

The Holy Spirit

What Was Jesus So Excited About? Various Scriptures

The Work of the Spirit in the World...Don't Mess it Up!

OPENING DISCUSSION: How do I access the power of the Spirit in my life? A.W. Tozer, a Pastor and author in the early 1900's wrote that "if the Holy Spirit was removed from the earth, most of what happens in the Church would go on un-noticed." There are some who depend on supernatural signs and miracles to prove that they are walking in the Spirit. Others who turn to Christ continue as they were living with only minor changes. Today we are going to discover the work that the Spirit does in the Christ follower and in the Church and how I open myself to His work in me.

What is your background in the work of the Holy Spirit in your life or in the Church? How have you seen the work of the Spirit?

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE SPIRIT: *What does He do?*

Every Christ follower is given the Holy Spirit!

From Temples of Doom to Temples of the Spirit

READ: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 1:13-14

What issue does Paul address concerning the presence of the Spirit in your Life in 1 Cor. 6:18?

Why does He say that our bodies should NOT be used for destructive things?

In Ephesians 1:14 Paul says that the Spirit's presence has a specific function, what is that function? *God's guarantee (earnest payment) that we will get ALL of God's promises. Also, the Spirit's presence and work in us is the promise for EVERY person that has God's gift.*

Since this part of the work of the Spirit is God's work at the time of our regeneration, what is your part in receiving the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)?

The Spirit joins us to transform our character

READ: Ephesians 4:20-24

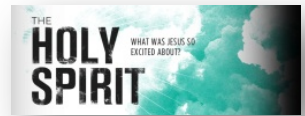
There are three steps to breaking a sinful habit and becoming like Christ in this section, what are they?

- 1) *Put off...your former way of life (the practices that corrupt you),*
- 2) *Renew your mind*
- 3) *Put on Christ's practices.*

Paul gives several examples of practices that we are to put off in Ephesians 4:25-32. Identify examples of practices we are to put off and the Christ like action we are to put on in their place.

25 – Stop lying...tell your neighbor the truth

26 – Don't let anger control you...resolve an issue quickly



28 – *Quit stealing...work hard and give generously.*

29 – *Put off abusive language...use your words to help and encourage*

30 – *Put off bitterness and be kind to others through tender-hearted, forgiveness as God treats us.*

The Spirit Speaks Through God's World

READ: John 14:15-18, 21; 1 Cor. 2:9-16

How does the Spirit reveal God's truth to us (John 14:15-17; 21)? *Reminds me and teaches me Christ's commands through personal Bible reading, listening to the Bible taught, being with others who challenge me, applying Scripture to every area of my life.*

There are other ways the Spirit speaks to us as Paul indicates in 1 Cor. 2, have you experienced the Spirit speaking to you?

READ: 1st Samuel 3:1-11

Leaders Note: I purposefully had you stop reading at verse 11. The message God gave to Samuel was about judging the High Priest (Eli) for neglecting the discipline of his sons and their contempt for Temple worship. That is not the issue here, rather the issue is does God speak like that to us today, and if so, how?

Bill Hybels, in his book "The Power of a Whisper" tells the story of a teacher reading that story to his class when he was a young student and he asked the teacher "Does God still speak to little boys?" Do you believe that God could speak to you like that today?

If God does speak to us today as He spoke to Samuel, or to King David, or to the Prophets, or Jesus, or the apostles, how does He speak, how do we listen?

- *Here are a few ingredients to listening to God's voice.*
- *Read God's word...this is the fuel, the foundation, the basis of all communication from God to you.*
- *Read the Bible asking God to speak to you personally through it.*
- *Journal...write down a passage that speaks to you and the message you think God may be speaking to you. Writing helps you think through thoughts more than just reading or thinking "Freehand."*
- *Listen to God's speaking through others (Preaching, books, magazines, Small Groups)*
- *Deepen your understanding of God's Word...Growth Classes, Harvest Bible Institute (Wednesday night classes), Bible Studies.*

A great resource for understanding how the Spirit speaks to you is Bill Hybels newest book called "The Power of the Whisper."