

A Bible Study on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

This study will seek to provide a biblically-balanced presentation of the important role of the Holy Spirit in advancing the Kingdom of God via the local church and the individual lives of disciples of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. We will see how the Third Person of the Trinity is always involved in accomplishing the purposes of God. We will also try to address misconceptions about the Spirit's presence and work in individual lives which lead followers of Jesus to suppress or fear God's work through the Spirit. Participants will receive questions in advance to help them prepare for each week's lesson.

We will continue the practice of weekly small groups in person:

- 2 PM Wednesdays @ Dave & Ann Wolfgang's—214 Deibler RD, PA Furnace, PA 16865
 - 7 PM Thursdays @ Dick & Marcie Auhl's—250 Bath ST, State College, PA 16801
- AND
- 7 PM Wednesdays via ZOOM—sign on information to be provided via email in advance

If you would like to host a small group or ask questions about this study, please let Gene McCallips know via email at gmccallips@icloud.com

A Proposed Outline (Subject to Change After 1st Session)

Session 1— First Things: What Do You Want to Know About the Holy Spirit?

- This study will attempt to answer basic questions about the nature and role of the Third person of the Trinity and seek to address misconceptions as well
- We will amend the outline to include specific questions raised by participants regarding the way the Holy Spirit strengthens the life of a follower of Christ

Session 2—Exploring the Trinity: The Holy Spirit's relationship to the Father and the Son

- The Holy Spirit provides both direction and power to accomplish God's will through the life of the believer.
- He was present in the Creation, the birth and life of Jesus and the birth of the Church at Pentecost.

Session 3—Holiness of Heart and Life: How does the Holy Spirit Lead Us to Holiness?

- Wesley's phrase "holiness of heart and life" reflects two inseparable aspects:
 - **Heart** – the inward state of the believer, cleansed from sin and filled with God's love and righteousness.
 - **Life** – the outward expression of that holiness in daily living, in speech, conduct, and service

- Holiness can be described as the pursuit of God above all other loves. Paul wrote in Romans 7:1 “..let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear (*revere*) God.”

Session 4—Learning to Hear God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God/Perceiving Him At Work Around Us

- God has created us for intimate friendship with Him
- We were designed with a capacity to sense His presence via our intellect, our emotions and our physical nature

Session 5—Learning to Trust God: The Holy Spirit Wants to Guide and Empower Us

- In Mark 12:30, Jesus said: “**And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.**”
- Jesus told the disciples that it was for their benefit if He went away—only then would the Father send the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower them

Session 6—The Fruit of the Spirit: Changed From the Inside Out

- When we allow God to effect substantial, lasting change in our hearts, our behaviors will more accurately reflect the life of Jesus
- Deeply embedded practices and attitudes can be unlearned when we cooperate with the power of the Holy Spirit—resulting in authentic freedom and joy

Session 7—The Gifts of the Spirit: Equipped for Kingdom Ministry

- All gifts of the Spirit operate per our volition—in other words we will not be forced to use a spiritual gift—thus we need not fear these gifts given by God
- All gifts of the Spirit are given to build up the body of Christ and to help us become mature disciples

Session 8—Living Joyfully: Growth in the Spirit

- We are intended to live our lives as an “amen” to God: 2nd Corinthians 1:20 NIV - “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”
- The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church: “Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2nd Corinthians 13:11 NLT God’s intention is for each of His children to have inner joy and peace unrelated to life’s circumstances as we grow in our understanding and love for God

Session 1— First Things: What Do You Want to Know About the Holy Spirit?

Introduction: The questions below will only be viewed by yourself and Pastor Gene. We will keep information shared here confidential unless you give permission for something specific to be shared in a future lesson. The questions are strictly for guiding the content of this study so that we address questions and concerns that are relevant to all participants.

Each of us are on a spiritual journey that is both uniquely personal and part of the journey of New Life Church. God works in each of us to accomplish His purposes in ways that He knows will match our personality, our inclinations and our hesitancies. We will affirm and treasure where each of us are in terms of our understanding of God's distinct call upon us.

We will trust that the Holy Spirit will faithfully work to move each us toward holiness of heart and life as described by John Wesley and others within the Body of Christ. This is evidenced by a thirst for His Word, a heart for His Church and a deep concern for those who have not yet knelt at the cross of Jesus.

1. What is your understanding of who the Holy Spirit is?

2. What questions do you have about the Third Person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit?

3. How have you encountered God's Presence in your life? Can you describe those times when you were especially aware of God, the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit being with you or touching you physically, emotionally, spiritually?

4. How do you learn best—reading, seeing or doing?

5. Any other specific questions, concerns, fears that relate to the Holy Spirit?