



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



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WHY DO I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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Introduction:

Today I'd like us to revisit the discussion that we started about the Holy Spirit last Sunday. As we look at what the Word of God has to say about the Holy Spirit, it makes me amazed, thankful and desirous of the power and help of the Holy Spirit that our Heavenly Father has made available to us.

John 14:16-17- **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.**

I. The Holy Spirit will never leave you.

In this record of what Jesus said in John, He communicated an important truth to His disciples about the Holy Spirit. He said the Holy Spirit would be with them and would never leave them. Remember Jesus had interacted with His close followers for a little over three years. He knew He was going to leave them soon and wanted them to know that He would send His Spirit to stay with them always.

In our lives, there are times when we are alone, when we are without, when we are sad, when we don't have clear direction, when we face persecution, but Jesus has promised that His Holy Spirit will never leave us. What a great comfort and consolation that thought should be. No matter where you go, no matter what you do, the Holy Spirit will always be with you. When you are alone, He is with you. When you are in a crowd, He is with you, when you sleep, He is

with you. When you are working or when you are studying, He is with you.

The Holy Spirit makes available to us the power of God to witness, to pray, to know truth. Have you ever purchased a new car and suddenly you see the same brand of car everywhere? That brand of car was always there and the same people were driving it, but suddenly you are more aware of the presence of the same kind of car. The same thing is true with the Holy Spirit. He is always there for us, but when we become aware of the gift He is to us and when we look for Him and seek for Him, we will recognize His presence around us.

Jesus said that the world at large cannot receive Him. The reason they cannot receive the Holy Spirit is because they are not looking for Him and do not recognize Him. It also has to do with the fact that He is The Holy Spirit and will come and inhabit a place that has been set apart for His presence.

II. The Holy Spirit is our counselor.

Jesus' life and teachings are based on truth. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must live our lives based on that truth. Not relative truth that changes or that we apply when it is convenient for us, or when it fits our lifestyle, or when it lines up with what we think. The Holy Spirit will counsel and comfort us with truth from God's word.

Truth is the quality that we should desire to guide our lives. The Holy Spirit knows every aspect of truth and uses it to guide the direction of our lives. To be a fully devoted follower of Christ requires we embrace truth and measure the spiritual depth and integrity of our lives against the truth of God's word. Spiritual formation and the work of transforming our lives happens as truth is applied in our lives. This includes the truth about His will, the truth about our sin and His righteousness, the truth about His love, the truth about who we are in

Christ and the truth about our future. Truth is eternal. It endures. It is fundamental and something that doesn't change. 2+2 will always equal 4. The principle of adding those two numbers has always been consistent and it will never change.

Don't believe the lies of the deceiver. Don't be suckered into following or listening to his counsel. If you give into the tempting thoughts that come into your mind which don't line up with God's truth, you will walk an unrighteous path. Be on your guard because the enemy of your soul will take some truth and twist it with a lie.

Satan did that to Jesus in His temptation. "If you are the son of God, etc." Jesus used the written word of God that doesn't change and is true to battle against the deceiver and his lies. "It is written, etc." The tempter, Lucifer, used the very same tactic on Adam and Eve. His counsel to them was to eat the fruit that God had warned them not to eat. "Didn't God say you can eat from all the trees in the garden? You will not surely die." Lies and deception will never align with truth.

If you look at something and it is fuzzy, it is your sight playing tricks on what you see. Whatever you are looking at is just as clear and sharp as it always was, but your eyes may need some adjustment to see accurately what is there. Truth is what we will be held accountable for when we stand before God. Truth will set you free; lies will trap and bind you. Jesus did not want us trapped and bound so He sent the Holy Spirit to be our guide into truth. The Holy Spirit will guide us. Without His guidance, we tend to lean on our own understanding of what is right and wrong. We tend to determine on our own how we should live our lives.

Let me remind you that our frame of understanding has been clouded by sin, so not only do we need the truth of God's Word to

measure our lives by, but we also need the Power and person of the Holy Spirit to help us apply the word accurately to our lives, to lead us, correct and convict us. The Holy Spirit will empower us to live the truth so our world is impacted.

III. The Holy Spirit brings us life.

In the book of Job we read these words **Job 33:4 - For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.**

Once we are born as human beings, we cannot live without breathing. Believe me; if you stop breathing, you die. Don't try it. The same is true when it comes to our spiritual being. Without the breath and life of the Holy Spirit, we do not have spiritual life. **Genesis 2:7 - And the LORD God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person.**

The word breath here means a puff or wind. There are other places where we see the Holy Spirit likened as a wind. On the day of Pentecost there was heard the sound of a rushing mighty wind that filled the place where they were sitting. **Acts 2:1-2- On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting.**

Jesus' own words are recorded in the gospel of John. We cannot explain things about the wind, but we can see the results of wind, and know the results of breath. We cannot explain how people experience spiritual life, but we can see the results of that truth in their life. **John 3:8 - Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell**

where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." The Holy Spirit is the breath of God and we cannot have spiritual life apart from the Holy Spirit. He truly is needed in our lives.

When Adam and Eve accepted the lies of the deceiver as truth, they breathed the breath of death. That does not mean they were no longer eternal beings, but it meant that the spiritual life force from God was broken and now they were dead where once they were alive.

Jesus came to deliver us from death and from the lies of deception that trap us in spiritual darkness and bondage. Jesus conquered death. He rose from death and He sent His Spirit so that we might again live and once again breathe the breath of life. **Romans 8:8-11 - That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. But you are not controlled by your sinful nature.**

You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.)

Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive because you have been made right with God.

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you.

Followers of Christ are alive in every dimension of the word. Christ lives within us and His Spirit makes us alive.

Conclusion:

We need the Holy Spirit. He is vital to our spiritual life. He is the benefit that we must seek for daily. He assures us of our position in Christ; He is the down payment of Christ's redeeming work in our lives and the promise of our inheritance. Without His breath we are lifeless spiritually. He has been promised to those who follow Christ and all we have to do is ask Him to fill us and He will do so.