



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



The Holy Spirit

June 21, 2009

Rev David Koch

Introduction:

This morning we are going to start a series on the Holy Spirit. Believers have available to them the person and power of God's Holy Spirit to strengthen, to empower for witness, to comfort, to convict, to remind us of Christ's teachings and unless we utilize Him, the benefit of Him in our lives will not be realized. The Holy Spirit is important or Jesus would not have made good on the promise He made to the first disciples about sending Him to be their helper. Even David in his day wrote about the Holy Spirit and asked God in Psalm 51 not to cast him away from His presence or take His Holy Spirit from him.

WHY DO I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I. The Holy Spirit knows the will and mind of God.

Simeon and Anna were led by the Spirit into the temple at the time Jesus was presented to be dedicated to God. It was the Holy Spirit who guided them to be at the right place at the right time.

The Holy Spirit directed Philip to go into the desert and meet an Ethiopian man who was a seeker and Philip had the joy of introducing him to Jesus as Savior and baptizing him in water. This man was

influential in the government and so because of the knowledge of the Holy Spirit and the obedience of Philip, the gospel was spread back to the Ethiopian nation. It was the Holy Spirit who guided both of these men to be at the right place at the right time.

The Holy Spirit gave Ananias the knowledge that Saul, who had persecuted the church, was seeking God and needed a healing. Without anyone telling Ananias, the Holy Spirit directed him to go pray for Saul to receive his sight. Saul had been forceful in arresting believers and persecuting the church. It

was the Holy Spirit who guided Ananias to the right place and the right time. This would be like the Holy Spirit telling us where Osama Bin Ladin was hiding out and to go pray for him to get saved.

In the book of Acts, the disciples at times were directed to go or not to go to a certain city, or a certain country and there to preach the gospel. So the Holy Spirit knows what the will of God is and wants to use us in fulfilling God's will.

II. The Holy Spirit helps us know how to pray.

Romans 8:26 - And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

There is a definite connection between the Holy Spirit, us and God. At times we are limited in our ability to pray. In my own prayer time there are times that I don't really know how I should pray according to God's will. I lack the knowledge of what to pray for the way I should. It is in those moments that I can rely on the Holy Spirit to pray for me. Perhaps you have found the very same thing true in your own life.

Other times we lack the vocabulary to express to God the things we may be feeling or the way we are trying to communicate to Him. God and the Holy Spirit can help us in those times. We lack the ability to go 24/7 in prayer, but the Holy Spirit never sleeps. He is always working, and between Him and Jesus, our **prayers** continue to be taken to God and His throne.

III. The Holy Spirit assures us we are God's children.

Romans 8:16 - For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit was the promise of the Father. Initially the Holy Spirit was not given until Jesus was glorified. Once Jesus had ascended in His resurrected being to God the Father, then the Holy Spirit could be sent. There are times in this life that we may question am I really a child of God? Do I

really share an inheritance as a believer? Will I really see Jesus face to face? Will I have all the blessings that are promised to me in God's word? The Holy Spirit brings us assurance when we may question truth. He is the guarantee that everything we have been promised will be ours.

Ephes. 1:13-14 - And now you also have heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us everything he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. This is just one more reason for us to praise our glorious God.

IV. The Holy Spirit wants to bless your life, not ruin it.

God wants to bless us! God's blessing can be in giving you spiritual children. God's blessing can be in keeping you from disease. God's blessing can be leading you in paths of righteousness. Don't ever let anyone tell you that God's blessing is not for today, but don't automatically think His blessing is simply material. He wants to give us spiritual blessings.

Ephes. 5:18 - Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.

The choices we make as to what we put inside of us and what we let control us are powerful choices. We can give control of ourselves to substances, to emotions, to thoughts, to doubts and fears or we can give control of our self, emotions and thoughts to the person of the Holy Spirit. Whatever you give control of your life to, that person or thing is the Lord of your life.

There are things that are detrimental to our life. You can put poison in your body and it will kill you. You can overdose on food and it will harm you. There are ways to harm and ruin your life and you are the one who has a say in all that. The things of God will not harm you. In fact the things of God will enrich and strengthen you and bring joy to your heart. The choice to pursue God will not hurt you. It will not ruin your life. It will help you.

Luke 11:11-13 - You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

When it comes to knowing what would be harmful or what would be good to give as gifts to our children, Jesus uses the illustration that even though we are flawed and sinful individuals, with desires and ways that are not like His, we still know how to give good gifts to our children.

What do we need to do to receive this blessing that will enrich our life and is so needed for us? We have to ask Him. The Heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Jesus understood the necessity of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He understood how beneficial the Holy Spirit was to Him and would be to us. He knew what the early church and the church of today would need to accomplish His will and accomplish the spreading of the gospel and that it would take supernatural power

Conclusion:

There is nothing God won't do for us when we ask Him if it is in line with His will. He wants to be asked. He delights in responding to the requests of His people. It brings joy to His being to fill you with His Holy Spirit because He knows how the Holy Spirit is beneficial to us. He will not deny us what His word promises us.

There are many purposes for the Holy Spirit. Among all those purposes is that He is given to comfort, convict, and convince. He is given to direct, to bless, to help us pray and to assure us of what is yet to come. The work of the Holy Spirit involves comforting those who need comfort. When someone you love moves away, or you experience the loss of closeness in relationship, it brings sadness and sorrow. Jesus knew that His death, resurrection and ascension would take His physical presence away from His disciples and for that reason He promised a comforter who would be with them and in them.

Today is Father's Day. It is a day for us to honor, recognize and respect our dads. We first of all need to honor and thank and respect and recognize our Heavenly Father. He is worthy to be praised and adored. Then we also need to thank and respect and honor our earthly fathers.

I want all that God has for me. I want to yield to Him, to empty my life so He can fill it with the power of His Spirit.

Let this verse be our prayer:

**Fill me now, fill me now,
Jesus come and fill me now.
Fill me with Your Holy Spirit,
Come, oh come and fill me now.**

to accomplish what He was leaving them to do. There are times that we don't ask. What keeps us from asking God to give us everything He has for us that is only good and will enrich and strengthen us?

We may feel we are not ready for His gift. We may feel that He already knows what I need so why should I ask? To ask brings us face to face with acknowledging the truth of our need. To ask demonstrates our trust and belief that even though we may not have all the knowledge we need, we believe God's word. To ask insinuates that we believe there is value in what we am desire. When we ask we are in a vulnerable position. We place ourselves at the mercy of another's response. The good thing is that we know the response of asking God. He told us that He will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

1 John 5:14-15 - And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.