



Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

John 14.15-27 | June 20, 2021

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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue in our series about the promised gift of God, The Holy Spirit. We are calling this six-week study *Forgotten God*, considering our tendency to neglect the third person of the Trinity. Jesus makes a powerful promise in **John 14**, and we want to explore the purpose and power of that promise as we engage God's word together this week.

I will never forget a Church Retreat in 2008 and the main theme of our worship/teaching time together. Four simple, yet profound words have been "stuck in my soul" ever since...**HOLY SPIRIT, TAKE OVER!!!** I can not tell how many times I have prayed that prayer over the last 13 years....

We learned a few weeks ago that **Acts 1.8** records these words of Jesus to His disciples, **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** **Acts 2** then records the Day of Pentecost where Jesus sends the Holy Spirit with power upon the people in Jerusalem. The truth is that we all need this (*dunamis*) power to be the salt and light Jesus calls us to be. Where we are weak - He is strong! Let's give thanks together that Jesus keeps his promises!!!

II. Connecting with One Another

Who was the best counselor/coach you ever had? Why was this person so special? Have you ever prayed (or been prayed over) for the Holy Spirit's empowerment to come upon you?

III. Study the Text

a. Read **John 14.15-21**.

How are the disciples to show love to one another (see **John 13.34-35**)? To Jesus? (**14.15, 21, 23-24**)

What do you learn about the Holy spirit in **verses 16-17**?

b. Read **John 14.22-24**.

How did Jesus answer Judas' question in **verse 22**? Or did he? What is Jesus teaching His disciples here?

c. Read **John 14.25-27**.

What more do you learn about the Holy Spirit in **verses 25-27**? What is the relationship of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to the believer? To each other?



What is the difference between how Jesus gives peace and how the world does?

d. How has the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus in a deeper way your life?

IV. Pray

- a. Take some time to reflect on the Prayer of St. Francis printed below. As you do, what does the Spirit of God impress upon your heart? How might you be an instrument of God's peace in your relationships today?

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

- b. On a scale from 1 (smooth sailing) to 10 (furious storm), what is your peace quotient? Why? Where do you need Jesus' peace? Where can you find hope in this passage?
- c. Reflect on ways you might breathe out this simple, yet profound prayer: "Holy Spirit take over in my faith and my life."

V. Digging Deeper

- a. The Scripture reading from Sunday was **Romans 8.1-11**

What do you remember about the Ascension of Jesus and His promise to send the Holy Spirit to empower His followers at Pentecost (**Acts 1**)?

In **verses 5-11**, what does Paul say about the option Christians have in living their life?

Read **verse 11** again – have you ever truly thought about the Holy Spirit that lives in you as the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead!?

- b. What other Scriptures come to mind that help you understand the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit?

