

Questions for Small Groups | May 5, 2019

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Explore the Holy Spirit — The Promise and Role of the Holy Spirit

Focus Passage: *John 14:15–27, 16:5–15*

Context: John 13 – 17 – Jesus’ “Farewell Discourse” from His last hours with His disciples

Other Passages Referenced: Mark 4:17–21; 14:37, 50; John 14:6; 16:7; 20:19–22; 21:1–3; Acts 2:14, 5:42; 9:35; Romans 8:9;

Sermon Recap: The Big Idea of the sermon is: “Jesus lived beside His disciples. The Holy Spirit lives inside all disciples.” Jesus told His disciples that He had to go but He promised to send them an “comforter, helper, advocate, counselor, friend.” The disciples had the privilege of having Jesus beside them for the previous three years. Even so they failed to understand Jesus’ teaching, were weak, fled when Jesus was arrested, and after seeing Jesus alive again from the dead, they returned to their old way of life. Yet, when they received the promised Holy Spirit, they were transformed into men who preached boldly, suffered joyfully, and understood clearly. They dedicated their lives to taking the gospel to others. Jesus said it was to the disciples’ advantage that He goes, because it would be better to have the Holy Spirit inside each and every one of His disciples all of the time than to have Jesus physically present beside a limited number of them at any one time.

Introductory Comments to Leaders

Over the next few weeks, I would appreciate your help in a campaign to get as many Chapel folks as we can to register for a free account on Right Now Media. Some of you may be familiar with the resources of Right Now Media and may have used them for a small group. However, there is so much there that could be valuable for individual study, mentoring relationships, couples’ studies, children, and many more uses. The Chapel pays a flat rate for virtually unlimited usage by those who attend. Promotional bookmarks that guide folks in setting up their free account are available at the Welcome Desk, the Grow Corner, and where parents check-in their children. Please remind your group members about this resource.

When it comes to practical Christian living and assurance of salvation, beyond trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior, I cannot think of anything more crucial for a Christian to grasp than the truths about the Holy Spirit we’re dealing with in this series. Paul says, if we don’t have the Holy Spirit, we don’t belong to Christ (Rom 8:9). That’s a monumental truth. Another monumental truth is that if we do not have the Holy Spirit working God’s strength in our weakness we can forget about growing as a disciple and being freed from the power of sin. We simply can’t live a Christian life in our own flesh. I pray that the Spirit will fill each of you as you guide your groups and that the Spirit will lead the group into all truth, convicting of sin, and reminding them of what Jesus taught.

Please let me know how I might pray specifically and support you this week.

Background Helps

- The context of our focus passages in John 14 and 16 should be considered in light of their position in what is often called “Jesus’ Farewell Discourse” found in John 13:31–17:26. John chapters 1–12 describe events spanning a little over 3 years of time. Chapters 13–17 describe a period that was probably less than six hours—

Jesus washing the disciples' feet, sharing of the Passover meal, Judas' departure to betray Jesus, Jesus' comments to the disciples and His prayer before being arrested in chapter 18. Because Jesus knew that He would be crucified in less than 24 hours and that He only had a few hours more with His disciples, we find in John 13–17 what Jesus must have thought the most important words and acts He could possibly leave with His disciples. Jesus' separate mentions of the coming of the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit would live in and empower His disciples should be noted as of utmost importance and urgency in the brief time He had left with them.

- John 1 – 12 ... cover 3+ years
- John 13–19 ... cover less than 24 hours
- John 21–22 ... cover about 40 days
- Parakletos — para = alongside + kaleo = to call
 - KJV – Comforter
 - ESV – Helper
 - NIV – Advocate
 - CSB– Counselor
 - The Message – Friend

Hook: *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

Can you think of ways you have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Look—Observing and Interpreting:

READ: John 14:25–27

1. To what was Jesus referring when He said, “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you”?
2. What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do for the disciples?

READ John 16:7–15

3. Why was it to the advantage of the disciples that Jesus goes away?
4. List the further acts Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will do?
5. Where can you point to indications of the Trinity in both of the above passages?
6. Who is credited with sending the Spirit in each of the above passages?

7. Compare John 14:24 with John 16:13. What similarities do we see between Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. What do you think about the concept that we are better off having the Holy Spirit inside of us than having Jesus beside us?
2. How do you react to the claim that the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity—has actually taken up residence in your body?
3. Do Paul’s words in Romans 8:8–9 give you **more** or **less** confidence about your relationship with Jesus: “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him”?
4. As you go about your day-to-day activities, how consciously mindful are you that God’s Spirit is living in you? ... What do you think might change if you paid more attention to God’s Spirit dwelling in you and sending you out on His mission?
5. Which aspect of the Holy Spirit’s ministry as **parakletos** (see above in Background) do you sense the greatest need for in your life at this time? (Comforter, Helper, Advocate, Counselor, Friend)
6. We see in John 14:24 that Jesus spoke the words of the Father who sent Him rather than His own words. This is a theme throughout John’s Gospel (John 5:19; 8:28; 12:49). In John 16:13 we find that the Spirit only speaks what He hears from the Father and Son. As disciples, sent by Jesus and filled with the Spirit, how much of what you say is related to what you have heard from God’s word?
7. What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Please spend some time praying for one another.

What we hope members glean from the passage:

1. We can be pretty sure that Jesus is referring back as far as John 14:15 and possibly as far back as John 13 at the beginning of His farewell discourse.
2. Jesus said the Spirit would teach the disciples all things and remind them of all He had said to them.
3. In His incarnate form, Jesus was always limited to being one place at one time. That also meant His individual access to His disciples was limited by His physical finiteness. However, the Spirit would be able to be with all disciples simultaneously all over the earth. Additionally, the Spirit would be able to empower disciples for ministry and witness that would reflect Jesus’ ministry and witness.
4. The Spirit will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Spirit will also guide the disciples into all truth and declare things that are to come. The Spirit will glorify Jesus and declare to the disciples what Jesus and the father want them to know.
5. John 14:25–27 ... The Father will send the Spirit in Jesus’ name (v. 26)
John 16:7–15 ... Jesus is going to the Father and will send the Spirit (vv. 7–8) ... The Spirit will glorify Jesus and take what is from the Father and Son and declare it to the disciples (vv. 14–15)
6. Both the Father and the Son.
7. Jesus only speaks what He hears from the Father (14:24) and the Holy Spirit only speaks what He hears from the Father and Jesus (16:13).