

April 11, 2021

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Point: The Holy Spirit magnifies the work of Jesus

Many of us are now at the age that seeing clearly is difficult without magnifying glasses. Over the course of our years, we may have tried to magnify our own intellect, power, or importance. Certainly, we have magnified the accomplishments of our children and grandchildren. Chances are we've even magnified the prowess or appeal of a favorite team, restaurant, political candidate or opinion. **BUT, HAVE WE MAGNIFIED OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST?** As we reflect on the point of our lesson today of how the Holy Spirit magnifies the work of Jesus, let's examine whether we're glorifying Christ by the enabling power of the Spirit within us.

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26-27 NIV

Jesus had already explained to the disciples why it was a good thing He was going away. When He left, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit who 1) testifies about Jesus and 2) and empowers us to testify about Jesus. This empowerment of the Spirit enables us to preach and teach so others can understand and to do amazing things ALL for the purpose of proclaiming the good news of Jesus. The great commission Jesus gave each of us to evangelize and disciple others is given with a promise that we are not on our own. He fills us with The Holy Spirit who works through us and always points to and testifies about Jesus...magnifying Him alone.

“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” John 16:7-11 NIV

In addition to the aforementioned roles of the Holy Spirit, He additionally, 1) convicts us of all sin but, here in John, it's particularly the sin of unbelief, 2) convicts us of the righteousness of Christ, the holy Son of God, 3) convicts us of how our sin and judgement were dealt with by Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. Jesus was just one man and could only be in one place at a time, but the Holy Spirit dwells within all believers all the time! We are empowered and guided by Him in ways that please Jesus.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That

is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” John 16:12-15
NIV

Verses 13-14 explain more of the Holy Spirit's work, He 1) guides us into all truth, 2) speaks Jesus' words to us 3) glorifies the Son. We can rely on the Spirit to help us put to death the deeds of the flesh, lead us and direct our steps and testify that we belong to Him. In and through all these things, we glorify our Savior and bring honor to His name. As we share Christ by the enabling of the Spirit we are pointing to and giving glory to Jesus.

Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, let's confess our sin as He convicts us, submit to His control over our life and share the hope we have in Him with the lost and hurting world surrounding us! In these we will truly magnify the work of Jesus which draws others to Him.

To God Be All Glory,

Sharon Warren