

1 Corinthians 2:12-14
The Holy Spirit

I. Intro

If you had the opportunity to be introduced to anyone living, who would it be?

Take a moment here, and share with the person next to you...

So, I had some time, which isn't fair, and broke it up...

If it was an actor - probably Bruce Willis or Matt Damon.

If it was sports figure - Mike Matheny or LeBron James.

If it was Christian figure - I'd love to meet Tim Keller, who is a preacher in New York who's sermons have had a huge impact on me.

If it was someone influential - JK Rowling, the Harry Potter author, or Bill Gates.

If it was a musician - Eddie Vetter, or of course Kelly Clarkson.

It's a fun exercise, isn't it. To think about someone important or a celebrity that we could be introduced to.

But there's something shallow about it too. I've had the opportunity to meet a few celebrities in my life, and as cool as it is, there is always something lacking afterwards. Why?

Because I didn't really have the opportunity to get to know them. To know their story. To know who they are.

The fact is it was just an impersonal encounter. And after about 10 minutes with a celebrity, it's like... what do you talk about.

Today I would like to introduce to someone... someone that wants to change your life... someone who wants to be known... someone who wants to have a very real encounter with you.

Today I want to introduce you to the Holy Spirit, and you need to know that this introduction, can and will be the most significant person you will ever meet.

We are in the middle of a series called equip to serve, and we are talking about how God is transforming us.

Last week John talked about part of what the Spirit does in those who call themselves followers of Jesus. He reshapes our identity and re-aligns our allegiances. And over the next 9 weeks we are going to continue to look at what the Holy Spirit is doing in the life of the Christian.

But we thought it was important to take a week to address the question: If the Holy Spirit lives in me to do all these radical, life changing things, who is He?

So here's what we are going to do today... We'll talk about why I need to know the Holy Spirit? Who is the Holy Spirit? And How do I get to know the Holy Spirit?

Why I should get to know Him? Who He is? And How I get to know Him?

1. Why should I get to know the Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

a. Because of what He can do.

Do see what the Holy is accomplishing in these verses? He is uniting anyone who will put their faith in Jesus. Jews or Greeks. Slave or Free. The Spirit has the unique power to take people from all walks of life and unite them.

You see everyone who puts their faith in Jesus is baptized with the Spirit. That means at the moment who acknowledge your need for Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to permanently live in you. And that presence is had by all Christ followers.

And the Spirit is so unique and powerful that it unites all races, all genders, all economic positions.

There's not some Christians who are on the 'in' and some on the 'outs'.

Isn't that exactly what our world is looking for?

b. Because the Christian Life is impossible without Him.

Now the other reason you should get to know the Holy Spirit is the Christian life is impossible without Him. Look at what Paul says, we were made to drink of one Spirit. When you are in Christ, you are made to drink of the Spirit.

Listen, the church misses this a lot... we get people to the cross... we say Jesus died for your sins... Jesus saves you... now go read your Bible and go do the things Jesus did! And we're like, are you kidding me?!

John talks about how examples are dangerous. We can't look at Lebron James and be like Lebron. We can't listen to Kelly Clarkson all the time and start to sing like Kelly. Trust me... I've tried.

But there is an example from Christ we can actually learn from... His entire ministry He was led by the Spirit. He drank from the Spirit.

Listen, the only person who ever lived the Christian life was Jesus, and He did it by yielding to the Spirit. And now Paul is reminding us that we have been given that same Spirit to drink from. Why? So we can experience Him living the Christian life through us!

Friends... are you frustrated today? Are you struggling to sense the power of God in your life? Are you struggling to see true change?

The answer to all of those issues are experiencing the power of the Spirit in your life. So... who is the Spirit?!

2. Who is He?

John 14:15-17

a. He is God.

So, Jesus says I am going to send you 'another advocate'. Look at what Jesus says... I will give you 'another'...

Now, there are two ways to talk about another. One Greek word for another is "Hetero", which means opposed or different to the former. So, here is one book, here is another... This is one book and this is another book different from the first one.

Now, the other Greek word that can be used is Allos, which means just like the former. Here is one book and here is another, the same as. This is the word Jesus uses.

Have you ever wished that Jesus would show up so you could see Him, so there would be something tangible there?

He is saying, I am sending you someone just like me!

If you put your faith in Jesus than what He says is, the Father will give you the Holy Spirit, and He embodies all that I am. He is God.

Jesus says I am going away, and the Holy Spirit is coming, therefore, I'm coming.

Jesus is so one with the Holy Spirit that when the Holy Spirit comes into your life, Jesus comes.

Look at **John 14:23...** The Father and Son will make their home in you.

Here's the point, **the Holy Spirit is the divine presence of God in the middle of your life.**

b. He is a person.

Now, He is not an impersonal force, He is the presence of the Christ.

Let me try and tease this out for you, if you think of the Holy Spirit as a force or electrical charge, then the way to experience Him is to push buttons. You pray in certain ways, live a certain way and then bam you get this surge...

But the Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit has a mind- 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 tells us He knows the thoughts of God. The Holy Spirit has feelings -He can be grieved, He can be quenched. The Holy Spirit has a will - He gives gifts.

This is significant because if the Holy Spirit is a person, it means He interacts with people as a person. He speaks. He helps. He counsels. And, look at the John verse again. He is our advocate. So why advocate? Well the Greek word here is paraklete. Everyone say paraklete... Para means not be in front or behind, but to stand along side. Kaleo means to declare or to call or to argue.

What does this mean? It means when our hearts condemn us, the Holy Spirit is greater than our hearts. The Holy Spirit is our counselor, He is the presence of Jesus and He comes alongside us to help us really change.

Our hearts do not like the idea of grace. We want to earn it! Why are we like that? Because we want to be in control. And so we live lives where we have doubts and fears, we are not sure if God loves us because we mess up, we feel like there is no way God can love us.

And the Holy Spirit comes and argues. He defends you against accusation. The Holy Spirit is your legal advocate. And He will not stop defending you, supporting you, until you become the glorious person God created you to be! He is going to oppose anything in your heart that will distract you and He will not let you go. This is a friend who is utterly for you!

3. How do I get to know Him?

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

a. Through community.

Paul is unpacking for us this truth about who the Spirit is in the context of community. We learn who the spirit is and what He does when we are with others. When we live as the body of Christ. The same Spirit is at work in all of us and we need each other to get to know Him.

b. Through awareness of His presence (bad picture: piano lessons, good picture: Dondra)

When I was growing up my mom made me practice piano everyday. 20 minutes everyday. Oh I hated it, of course I am thankful now, but I hated it. Now when my mom's presence was there, when she was around, I did a good job practicing. I would do my scales, my arpeggios, and play through all of the songs. But when her presence wasn't there, ahh, it didn't look quite the same. Do you ever take the time to think that the person of God is with you in the Holy Spirit?

But let me illustrate it positively. When I was in college I lived a suite with a bunch of guys and every once in a while this amazing girl would come by. Her name was Dondra. When she came by her presence was impacting. When I was with her there was joy, and happiness, and love that was stirred in my heart.

This is what the Spirit does. His presence speaks truth when I need it and also He speaks love when I need it. You get to know Him by acknowledging His presence.

II. Conclusion

If you had the opportunity to be introduced to anyone living, who would it be?

My hope today is that there is something stirred in you to know the Holy Spirit.

He is alive and wants you to experience the beauty of the Christian life.

Let's get to know Him and His power this week.