

Fellowship of the Spirit

As we finish our study this week we want to be filled and overflowing with many good things. This comes from being full of the Spirit and the Word; both work in absolute harmony to accomplish this in our lives. Today we look at the fellowship that we are invited into with the Holy Spirit.

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
(2 Corinthians 13:14)

Most of us are familiar with the “koinónia” (fellowship) that we are called to with one another. Today we will see as 2 Corinthians 13:14 tells us, that this fellowship is also with the Holy Spirit. As we talked about last week, he is not a “what” or “it” but a “who”, for he is God.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” **(John 14:16-17)**

“Counselor” (Advocate) Parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos);

- **Para** – side by side, at one’s side relate, assist.
- **Klaytos** – to point out the truth, to call someone to see the truth, to exhort

If you don’t see the Holy Spirit as a person, you will never develop a personal relationship with Him.

Because the person of the Holy Spirit is God, he has the Mind, Will and Emotions of the Spirit; let’s look at all three:

1) **The Mind of the Spirit**

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within

Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.” (1 Corinthians 2:9-12)

The Holy Spirit knows the “deep things of God” and wants to share them with us.

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, they are higher.” (Isaiah 55:8)

“13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:13)

He not only knows everything, but is committed to teach and guide you into all truth.

When Christians receive their new nature in Christ, there are some things that will be true of all believers. First we not only love God, but we love God’s other children. If we are harboring bitterness towards others, there will no peace.

“But the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-6)

Action: Follow the Peace

*“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the **Counselor**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26)*

2) The Will (Desires) of the Spirit

“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept (forbidden) by the Holy Spirit (exercised His will) from preaching the word in the province of Asia.” (Acts 16:6)

The Holy Spirit was enforcing his will by forbidding them to go to the province of Asia. We get to know God’s will by knowing his Spirit, whether that is his will in general or his specific will:

General will – by His Word

Specific will – by His voice

They will never contradict one another.

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*“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the **mind** of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-28)*

Action: Confess your dependence, “Lord I need you.”

3) The Emotions of the Spirit

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Notice that “fruit of the spirit” are characteristics of a person...the Holy Spirit, in you.

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)

What grieves the Holy Spirit, sin? This person of the Holy Spirit can be grieved, sinned against and more. The Holy Spirit loves us but when it says we grieve him, it speaks of a grief and sadness. Because he knows it is a loss of intimacy, closeness and broken fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:25-30)

Action: Turn from Sin; Call on His Name; Express your Love/praise; Listen.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What is your reaction or response to the realization that we are called not only to be in fellowship with each other but also with the Holy Spirit: *“and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”*?
- 2) Jesus told us in John 14 that he would give us another: *“Counselor” (Advocate)* Randy pointed out that the word Jesus used was Parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos); look back at page 1 of your notes and discuss what we learn about the Holy Spirit's role in our lives.

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- 3) Looking back in our notes on page 2, what did we learn about the "*Mind of the Spirit*"? Also our action is to "follow peace" what does this mean to you?
- 4) We next looked at the "*Will of the Spirit*" on Page 3. Acts 16:6 showed that the Holy Spirit exercised or enforced His will in the life of Believers. Please discuss the fact that he wants to exercise his will in our lives and our proper response or action needs to be: "Confess your dependence, "Lord I need you"
- 5) Lastly we also considered the "*Emotions of the Spirit*" on page 3 and 4. We learned that the Holy Spirit is not an "it" or "what" but a "who". This person can be grieved and sinned against meaning grief and sadness for him. Please discuss the fact that the reason he is sad or grieved, because he knows it is a loss of intimacy, closeness and fellowship with him.