

## WARM-UP

- Think about one of your favorite possessions (watch, bag, pen, etc.). Would you buy any brand of this item, or do you have a trusted brand? Why do you trust this brand?
- When was the last time you excitedly talked about a favorite food, restaurant, or coffee shop with your friends? What happened as a result of what you told them?
- Have you experienced working on something continuously, even if it is difficult, because of the reward at the end? What happened?

**WORD** <sup>10</sup>*Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup>inquiring what person or time **the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.** <sup>12</sup>**It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.** **1 PETER 1:10-12***

God's grace is evident in Peter's journey of denial and restoration. Despite Peter denying Jesus three times, God used him to advance His kingdom by the fearless proclamation of the gospel with power and conviction (Acts 2:14-36). Peter deeply understood the Holy Spirit's work in enabling believers to be set apart for God's purposes. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace, we are equipped to honor God and reflect His character, just as Peter himself experienced in his journey of denial, restoration, and ministry. Because we are set apart for God and come from a place of grace, here are three things the Holy Spirit enables us to do.

# 1 | We can trust in Christ because He is the prophesied Messiah revealed by the Holy Spirit.

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Peter was explaining to the early church how the Holy Spirit guided the Old Testament prophets as they sought God about the Messiah that He promised to His people. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ's redemptive work was foretold (2 Peter 1:21), assuring us that God's promises are trustworthy and reliable. We can trust in Christ completely, knowing that His suffering and glory are part of God's eternal plan to restore us to a right relationship with Him. How has this truth helped you in following Christ, knowing that His suffering, death, and glorification were predicted long ago and were all fulfilled?

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# 2 | We can preach the good news because we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit.

*It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.* **1 PETER 1:12**

Just as the Old Testament prophets were guided by the Holy Spirit as they prophesied about Christ, the Holy Spirit enables us today to proclaim the good news that Christ has come. The Holy Spirit does not only give us assurance about God's

plan, but empowers us to preach the gospel boldly. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace, we are equipped to fulfill our calling, participating in God's redemptive work and inviting others into the abundant life found in Christ. How has the Holy Spirit enabled you to share your faith with others?

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### 3 | We can rejoice in our suffering because our resurrection is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit in us.

*<sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 1 PETER 4:13-14*

Peter encouraged the early believers to rejoice as they suffered as Christ suffered. They could endure suffering knowing that when Christ returns in His glory, they, who have the Holy Spirit of glory, are blessed because they would also be gloriously resurrected. This is also true for us today. Our suffering is a temporary trial that will ultimately lead to the manifestation of God's glory in our lives. The Holy Spirit's empowering grace gives us strength and comfort to persevere and rejoice during difficult times, knowing that suffering is not the end of our story. Rather, it is a pathway to eternal joy and glory in Christ. What does 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 tell us about how we are to view earthly troubles and what they are preparing us for?

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## APPLICATION

- Reflect on 1 Peter 4:14. Knowing that the Holy Spirit rests upon you, how should this affect your perspective on suffering for the name of Christ? Write your thoughts this week.
- The Holy Spirit guides and empowers us when sharing the good news of Christ with others. How does this affect the way you proclaim the gospel, even in the face of challenges and opposition?
- Reach out to a friend or a family member who needs to find strength and comfort in the Holy Spirit at this time. Set a time to encourage and pray with the person this week.

## PRAYER

- Thank God for deepening your understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in a believer's life. As you face trials, ask God to strengthen your character and give you patience and perseverance.
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you navigate difficult situations and for the grace to rejoice, knowing that suffering is temporary and serves a greater purpose in God's plan.
- Pray for God to use you to encourage those who are facing persecution and trials for the name of Christ. Ask for the Holy Spirit's presence and power to be evident in their lives.



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