



The Forgotten God

How Does the Spirit Free Me?

#npforgottengod

Week 5

5 of 5

March 29, 2020

Bottom Line: The Spirit of God not only sets you free from the penalty of sin, but from the power of sin.

Icebreaker: What's the hardest habit you've ever had to break? What made it so hard?

Key Verse: "For whatever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23

Sin's effect on us is always devastating—it brings death. When I accept Christ, I am forgiven and set free from the penalty of death because I am rightly related to the Son of God. I receive unique possessions, experiences, and blessings because I have been accepted into God's family. Now God wants to set me free from the power of sin. I am filled with the Spirit when I am rightly related to the Spirit of God. When I walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, I enjoy incredible release from things that otherwise would keep me in bondage. I know amazing freedom to be completely authentic. When I am filled (living under the Spirit's control), the power that raised Christ from the dead becomes the motivating force within my life.

When I am filled with God's Holy Spirit, I am not trying to live a better life, be a better person, or try harder. I literally am not the person I used to be. I am learning to let Christ live through me. It makes me defeat death; death is always right on the heels of sin, destroying all it touches. The Holy Spirit works deeply and intimately within me to transform my life as He directs my life, cleanses my thoughts, heals my wounds, takes my worries, reveals God's will, protects me from evil.

My part is to **announce that sin is not my master** and live from my new identity. I am not who I used to be. I have within me the Power that exists for the purpose of giving me a whole new way of life. Sin can only reign and rule in my life when I say yes to it. I **choose not to let sin rule me**. I've had enough death in my life, so I refuse to offer any part of myself to sin. When I identify with the way I used to be, I am choosing sin and will behave the way I always behaved. But I have a choice. I have a new identity and a new Power. I **surrender my body, every part of it, to the Holy Spirit**. My body has the power to make a difference in the world. The Holy Spirit enables me to do things I could never do within myself. The Spirit-filled life produces a new mindset in me because the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead provides the power I do not have in myself.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Sin's devastating effect is beyond anything we could imagine. Sin always brings death. How do you see this to be true in our world? How has it been true for you?

Sin is the drive behind all deception, addiction, abuse, the me-first attitude, and all things that make us selfish, unkind, impatient, angry, greedy, and proud. Which of those characteristics is hardest for you to call sin? Why?

What gifts were you given when you received Christ?
How did your life change?

When you live filled with the Spirit of God, you receive protection, power to handle life's pressures, joy despite circumstances, discernment, positive attitudes, new love, confidence and lack of fear, ability to minister through your gifts, and much more. The power of sin is broken. Which of the above has meant the most to you? Where have you seen the biggest change?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

When I am filled with the Spirit, the habits that once defeated and discouraged me and deprived me of authority in life no longer control me. Reflect and discuss. Have you ever thought you were a victim, or your issues were controlling you?

How can you practically announce, "Sin is not my master" every day?

How can you make a strong choice to refuse to offer any part of your mind or body to sin?

What does daily surrender to the Spirit's filling look like to you?

We are globally and personally in a very challenging and anxiety-ridden time. How can "the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead" shape your perspective and the way you give and serve during this time?

NEXT STEPS

1. Commit to daily announcing that sin is not your master.
2. Commit to daily choosing that sin will not rule you anymore.
3. Surrender all of your body, mind, and spirit to God.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The Spirit of God not only sets you free from the penalty of sin, but from the power of sin.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 3:17

Tuesday: Acts 1:8

Wednesday: Ephesians 3:20-21

Thursday: John 8:31-32

Friday: Romans 8:11

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)