

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 4, The Spirit in the New Testament

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 4, The Spirit in the New Testament, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Peterson's lecture, "The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ," Session 4, focuses on the Holy Spirit's actions as presented in the New Testament. The session builds upon a prior examination of the Spirit's work in the Old Testament, now detailing His involvement with the apostles, in the broader world, and significantly, in the life of Jesus Christ himself. **Peterson outlines how the Spirit empowered the apostles, convicts the world of its need for Christ, and was instrumental in Jesus' conception, ministry, death, and resurrection.** The lecture also highlights the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in uniting believers to Christ, emphasizing the Spirit's indispensability for salvation. **Ultimately, the session aims to illuminate the pervasive and essential work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament narrative.**

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 4 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Holy Spirit and Union with Christ).



Peterson_HolySpirit
_Session04.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 4, The Spirit in the New Testament

Briefing Document: The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ in the New Testament

Overview: This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in the fourth session of his teaching on "The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ," specifically focusing on "The Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament." Peterson outlines the Spirit's multifaceted role in the New Testament, emphasizing its crucial function in uniting believers to Christ.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Holy Spirit's Work in the Apostles:

- **Speaking Through Them and Giving Wisdom:** The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to speak God's words, particularly in times of persecution. Jesus promised, *"It is not you who speaks, but the spirit of your father speaking through you"* (Matthew 10:20). Similarly, the Spirit provided wisdom for their defense (Luke 12:12) and in their general ministry (Luke 21:15).
- **Empowering Witness of Jesus' Death and Resurrection:** The Spirit was the promised power that equipped the apostles to be witnesses of Christ's foundational acts. Jesus told them to stay in the city *"until you are clothed with power from on high"* (Luke 24:49), which Peterson identifies as the promised Holy Spirit and the power mentioned in Acts 1:8.
- **Indwelling and Being Their Helper:** Jesus promised that the Spirit would indwell the apostles and be with them forever: *"you know him because he'll be with you, and he will be in you"* (John 14:17).
- **Directing God's Work:** The Holy Spirit actively guided the apostles in their missionary endeavors and decision-making for the early church. Examples include the Spirit directing the setting apart of Barnabas and Saul for missionary work (Acts 13:2, 4) and guiding the Jerusalem Council's decision regarding Gentile converts (Acts 15:28: *"It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..."*). The Spirit also opened and closed doors for ministry (Acts 16:6-10).

- **Erecting the Church as the Lord's Temple:** Through the apostles, guided by the Spirit, both Jewish and Gentile believers were integrated into the church, forming a dwelling place for God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22). *"In him [Christ] you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the spirit."*

2. The Holy Spirit's Work in the World:

- **Convicting the World of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment:** Quoting John 16:8-11, Peterson highlights the Spirit's role in revealing the world's need for Jesus by exposing their unbelief as sin, pointing to Christ's ascension as evidence of righteousness, and demonstrating the judgment of Satan.
- **Witnessing to Jesus:** The Spirit joins the Father and the apostles in bearing witness to Jesus' identity and saving work (John 15:26-27). *"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness because you have been with me from the beginning."*
- **Inviting People to Come to Christ:** The Spirit, along with the Church ("the Bride"), extends an invitation to salvation (Revelation 22:17: *"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'"*).
- **Enabling the True Confession of Jesus as Lord:** Only through the work of the Holy Spirit can someone genuinely confess, *"Jesus is Lord"* (1 Corinthians 12:3). This signifies a true conviction and recognition of Christ's authority.

3. The Holy Spirit's Work in Jesus:

- **Predicted in Old Testament Prophecies:** Numerous Old Testament passages foretold the Spirit's active role in the coming Messiah, granting him wisdom, strength, and enabling him to bring justice (Isaiah 11:1-3, 42:1-4, 61:1-2). *"The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."* (Isaiah 11:2)
- **Involved in Jesus' Conception:** The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the virgin conception of Jesus in Mary's womb (Luke 1:35: *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."*).
- **Present at His Baptism and Temptation:** The Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove at his baptism, anointing him for his messianic ministry (Matthew 3:16).

Subsequently, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1).

- **Empowering His Teaching, Healing, and Exorcisms:** Jesus' miracles and authoritative teaching were performed through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18, Matthew 12:28: *"If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*). Attributing the Spirit's work in Jesus to Satan was identified as the unforgivable sin (Matthew 12:31-32), a unique situation due to the incarnate Son of God performing miracles explicitly by the Spirit, and the religious leaders knowingly misattributing this work.
- **Active in His Crucifixion:** Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice to God "through the eternal Spirit" (Hebrews 9:14), highlighting the Spirit's involvement in his atoning death.
- **Instrumental in His Resurrection:** Paul teaches that Jesus' resurrection occurred "according to the Spirit of holiness" (Romans 1:4) and that he was "vindicated by the Spirit" (1 Timothy 3:16). The Father raised Jesus from the dead through the Spirit's power.

4. The Holy Spirit's Role in Union with Christ:

- **The Bond of Union:** The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit concerning salvation is uniting sinners to Christ. *"The Spirit is the bond of our union with Christ."*
- **Indispensable for Belonging to Christ:** Paul states that *"Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him"* (Romans 8:9). Possession of the Spirit is a necessary condition for being in Christ.
- **Bringing About Aspects of Salvation in Union with Christ:** The Holy Spirit is the agent who brings about key aspects of salvation that occur within the believer's union with Christ, including regeneration, justification, adoption, sanctification, preservation, and glorification.
- **Contrasting the Realm of the Flesh and the Spirit:** To be "in the flesh" (without the Spirit) is to be unsaved and headed for condemnation, while to be "in the Spirit" is to be saved and destined for salvation (Romans 8:5-11).

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson's lecture clearly establishes the Holy Spirit as the central agent in uniting believers to Christ in the New Testament. The Spirit's work is evident in empowering the apostles, convicting the world, and being intrinsically involved in every aspect of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, including his conception, baptism, miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection. Ultimately, the possession of the Holy Spirit is presented as the defining characteristic of belonging to Christ and the means by which believers experience the blessings of salvation through their union with him.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 4, The Spirit in the New Testament

The Holy Spirit's Work in the New Testament: A Study Guide

Quiz:

1. According to the lecture, what is the main ministry of the Holy Spirit?
2. Provide two examples from the Gospels where the Holy Spirit empowers or guides the apostles.
3. How does the Holy Spirit's role in the Jerusalem Council demonstrate his work in the early church?
4. According to the Lausanne Covenant quote, why is the presence and work of the Holy Spirit essential for the church's mission?
5. In John 16, what three things does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will convict the world of?
6. Explain the significance of the statement in 1 Corinthians 12:3, "no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit."
7. Describe one Old Testament prophecy mentioned in the lecture that foretells the Holy Spirit's involvement in the life of the Messiah.
8. What was the unique circumstance surrounding the "unforgivable sin" as discussed in relation to Matthew 12?
9. According to the lecture, how was the Holy Spirit involved in both Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection?
10. What does Paul argue in Romans 8 regarding the relationship between the Holy Spirit and belonging to Christ?

Answer Key:

1. The main ministry of the Holy Spirit, according to the lecture, is uniting sinners to Christ. This is highlighted as the prime purpose of the Spirit's work in the context of salvation.
2. Two examples include Matthew 10:20, where Jesus says the Holy Spirit will speak through the apostles when they are persecuted, and Acts 13:2-4, where the Holy Spirit directs the setting apart and sending out of Barnabas and Saul.

3. The Holy Spirit's role in the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:28), where the council declared "it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us," demonstrates the Spirit's guidance and leadership in making crucial decisions for the early church.
4. The Lausanne Covenant states that without the witness of the Spirit to Christ, the church's own witness is futile; without the Spirit's convicting work, preaching is in vain; and without the Spirit's gifts, guidance, and power, mission is mere human effort.
5. In John 16:8-11, Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning sin (because they do not believe in him), concerning righteousness (because he goes to the Father), and concerning judgment (because the ruler of the world is judged).
6. The statement in 1 Corinthians 12:3 signifies that a true confession of Jesus as Lord is not merely lip service but requires the inner working and conviction of the Holy Spirit in a person's life.
7. Isaiah 11:2 is mentioned as an Old Testament prophecy stating, "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord," foretelling the Spirit's presence and empowering of the coming Messiah.
8. The "unforgivable sin" in Matthew 12 involved the Pharisees, who knowingly attributed the Spirit's miraculous work through the incarnate Jesus to Satan. This was considered a unique and unrepeatable situation due to the direct confrontation with God in the flesh.
9. Regarding Jesus' crucifixion, Hebrews 9:14 states that He "offered Himself to God through the eternal Spirit." For His resurrection, Romans 1:4 indicates that He was declared to be the Son of God in power "according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead."
10. In Romans 8:9, Paul argues that the presence of the Holy Spirit is the distinguishing mark of those who belong to Christ, stating, "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the various ways the Holy Spirit worked in and through the apostles in the New Testament, providing specific examples from the lecture to support your points.
2. Analyze the lecture's explanation of the Holy Spirit's role in the world, focusing on the concepts of conviction, witness, and invitation.
3. Explore the significance of the Old Testament prophecies cited in the lecture regarding the Holy Spirit's involvement in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
4. Evaluate the lecture's interpretation of the "unforgivable sin" in Matthew 12. What are the key elements of this interpretation, and why does the lecturer consider it a unique event?
5. Synthesize the lecture's points on the Holy Spirit's involvement in Jesus' conception, baptism, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection. How does this demonstrate the comprehensive role of the Spirit in the life of Christ?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Union with Christ:** A central theological concept referring to the intimate and inseparable spiritual bond between believers and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- **Apostles:** The specially chosen messengers and foundational leaders of the early church, often referring to the twelve disciples of Jesus and Paul.
- **Judaizers:** Early Jewish Christians who insisted that Gentile converts to Christianity must also adhere to Jewish Law, including circumcision.
- **Lausanne Covenant:** A significant evangelical Christian manifesto produced at the International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974, outlining core beliefs and commitments.
- **Conviction (by the Holy Spirit):** The work of the Holy Spirit in persuading individuals of their sinfulness, the righteousness of Christ, and the reality of God's judgment.
- **Prophecy:** A divine communication or message, often foretelling future events but also including messages of exhortation, comfort, and judgment.
- **Messiah:** The promised deliverer and king of Israel, foretold in the Old Testament and believed by Christians to be Jesus Christ.
- **Incarnation:** The theological doctrine that God the Son became human in the person of Jesus Christ, taking on flesh.
- **Atonement:** The work of Jesus Christ in his life and death by which he reconciled humanity to God through the forgiveness of sins.
- **Vindication (of Jesus):** The act by which God demonstrated Jesus' righteousness and divine nature, particularly through his resurrection from the dead.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 4, The Spirit in the New Testament, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ in the New Testament

1. What is the primary role of the Holy Spirit in relation to union with Christ, according to this lecture? The primary role of the Holy Spirit with regard to salvation is uniting sinners to Christ. The Spirit is described as the very bond that creates and maintains this union. Without the Holy Spirit, one does not belong to Christ.

2. How did the Holy Spirit work through the apostles in the New Testament? The Holy Spirit worked in and through the apostles in several key ways. He spoke through them, giving them the words and wisdom needed in various situations, including times of persecution and when facing authorities. The Spirit empowered them to witness to Jesus' death and resurrection. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit directed their work, guiding them on missionary journeys, opening and closing doors of ministry, and leading them to make wise decisions for the early church, such as those made at the Jerusalem Council. Through the apostles, the Spirit also built the church as God's temple, integrating both Jews and Gentiles into one body in Christ.

3. What does the lecture say about the Holy Spirit's work in the world? The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in the world by convicting it of its need for Jesus, specifically concerning sin (unbelief in Jesus), righteousness (Jesus' ascension to the Father), and judgment (the judgment of the ruler of the world). The Spirit also witnesses to Jesus, a role in which the apostles also participate. Moreover, the Spirit, along with the Church (the Bride), invites people to come to Christ and partake in the water of life. Importantly, the ability to genuinely confess "Jesus is Lord" is attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life.

4. In what ways was the Holy Spirit active in the life of Jesus Christ? The Holy Spirit was deeply involved in every aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. Old Testament prophecies foretold the Spirit resting upon the Messiah, granting him wisdom and strength. The Holy Spirit caused Jesus' conception in Mary's womb. At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, anointing him for his messianic offices. The Spirit then led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted. Jesus performed his teaching, healing, and exorcisms by the power of the Holy Spirit, demonstrating the arrival of the Kingdom of

God. Even Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection were accomplished with the involvement of the Holy Spirit, highlighting the Spirit's integral role in the entire redemptive work of Christ.

5. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus at his baptism? The descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at his baptism signified his anointing for his threefold messianic office as prophet, priest, and king. It marked the point at which Jesus was specifically equipped by the Spirit for his public ministry as the God-man.

6. How does the lecture explain the unpardonable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? The lecture interprets the unpardonable sin as a unique historical event where the Jewish religious leaders, fully aware that Jesus was performing miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit, deliberately attributed these works to Satan. This was done to turn people away from Jesus. The lecturer argues that this specific scenario, where the incarnate Son of God is performing Spirit-empowered miracles and those who know this attribute it to the devil, is not repeatable in the same way today. While irreversible apostasy is acknowledged as a possibility, it is distinct from this specific blasphemy.

7. What are some of the aspects of salvation that occur in union with Christ, brought about by the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit brings about numerous aspects of salvation that are experienced through union with Christ. These include regeneration (being born again), justification (being declared righteous), adoption (becoming children of God), sanctification (the process of becoming holy), preservation (being kept in faith), and glorification (the final transformation in God's presence). These blessings are all found "in Christ" and are made effective in the lives of believers by the Holy Spirit.

8. What does the contrast between "living according to the flesh" and "living according to the Spirit" signify in relation to salvation? The contrast between living according to the flesh and living according to the Spirit, as explained in Romans 8, represents the difference between being unsaved and saved. To live according to the flesh is to be characterized by a mindset that is hostile to God, unable to please Him, and ultimately leading to condemnation. In contrast, to live according to the Spirit means that the Spirit of God dwells within a person, enabling them to love God, please Him, and be on the path to salvation. This indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the defining characteristic of those who are in union with Christ and belong to Him.