

12th September 2018 - WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ John 14:15-27

The Holy Spirit becomes incredibly important and integrated in everything the early believers did.

- Acts 1:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
- Acts 1:17 In the last days, God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams"
- Acts 11:12 Peter recalls how he receives an encounter with 3 men's from Caesarea and he responds by saying, "The Spirit told me to go with them."
- Acts 16: 6 "They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia."
- Acts 18: 5 "Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified..."

DISCUSSION : What do you think are some reasons we have drawn back from enjoying, seeking out, and depending on the leadership and powerful influence of the Spirit of God?

Why is the Holy Spirit so vitally important to each of us?

1. The Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts. We should therefore reflect the fruits of the Spirit as he lives in us. Galatians 5:22-23
2. The Holy Spirit propels us to the work of God
3. The Holy Spirit should be welcome in our Churches.

The character of the Holy Spirit – a person

Someone who sees God's Spirit as an influence or supreme power will constantly say, "I want more of the Spirit." On the contrary, someone who sees Him as a wonderful Person will say, "How can I give more of myself to Him?"

How highly do we honour the Holy Spirit?

1 Thessalonians 4:7- 8 'For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit'

He is a distinct person in the Godhead. He is involved in a number of significant events, including creation (Genesis 1:2), the transformation of believers as they turn to Christ (Titus 3:5).

The Greek word for Holy, *hagios*, is best translated as a reference to how unique he is (the likeness of the nature of God) rather than just how he is righteous and without sin.

His personality

- He has a mind (see Romans 8: 27), 'And he who searches our hearts know the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people'

- He has emotions, such as love and joy (Galatians 5:22)
- He comforts (see Acts 9: 31)
- He speaks (see Hebrews 3: 7); in fact, He speaks clearly (see 1 Timothy 4: 1)
- He teaches (see 1 Corinthians 2: 13)

DISCUSSION : What are the consequences of seeing the Holy Spirit as just an “it” or mystical power? What are the positive results of seeing Him as He really is: fully God, and fully relational?

Distinct identification within the Godhead

Acts 10:37-38, “You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him”

Matthew 3: 16-17 - When He had been baptised, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”)

DISCUSSION : As a follow on from the last question, in light of this greater sense of who the Spirit of God is i.e. He is still God, and that he is living in us, how does that make you feel – the same God who moved through the garden at the time of creation? In those times when you feel less than enthusiastic about serving him, how do you think that feels to God’s Holy Spirit living in you?

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7 offers some insight into how the Three work together as One., “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good”.

John 14: 15-18, Jesus declares: 15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another** advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Examine the word **another** – Two possible Greek words are heteros and allos. Heteros means “another of a different sort.” Allos means “another of the same kind.” The question we have to ask is, which word is Jesus using here?

John 14: 16 is the word Helper or Advocate. The Greek word for helper here is *parakletos*. Para means “very close.” The second Greek word, kaleo, means “to beckon or to call.” Essentially, He is saying that the Holy Spirit is permanently called closely alongside each of us to provide coaching, direction, instruction, and counsel in our life journey.

DISCUSSION – In light of the knowledge now that the Holy Spirit (*parakletos*) is permanently alongside you and me, In what ways does this knowledge motivate and encourage you in your daily relationship with Him? Does his presence start to become very real after today’s study?