

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

February 27, 2022

About a month ago, I talked about different godly attitudes, different character qualities God wants us to have. We talked about being humble, attentive, courageous, about being faithful, loyal, and positive, and other qualities God wants us to have. And having these qualities means we're Christlike, that we're living like Christ.

Now today I want to talk about a major key to being Christlike, and that's the Holy Spirit. And we can only be Christlike by the power of the Spirit. No person by His own power or ability can be Christlike. It takes God's power, and that comes through the Holy Spirit. - John 14:16-20. Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit, and He knew the Spirit well, for the Spirit was God just like He was God. They had been together for all eternity and were perfectly united, and they had been in continual communication during that whole time. And during Jesus' life on earth, the Spirit indwelt Christ, led Christ, empowered Christ, and worked thru Christ. There's no doubt that the Holy Spirit and Jesus had a very, very close relationship, a perfect relationship, and they deeply loved each other. Luke 4:1-2

John 14:16-20. God the Father gives the Spirit to individual people; and He alone has the right to do this. No one can receive or obtain the Spirit by their own effort or ability. - The Spirit is a gift from God and the best gift you could ever receive. And He's a gift you need - sometimes you receive gifts that you don't really need, but you need this gift of the Spirit if you're to be spiritually healthy, mature, and godly in character.

The Holy Spirit is called the Helper. The Greek word for Helper is "*parakaleo*", which means "*called along side.*" It's also translated Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, and Encourager. And I like this word Helper, this translation of "*parakaleo*", because it's broad and general, and God gave you the Spirit to help you wherever you are at in life. The Holy Spirit is omniscient and knows exactly what you're going through, what your problems are, what your needs are, how the devil is tempting you. And the Spirit is to help you, serve you, give you power, help you have faith, give you encouragement, comfort, counsel, and have fellowship with you. 2 Cor. 13:14

The Holy Spirit is with you forever. Once you have Him you can't lose Him. Ps. 139:7-12 That's encouraging, that the Spirit will never leave you or forsake you, whether it's on earth or in heaven, and so you're never alone. And He'll always be with you to help you. You never have to feel afraid. For if you have the Holy Spirit; you're always secure, you always have strength, you always have companionship, you always have fellowship.

1 Cor. 6:19 - *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and that you are not your own.”*

- When a person gets saved then the Spirit actually comes inside him, and lives in him. Think of the temple the Israelites had back in the OT days in Jerusalem, and how God’s presence dwelt in the Holy of Holies. But in this church age, you are God’s child, you are the temple of the living God, and the Holy Spirit, who is God, actually dwells in us.

This is an amazing miracle, a spiritual and supernatural work of God, that He placed His Spirit in you. Indeed, the Spirit is the most wonderful and incredible gift there is. God couldn’t have given you anything better for He now lives in you through the Spirit. As 1 Cor. 6:19 says, you’re not your own. You’re God’s, He owns you, He possesses you. God is in charge of your life, and that’s seen through the work and power of the Spirit.

John 14:16-17. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of truth. That means He is always right, true, and honest. There’s no error, lie, or falsehood in Him. And all that the Spirit does is based on the truth, and all that the Spirit says and teaches is the truth.

- John 1:14, 17. Just as Jesus is full of truth, so too Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of truth.

When Jesus was on earth, He spoke and communicated God’s truth to the people. And now the Spirit reveals and communicates God’s truth to you. And you need this truth, you need to know the truth of God if you’re to live in the way that God wants, if you’re to be the person He wants you to be, if you’re to do what He wants you to do.

- John 17:17. The way you’re made holy is by the truth. And the Spirit is trying to teach you God’s Word, for God’s word is truth, and the Spirit knows that then you’ll be a man or woman of truth, and then you’ll be sanctified, then you’ll be holy. John 14:26, 16:12-13. And your goal should be to get God’s truth in you, to get it deep in your heart and soul. That’s one of the main reasons you need to meditate on God’s word, to think deeply about God’s word, for that results in His truth being embedded in your heart and soul. Ps. 51:6

Now the world, the unbelievers, can’t accept or receive the Holy Spirit. They have not been saved by the Spirit. The Spirit is not in them. And so they don’t know God, Jesus, and the Spirit. In fact, non-Christians have rejected the Holy Spirit and the truth He wants them to have. And so they are not led by the truth, but by error and the lies of the world.

John 16:5-11. Unbelievers reject the convicting work of the Spirit, and aren’t interested in the Spirit, and the truth He wants to reveal to them, but rather are interested in themselves, and things like food, fun, fame, money, and pleasure. But as a Christian, you have been born again by the Spirit, and you have received the Holy Spirit. And you know the Spirit, you have a relationship with the Spirit, and you are to be sensitive to the work and leading of the Spirit in your life.

John 14:18-19. And so how do we see and know Jesus? Through the person of the Holy Spirit, through the presence, power, and work of the Spirit.

- And how do we live in the way that God wants? Through the Holy Spirit.
- And how is Christ in you and living His life in you? Through the Holy Spirit.
- Now in these verses in John, Jesus is telling them about the coming of the Holy Spirit, for this had not happened yet, but it would in the near future, on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4 – On this day of Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit.

And this is when the church began, and it was by the power and work of the Spirit.

- Acts 2:38 – A person who gets saved is filled with the Spirit.
- Acts 4:8 – When Peter spoke, He was filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 4:31 – The disciples were filled with the Spirit and spoke God's word with boldness.
- Acts 5:3 – Here we see that when we sin, we sin against the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 6:3-5 – Stephen and all those serving the Lord were filled with the Spirit. Acts 7:55
- Acts 8:14-17 – Those who were being saved were being filled with the Spirit.
- Acts 9:17 – Paul would be saved and filled with the Spirit.
- Acts 9:31 – The church was growing by the power and encouragement of the Spirit.
- Acts 13:3-4 – The mission work of the church was directed by the Spirit. Acts 16:6-11

These vss. are talking about the work, involvement, and necessity of the Holy Spirit in the start of the church. And the Holy Spirit is still needed and involved today. Apart from the Spirit, no church can truly grow - it's just not possible. But by the work of the Spirit, Christ builds and causes the church to grow in just the way that He wants. Eph. 2:18-22

Gal. 5:16. We're to walk by the Spirit. Just like we physically walk so too we're to spiritually walk, and walking has the idea of going someplace, of having purpose and direction. every day of our lives, and all day long we are to walk by the Spirit

- Gal. 5:18. We're to be led by the Spirit. The Spirit is our leader and wants to lead us, and we're to be following Him. Every day we're to be sensitive to the Spirit and His leadership, and we're to be doing what the Spirit wants us to do.

Gal. 5:25. We're to walk in the Spirit, but this walk is different than what we read in vs 16.

That word has more to do with your individual walk, this has more to do with walking in the Spirit as it relates to others. By keeping in step with the Spirit, you'll be united with others.

- Gal. 5:22. Here we read about the fruit of the Spirit, and these are 9 different character qualities God wants you to have. Christ always had these qualities, but you are human, and you're not always like this, but this is to be your aim, your goal - to be Christlike in these ways. And it's only by the leading and power of the Spirit that you can be like this.

But here are some important questions. How can we walk and be led and be filled with the Spirit so we can bear the fruit of the Spirit? Here are three key principles that are necessary for this to happen.

1. Be filled up with the word of God. There's a direct connection between being filled with God's word and being filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18-20, Col. 3:16-17

- We see the same result in both vss. which leads us to conclude that when we're filled with the word, we'll be filled with the Spirit. What you need to do then is to be thinking about God's word, and obeying it, and then you'll be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 6:18

2. Be willing to do what God wants you do. Eph. 5:18 is a command of God, and God is commanding you to be filled with the Spirit, and you need to be willing to be filled with the Spirit, and be willing do what God wants you to do. And if you're willing, then you're being humble before God, and He will fill you with the Spirit.

3. You can't have any known sin in your heart. If you are actively sinning against God, then you can't at the same time be saying yes to God, and be filled and led by the Spirit.

- Acts 5:3 makes it clear that if you sin, you sin against the Spirit. Sin and the Holy Spirit are in direct opposition to one another, for the Holy Spirit is holy, and sin is not holy.

- 1 Thess. 5:19 says you are not to quench the Spirit. This word quench means to put the fire out. And when you sin, you are putting the fire, the power of the Spirit out.

- Eph. 4:30 tells you not to grieve the Spirit and you grieve Him when you sin. Vss. 28-31

To summarize, to be filled up with the Spirit, you need to be filled up with God's word, to confess any known sin or sins, and be willing to do whatever He wants you to do. And when you are filled with the Spirit, then you will do what God wants you to do. You will be a godly, fruitful, successful, and God-glorifying Christian.

Romans 8:1-17. We see in these vss. the importance of the Spirit in our walk with God, in living for God, in staying close to God, in living a holy life, in suffering for God. Might we be praying and asking God to more and more fill us with the Holy Spirit, and help us live by the Holy Spirit. Zechariah 4:6