

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Christian Faith

What does it mean to be spiritual? It's not mystical, spooky, or hearing voices. For us as Christians, it is to know and follow the Lord, the Holy Spirit. When we are sensitive, aware and submitted to Him we are spiritual people. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit fills our lives today as the Spirit. We believe you will find the discussion and action plans in this series helpful in your spiritual growth.

-Pastors Casey & Wendy Treat

Gathering #1 - Living with the Holy Spirit

Gathering #2 - Led by the Spirit

Gathering #3 - Praying with the Holy Spirit

Gathering #4 - The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Know God's Will

Gathering #5 - The Holy Spirit Empowers Us to Overcome

Gathering #6 - The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

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Gathering #1 – Living with the Holy Spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you know that you are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you?”

MAIN POINT

“Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God’s new Temple. They are, individually and corporately, places where heaven and earth meet.” N.T. Wright

It is important to our walk with God that we know Him as the Holy Spirit. We are born of the Holy Spirit, baptized in the Holy Spirit and we walk with the Holy Spirit. He is our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what ways have you become more aware of the Holy Spirit in your life? Is there something that happened this week which could be an indicator of God’s work in your heart?
- How do you perceive the relationship between God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit working in your life? (2 Corinthians 13:14)
- What roles does the Holy Spirit fulfill in our lives and the lives of those around us? (John 14:16 AMP)
- How can we make certain that we walk with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis?

ACTION

Meditate on 2 Corinthians 13:14 this week and consider how you see God’s continuous work in your life.

PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Breathe in us, that we may love the work of God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

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Gathering #2 – Led by the Spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 16: 13-14 “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

MAIN POINT

“Earthly wisdom is doing what comes naturally. Godly wisdom is doing what the Holy Spirit compels us to do”.

– Charles Stanley

When we live a Spirit-led life, we are guided into the will of God for our life. We experience a richer, more meaningful relationship with God and other people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What characteristics do people who are led by the Holy Spirit typically exhibit, in your opinion?
- When we read Galatians 5:16-17, scripture speaks of the fruits of the Spirit. Which of these would you most like to grow in? Would you say these are true indicators of being led by the Spirit?
- How, do you suppose, could being led by the Holy Spirit help you assume a new identity in Christ?
- When you think of the early church, as in Acts 1:8, what do you think was the purpose of the power that came upon them?

ACTION

Practice being led by the Holy Spirit; for the next week, at the end of each day as you reflect, write down three specific areas where you experienced the leading of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, teach me today to be more and more like Jesus. May the meditation of my heart be acceptable before You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

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Gathering #3— Praying with the Holy Spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:26-27 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

MAIN POINT

“The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for his people.” A.W. Tozer.

When we pray with the Holy Spirit, many things happen. We are able to pray the perfect will of God. We are built up in our faith. We are refreshed in our soul and spirit. We are able to live above the challenges of this world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss a time when you felt at a loss for how to pray in a situation.
- What were your thoughts the first time you heard someone praying in tongues?
- Describe any experience you have with praying in the Holy Spirit.
- In what areas of your life could you currently pray more in the Holy Spirit?
- If you are not already filled with the Holy Spirit and praying in other tongues, let’s take time to do that now. Leaders—follow the steps on the Prayer Partner Outline resource.
- More scriptures to study: Jude 20-21 & Isaiah 28: 11-12

ACTION

Set aside a time each day until the next gathering and pray only in the Holy Spirit. Take note of how it impacts your faith, peace and ability to overcome in life.

PRAYER

Father, I thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Thank you for praying through us to accomplish Your perfect will while building us up in our faith. Thank you for doing a mighty work during this time as we dedicate ourselves to daily praying in tongues. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

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Gathering #4- The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Know God's Will

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 12:35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things."

MAIN POINT

"The indwelling Spirit shall teach him what is of God and what is not."

- Watchman Nee

In 1 Corinthians 3, we see that the Spirit of God dwells in us. All who are born again have the Holy Spirit living within them. He leads, fulfills, guides, counsels and produces fruit in our lives. Our future comes out of the abundance of our heart, directed by the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some examples of people reacting to something without even thinking?
- Discuss areas of your life where you see the abundance of your heart being brought forth.
- In Psalm 37 we are told that God will give us the desires of our heart. What does this mean to you?
- What specifically can you do to change the abundance in your heart if you realize it is not healthy?
- How do you know when the Holy Spirit is leading or guiding you?
- More scriptures to study: Psalm 37: 3-5, Col. 3:15 & Romans 9:1

ACTION

Write down two (2) areas that you can work on refocusing the abundance of your heart during the time until the next gathering.

PRAYER

Father, I thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Thank you that He leads and guides us daily. Thank you God for giving us the desires of our heart as we serve and fulfill your Kingdom. Help us to continually keep the abundance of our heart healthy and submitted to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

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Gathering #5— The Holy Spirit Empowers Us to Overcome

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:37-39 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

MAIN POINT

“When it is a question of God’s mighty Spirit, never say, “I can’t.”

– Oswald Chambers

While the Holy Spirit does not remove every obstacle, He does give us power to overcome. When we follow the Holy Spirit, we do not quit or give up. God does not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to handle. He will always make a way out of the temptation. We can count it all joy when we fall into trials, knowing that God is doing His perfect work in us and we lack nothing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss areas of life that commonly have challenges or obstacles to overcome.
- How can we seek the Holy Spirit to empower us to overcome those obstacles?
- Discuss a time that your faith may have wavered during a storm but Jesus still showed up to save you.
- “Sometimes God calms the storm and sometimes instead, He calms His child as they go through the storm” is a well-known saying. How would this look in our lives as believers?
- More scriptures to study: Romans 8:26-27, 1 Cor. 10:13 & James 1:2-4

ACTION

Remind yourself of times when the Holy Spirit has empowered you to overcome an obstacle. Write down one area of your life that you can activate your faith that He will again provide you a way to overcome that trial.

PRAYER

Father, I thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Thank you for empowering us to overcome any trial that may come our way. We know that we are never alone; you are always with us in any battle providing a way to victory. We seek Your guidance and comfort this week. In Jesus’ name, Amen

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

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Gathering #6 – The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:13 AMP “...[Not in your own strength] for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight.”

MAIN POINT

“True creativity does not come easily; creativity is born of risk and refined from failure.”

- Erwin McManus, *The Artisan Soul*

The Holy Spirit is the creative force in our lives. He empowers us to prosper and succeed in every area of life. Since the Holy Spirit is God our Creator, and Jesus, by the authority of the Father, sent the Holy Spirit to live in us, then by nature, we are creative! What new thing can the Holy Spirit BREATHE (create) through you? (John 20:21-22)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss a time when you felt a lack of creativity or a need for the Holy Spirit’s direction.
- What creative ideas (verbal or non-verbal) is the Holy Spirit giving you to reach people in your life with the gospel?
- Discuss a part of your life that may be lacking motivation to keep fighting or striving for success. How can the Holy Spirit creatively help you overcome in that?
- How might you allow the Holy Spirit to remind you of God’s truth in your life, to provide a vision for your future?

ACTION

Pick one specific area of your life in which you want the Holy Spirit to give you creative ideas to grow, to become more prosperous, or to overcome adversity. Each morning, ask Him for guidance and that He would continue to show you creative ways to grow and do new things in that area.

PRAYER

Father, we thank you for sending us the Holy spirit, the power of Christ in us, the hope of glory. Help us to trust You and believe that You are still the Creator, that you never stop creating. Give us new, creative ideas to be the people you have called us to be, to reflect who You are to those around us, and to bring You glory in all we do. Amen!

John 14:26-27 (AMP)

But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.