

9. Jesus Showed How to Teach in the Power of the Holy Spirit

In our last topic, we talked about the fact that Christ showed His disciples how to develop their doctrine. Today, we are going to see that Christ showed the disciples how to teach in the power of the Holy Spirit. In our lives, it is easy for us to depend on our own strength, and when we do, John 15:5 tells us that we will accomplish nothing, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” That is why Christ made it very clear to His disciples that they must learn to teach in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in their own strength.

In John 7:16-18, Christ made a very important statement about what He taught. Those verses say, “Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.’” Christ made it very clear that everything He taught was taught in agreement with the Father. By doing that, He was showing His disciples the importance of depending on the Spirit, so that the things they taught were from the Father, not their own ideas.

In fact, Christ also made it very clear to His disciples why they should not teach their own ideas, or teach in their own strength. Verse 18 makes it clear that those who speak their own ideas, or speak in their own strength, are actually seeking their own glory, instead of bringing glory to God. If we are going to help people become effective spiritual leaders, we need to help them understand this passage so that they make it their purpose to bring glory to God in everything they do, including their teaching.

To help the disciples grow in their understanding of the importance of teaching in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ took time to help His disciples understand the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in their own lives. John 14:26 says, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” Christ taught the disciples that the Holy Spirit was their Helper. He taught them that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in His name. He explained to them that the Holy Spirit would be their Teacher in the future. He explained that the Holy Spirit would bring the things that Christ taught them to their memory.

Then, John 16:13-14 says, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” Christ had said earlier that He spoke what the Father told Him to speak. Christ shared, with His disciples, that the Holy Spirit would not teach or act independently of the Father either. Instead, He would guide them into all truth, because everything the Holy Spirit would teach would be in agreement with the Father and the Son. Since neither Christ nor the Holy Spirit taught anything that was not in agreement with the Father, people who share primarily their own ideas, instead of the Word of God, are seeking to bring glory to themselves not to Christ.

Growing Christian Leaders Series – Developing Leaders Who Are Becoming Like Their Teacher 9. “Jesus Showed How to Teach in the Power of the Holy Spirit”

Updated October 2025

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Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’” The thoughts of God are much higher than our thoughts. When people share their own ideas, they are teaching the people the thoughts of men, instead of the thoughts of God.

In teaching, we need to help people gain both knowledge of the Word of God and understanding of the Word of God. The disciples of Christ had gained knowledge but still lacked understanding of certain things. As a result, after Christ rose from the dead, Christ said, in Luke 24:44-45. “Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” They needed the understanding that we now receive from the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 says, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” We can gain a human understanding of the Bible and it will be a history book to us. In contrast, the Holy Spirit can teach us by helping us learn to compare spiritual things with spiritual. The result will be spiritual understanding.

However, Christ also taught His disciples the importance of learning to teach in the power of the Holy Spirit. Luke 24:49 says, “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Christ taught the disciples that they had to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to teach the Word of God or do anything else. They would not be effective if they taught in their own strength. The same is true today. We will accomplish nothing in our own strength.

The last words Christ spoke to the disciples, before He returned to heaven, are recorded for us in Acts 1:8. That verse says, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:14 tells us that they obeyed by praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” They waited until the Holy Spirit came and gave them the power to teach the Word in Acts 2:1 and following.

Acts 2:5-7 tell us the impact they had after they waited until the Holy Spirit came and then taught in His power. Those verses say, “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?’” Here, we

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see that the disciples were able to teach the Word of God with power, because they were depending on the Holy Spirit for that power, not trying to speak in their own strength.

As Peter concluded his message a little later that day, he told the people gathered there that they would receive the Holy Spirit as a gift when they repented. Acts 2:38 says, “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Peter knew that Christ would also give the Holy Spirit to all who believed, as a gift to equip them to teach the Word of God.

We see that the one hundred and twenty disciples, mentioned in Acts 1:15, were all able to teach the new believers the things they had been taught by Christ. Even though there were three thousand new believers, the one hundred and twenty were able to gather all the new believers into groups and help them learn the teachings of Christ, because the one hundred and twenty were all teaching in the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:42 says, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” The new believers became disciples, and the number of disciples multiplied. Acts 6:1 and Acts 6:7 say, “Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ...⁷Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

Although the apostles stayed in Jerusalem, Acts 8:4 says, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” The new believers had learned to share the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. They had learned to pray, and they had learned to yield to the Holy Spirit. Acts 4:31 says, “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.” Romans 6:13 says, “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” As they prayed and yielded their lives to the Holy Spirit, they were able to speak the Word of God with boldness, because they were not depending on their own strength.

As you help developing leaders learn to pray and yield the control of their lives to the Holy Spirit, they will be able to teach the Word of God with boldness. The Holy Spirit will help them to compare spiritual things with spiritual, instead of sharing their own ideas. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders learn to teach the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.