an individual? (b) collectively as a church? Please explain your answers and offer examples.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

4. If we are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8-9), why do works matter at all (Eph. 2:10)? In your own life, what priority, if any, do you place on the eternal rewards which will be given to you by Jesus?

### **Read Joshua 3:9-17**

5. In this historical event, at what point did the Holy Spirit release his power? Did the release of the Holy Spirit's power depend on any initiative by the people involved? Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? Or, better yet, what do obedience and faith have to do with the release of the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of (a) a believer? and (b) your church? Is this a principle which is always true? If so, why does the Holy Spirit choose to insist on this principle?

### **Read Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; and 2 Peter 1:5-9**

6. These are a few of the Bible verses which command Christians to "make every effort" to achieve a specific result. Do these verses contradict or confirm the teaching that our salvation is by grace and not by works?

### **Read Ephesians 4:17-24**

7. Read again verse 22. Is it a one-time event (or is it a series of events) to "put off your old self"? How can the "old self" continue to be corrupted after you have experienced salvation? Please explain (a) your role and (b) the Holy Spirit's role in the act of putting "off your old self."
8. Read again verse 23. What is an "attitude"? How important is attitude in a person's approach to life? What does it mean to "be made new in the attitude of your minds"? Can the Holy Spirit change your attitude without your co-operation and your approval?
9. Read verse 24. Is this verse a command or a suggestion? In your opinion, does God expect each and every Christian to change their attitude to conform to the teachings of Christ? If not, why not? If so, how and why?
10. In your opinion, does the teaching of verse 24 receive appropriate emphasis in (a) the current-day American church? (b) in your church?

**Consider:** The Holy Spirit is your encourager, comforter, helper, and friend. You cannot live the Christian life without Him. In what areas of your life do you need to ask for the Holy Spirit's power to enable you to be like Christ today? Will you allow Him to have His way with you? "You think about that." Amen