

“The Power of the Holy Spirit”

2 Timothy 1:7

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Key Ideas:

1. Bookend #2: The Holy Spirit (2 Tim 1:7)

- a. We do not have what it takes to live the Christian life. Just like we need a righteousness outside ourselves to merit favor from God (i.e., Christ’s imputed righteousness), so also we need a power outside of ourselves to live the Christian life. That power is the Holy Spirit.
- b. We need the Spirit’s power to overcome fear and to help us to grow and change.
- c. We need His power to enable us to love our neighbors and our enemies.
- d. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to exercise self-control to say no ourselves.
- e. What Paul is saying in 2 Tim. 1:7 is this: in the Holy Spirit, you have all you need to grow, to change, and to be faithful in your Christian life.

2. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- a. He is the third person of the Trinity. He is God, the Holy Spirit – co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal with God, the Father, and God, the Son. (see 1 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19)
- b. He is a person, not an impersonal force. He engages in personal actions. He speaks (Acts 13:2). He has a mind (Romans 8:27), and He can be grieved by our sin (Ephesians 4:30).
- c. The Holy Spirit is God’s active presence with His people.

3. What is the Holy Spirit’s Role?

- a. In redemption, what the Father planned, and the Son purchased by his death, the Holy Spirit activates or applies in our lives. The Holy Spirit applies Christ’s saving death and resurrection to our lives by regenerating and renewing us (Titus 3:4-6). Jesus said in John 3 that it’s the Holy Spirit who causes us to be born again.
- b. The Holy Spirit accomplishes the ongoing work of sanctifying us—that is, causing us to become more and more like Jesus. (1 Cor. 6:11)
- c. The Holy Spirit empowers God’s people to boldly witness and share the good news about Jesus with others (Acts 4:31).

- d. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to Christians to be used in building up the church. (1Cor. 12:7)
- e. In summary, all that the Holy Spirit does is for the purpose of glorifying and exalting Jesus Christ. Everything the Spirit does—from regeneration to sanctification to encouragement to spiritual gifts—is for the sake of helping us see all that we have in Jesus Christ!
 - i. J. I Packer writes, “The Spirit’s message to us is never, ‘Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me,’ but always, ‘Look at *him*, and see *his* glory; listen to *him*, and hear *his* word; go to *him*, and have life; get to know *him*, and taste *his* gift of joy and peace.”

4. The Holy Spirit in all of Christian Life

- a. Look back over your Christian life. You didn’t regenerate your own heart. You were spiritually dead! The Holy Spirit made you alive. That new desire you had to read God’s word? That wasn’t you. That was the Spirit of God giving you hunger to know him. Every time you loved and sacrificially served. Every time you were patient and self-controlled. Every time you were convicted of sin. Every time you humbled yourself and repented. Every time you have believed that the cross was for you and your sins are washed away. That is the power of the Holy Spirit—the Truth, the Advocate, the Helper, the Counselor—at work in your life.
- b. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the triune God has provided all we need for life and godliness.

Fellowship Starters:

1. Why is the power of the Holy Spirit considered the second bookend of the Christian life?
2. In any area of life, are you fearful, overwhelmed, weak or weary of the fight? How can the Holy Spirit empower you and give you courage, strength and faith to overcome?
3. Is there any area of your life for which you have given up hope of ever growing and changing? How can you depend on power of the Holy Spirit to give you the faith and grace to change?
4. Are there unbelievers in your relational network to whom the Lord wants you to reach out? How can you be empowered by the Holy Spirit to take a step of faith to talk to them or invite them into your home or to church?
5. 1 Cor. 12:7 states that every Christian is given gifts of the Holy Spirit. How can you grow in using those gifts for the building up and edification of the church?
6. Take time to pray for a fresh infilling of the Spirit (Eph 4:18), for fresh enabling to grow in godliness and fresh empowering for witness.