



## **A Person to Know – Part 1 – The Familiar Stranger (September 14, 2025)**

### **Sermon Recap**

- Many of us treat the Holy Spirit like a “familiar stranger”—we’ve heard His name, maybe seen His work, but don’t really know Him.
- The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force to use but a divine Person to know, love, and follow.
- Jesus said it was better for Him to leave so the Spirit could come (John 16:7). The Spirit lives in believers—guiding, interceding, grieving, desiring, empowering.
- How we respond matters: we can welcome or ignore Him, honor or grieve Him, walk with or resist Him.

### **Connect (Icebreaker)**

- Share a time when you forgot someone’s name or face in an awkward way. How did you handle it?
- Who in your life is amazing at remembering names and details about people? What makes them so good at it?

### **Contemplate (Scripture & Discussion)**

#### ***Read John 16:5–7***

- Why do you think Jesus said it was better for Him to leave so the Spirit could come?
- How does the truth “the Spirit inside you is better than Jesus beside you” challenge the way you view your relationship with God?

#### ***Read John 14:16–17***

- What does this passage reveal about the Spirit’s role in our lives?
- Why is it important to remember that the Spirit is a Person and not just a “force”?

#### ***Read Romans 8:27***

- What does it mean that the Spirit intercedes for us? How is this comforting when you don’t know what to pray?

#### ***Read Ephesians 4:30***

- What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? What kinds of attitudes or actions in our relationships might do this?
- How does thinking about the Spirit’s emotions change the way you live?

### **Consider (Application)**

- Do you tend to think of the Spirit more as a “power” or as a “person”? Why?
- Which truth about the Spirit (personal, eternal, praying for us, holy, emotional, powerful, etc.) stood out most to you today?
- In what ways might you be unintentionally ignoring or resisting the Spirit in your life?
- What would it look like for you to more intentionally welcome and honor the Holy Spirit this week?

### **Cover (Prayer)**

- Thank God for the gift of His Spirit who lives in us.
- Pray for sensitivity to the Spirit’s presence, guidance, and emotions.
- Pray for healing where people have had confusion, fear, or pain connected to teachings about the Spirit.
- Invite the Spirit to fill your group and your church with His presence and power.

### **Practices for the Week**

- Prayer Posture: Begin each day by praying, “Come, Holy Spirit,” with open hands as a posture of surrender.
- Listening Exercise: Take 5–10 minutes of silence daily, asking the Spirit to bring to mind someone to encourage or something to confess.