

IV. God's Mercy for Sinners

Paul says that grace is not a license to sin (Rom. 6:1, 2, 15) and John instructed Christians to not sin (1 John 2:1). If we ignore the Holy Spirit's voice in our consciences and succumb to temptation, we grieve the Spirit. But the good news is, God's mercy and forgiveness are available!

Restored fellowship with Jesus and the Spirit

- Acts 5:31; 13:38, 39
- Micah 7:18, 19
- 1 John 2:1:

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (NKJV).

God's mercy not a sanction to sin

- Isaiah 59:2 - sin is a destroyer, ruining relationships; primarily, they separate us from God.
- Psalm 66:18 - "regarding wickedness" means deliberately harboring it, and God will not honor a prayer when we do this.



"There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, Do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, 'These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.'"
1 John 2:1

Ellen G. White
Steps to Christ, p. 64



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Scripture quotes taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated

WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT & WITH FIRE SERMON SERIES

STUDY GUIDE 2

A POWER AVAILABLE

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The Holy Spirit is a proactive Being and can instruct, inspire, convict, and empower anyone to live the life that is honorable to God. But how much can we expect when we ask for the Holy Spirit? Just enough to get by? The Holy Spirit will always meet and even exceed our hopes!

I. The Holy Spirit's Mission to the World

John 16:8-11

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."

A. What 3 things does the Holy Spirit convict the human heart of?

1. _____, because this is the cause of unbelief. It must be identified before being treated.
2. _____, because Jesus will return to heaven vindicating His claim as God's pure and holy Son. The Holy Spirit affirms this and convicts us of our need to receive Christ's purity (righteousness).
3. _____, because the Holy Spirit exposes Satan's malevolence and reminds us that only through Christ can we be acquitted in the final judgment.



II. The Law and Our Broken Selves

The Holy Spirit calls us toward heart obedience (Rom. 6:17) to God's law giving us new birth "from above" (John 3:3); but we also have our broken natures to deal with. Paul epitomizes this in Romans 7.

A. Free From the Law

1. **Romans 7:1-3.** In this illustration, being "free from the law" does not annul marriage laws wholesale, but that _____ change the _____ of things: death of a spouse (circumstan-

ces) now permits the surviving spouse a new one (relationship). And the new pair are obligated to their vows. See #2 for Paul's point.

2. **Romans 7:4-6.** "Dying" to the law (vs. 4) or being "released" from it (vs. 6) does not mean that the law dies, but that _____ die to it. Stop being "married" to the law as a *means of salvation* (legalism).

B. The Law's Role

1. **Romans 7:7-13.** The law exposes _____. Correspondingly, the law is _____, _____, and good! Faith does not nullify the law; we still uphold it (Rom. 3:31).

C. Our Dual Natures and the Inner War

1. **Romans 7:14-25.** Paul acknowledges very strong opposing forces in our selves: one that desires to _____ God's law (vss. 16, 21, 22), another that desires to _____ (vss. 14, 23).



The law of God is perfect, exposing sin, but cannot change a wayward heart. It does not have that function or power.

III. Power to Change Through the Spirit

- John 6:63** - It is the Holy Spirit who gives life (also Ezek. 37:14).
- Romans 7:25** - only Jesus can set us free from the power of sin.
- Romans 8:1** - those in Christ are not condemned.
- Romans 8:2-5** - only with the indwelling Spirit can we satisfy any righteous requirements of the law.
- Romans 8:12-14; Galatians 5:16-18** - Only the Spirit can kill carnal desires and acts.
- Ephesians 4:27-5:5** - a list of carnalities that grieve the Spirit.
- 1 John 2:1; 3:3-10; 4:13; 5:2-5** - John stresses rejecting sinful living; being "born of God" (1 John 3:9), which is *solely through the Spirit* (John 6:63), begets a godly life.
- Titus 2:11, 12** - The grace of God "teaches us to say _____ to ungodliness...and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives." (NIV). **Thus grace, and not the law, changes the heart. The Holy Spirit delivers this grace.**