

THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach.

Introduction: Do you remember watching cartoons in which the main character was forced to choose between a good option and a bad one? That struggle was often depicted by the imaginary presence of a red devil on one shoulder urging him to be bad and a white angel on the other shoulder urging him to be good. For Christians, the choice can always be made to be good with the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. We are called to serve God by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-2).

- Paul was a servant of Christ as well as His apostle, fulfilling both the obligations and privileges of sharing the gospel with others (v. 1).
- Paul explained that God had fulfilled His salvation plan, which was revealed by the Old Testament prophets, through His Son Jesus Christ (v. 2).

Reflective Question: Paul was a Roman citizen writing a letter to a Roman audience. Yet instead of introducing himself as a fellow citizen, he identified himself as a bond servant to Jesus Christ, a master whom he served with complete devotion. **When others meet you for the first time, how long does it take them to become aware that you have chosen to become God’s servant?**

2. We are witnesses of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:3-4).

- Jesus was fully human, born of the lineage of King David (v. 3).
- Jesus was also fully God, proven by His sinless life and His resurrection from the dead (v. 4).
- Jesus’ divinity lived within the boundaries of human existence during His years on earth. Because **The Holy Spirit is God and Empowerer**, Jesus relied upon the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to lead a sinless life.

Illustration: In the book *The Holy Spirit*, Sinclair Ferguson observed: “The human holiness that becomes ours through the Spirit has its origin in the holiness wrought out by Christ throughout the course of the incarnation. He has sanctified Himself for our sake so that through union with the Holy One we might be made holy” (p. 143). The Holy Spirit will produce holiness in us when we surrender our lives to His control.

3. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in obedience to God (Romans 1:5-6).

- Salvation is available for people of all nations who call upon Jesus as Savior (v. 5).
- All who belong to Christ are called to full obedience as a testimony of their faith (v. 6).

Illustration: In 2008, Dick and Rick Hoyt, a father and son team, were inducted into the Ironman Triathlon Hall of Fame. This feat is especially remarkable for Rick because he is a quadriplegic. Dick provides the human strength in these races. He pushes his son in a racing wheelchair, carries him in a special seat on the front of his bicycle, and tows him in a raft attached to his vest while swimming. Rick cannot run, bike, or swim, so he lets his father do those things for him. We cannot be holy, so we must let the Spirit produce holiness within us.

Conclusion: Christians should not use their humanity as an excuse for failing to lead lives of holiness. Instead, they should rely upon the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to produce holiness in them.