

Sermon series: Joy/Ful

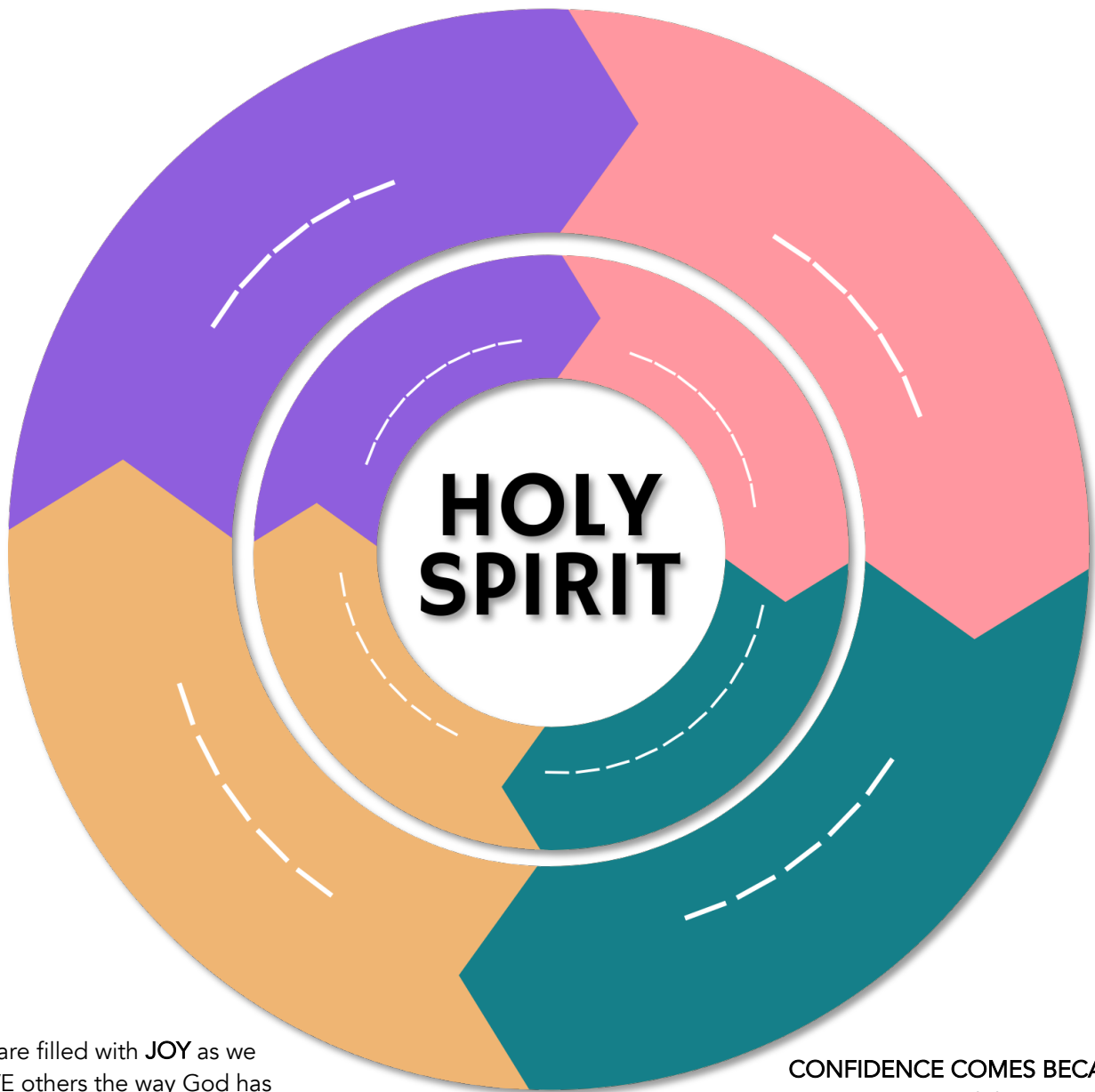
Text: 1 John 4:13-21

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## The Spirit-Powered Christ-Life

*Big Idea: The Spirit empowers us to live a life of confidence, freedom, love and joy*



We are filled with **JOY** as we **LOVE** others the way God has loved us – selflessly, sacrificially, and unconditionally – with the gift of God’s love behind us; the example of Jesus before us; and the power of the Holy Spirit within us!

### **CONFIDENCE COMES BECAUSE**

1. We are treated the same as \_\_\_\_\_
2. We are fully and completely \_\_\_\_\_
3. We are excluded from \_\_\_\_\_



*Describe a time when you felt powerless to do something? How did that make you feel? How do you get it accomplished?*

*Thinking back to the moment you made the decision to begin following Jesus, what was it that “clicked” for you? In other words, what was it that made you want to accept Jesus as your Savior? How does the knowledge that the Holy Spirit was at work opening your eyes to faith inform that moment?*

*What specific element of your faith has given you the most assurance? (For example, that the message of the Gospel is given by eyewitnesses of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection; that you are confident that Jesus is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do; etc.)*

*Do you think that your view of God has been influenced by how your parents “parented” you? How so or why not?*

*In the message we talked about our freedom from fear – either for living in this world or facing God’s judgment – because of the truths that **we are treated the same as Jesus, fully and completely loved, and excluded from punishment because of Jesus’ sacrifice for us.** Which truth resonated the most with you? Which truth is the hardest to accept?*

*John says that just like the wind we cannot see it, but we can see its effects, so also we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the effects of Him working in our lives. How do the effects of **faith, assurance, confidence, and love** show the Spirit’s work in a person’s life? How have these effects helped to show or prove your own faith, either to yourself or to others?*

*With your CARE group or a few friends, read **ROMANS 8**. This chapter begins with **NO CONDEMNATION** and ends with **NO SEPARATION**. Everything in between is the absolute wonder of our life with Christ, initiated by God and empowered by the Spirit. From this passage, what is one blessing that you are grateful for? What is one truth that bolsters your confidence? How does all this free you to love others more selflessly and unconditionally?*