

How might our lives change if we truly desired an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, and what barriers might be preventing us from fully wanting this connection?

In what ways can we practically 'work' on our relationship with the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, and how might this effort transform our Christian experience?

How does the concept of the Holy Spirit as 'God in our skin' change our understanding of God's presence in our lives, and what implications does this have for our behavior?

What are some specific instances where you've felt the Holy Spirit guiding you, and how did you discern His voice from your own thoughts or external influences?

How can we balance the idea of being 'filled with the Spirit' as a command with the understanding that it's ultimately the Spirit's work in us?

In what ways might our lives look different if we consistently yielded control to the Holy Spirit, and what areas of your life are the most challenging to surrender?

How can we cultivate a greater awareness of the Holy Spirit speaking through godly advisors, the Bible, and our conscience in our daily decision-making?

What role does regular engagement with Scripture play in developing our relationship with the Holy Spirit, and how can we make Bible study a more integral part of our lives?

How might our evangelism efforts be impacted if we were more consistently filled with the Holy Spirit, and what can we learn from the Coca-Cola example mentioned in the sermon?

In what ways can we create space in our busy lives to listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and how might this practice deepen our intimacy with God?

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: Intimate Relationship with the Holy Spirit

Opening Question:

How would you describe your current relationship with the Holy Spirit? What challenges or questions do you have about relating to Him?

Key Takeaways:

1. The Holy Spirit is God in our skin - fully God and personally present with us.
2. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit continuously.
3. Developing an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit requires wanting it, working at it, and engaging with God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon used the acronym "WWW" to describe our relationship with the Holy Spirit. What were the three W's, and why is each important?
2. Pastor Gary mentioned that being filled with the Spirit is a command, not an option. How does this change your perspective on your daily walk with God?
3. What does it mean to "yield control" to the Holy Spirit in practical terms? Can you share an example from your own life?
4. The sermon discussed how the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) is produced by the Holy Spirit, not by our own efforts. How does this truth impact the way you approach spiritual growth?

5. What are some ways the Holy Spirit communicates with us, according to the sermon?
Which of these have you experienced in your own life?

6. How can we better engage with God's Word to hear the Holy Spirit's voice more clearly?

Practical Applications:

1. ABC Method: This week, practice listening to the Holy Spirit through:

A - Advisors: Seek counsel from a mature Christian friend or mentor.

B - Bible: Commit to reading Scripture at least 4 times this week.

C - Conscience: Pay attention to your moral compass and the Spirit's prompting.

2. Yielding Exercise: Each morning this week, consciously yield control to the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to guide your thoughts, words, and actions throughout the day.

3. Fruit Check: At the end of each day, reflect on how the fruit of the Spirit was (or wasn't) evident in your life. Thank the Holy Spirit for His work in you.

4. Communication Journal: Start a journal to record moments when you sense the Holy Spirit speaking to you through advisors, the Bible, or your conscience.

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, we want a deeper, more intimate relationship with You. Help us to work at this relationship daily, to yield control to You, and to listen attentively to Your voice through Your Word and the counsel of others. Transform us to be more like Jesus as we cooperate with Your work in our lives. Amen.

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Embracing God's Intimate Presence

Reading: John 14:15-26

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us of the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Father would send "another Counselor" to be with us forever. This Counselor, the Holy Spirit, is God in our skin - always present, always guiding. Reflect on how you've experienced God's presence in your life. Have there been moments when you felt the Holy Spirit's guidance or comfort? Consider how you can be more attentive to His presence daily. Pray for a deepened awareness of the Holy Spirit's work in your life and a willingness to yield control to Him.

Day 2: Yielding to the Spirit's Control

Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: Paul contrasts the acts of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit is not just a one-time event, but a continuous command - a daily choice to yield control to God. Think about areas in your life where you struggle to let go of control. How might your life look different if you fully yielded to the Spirit's guidance? Today, consciously choose to "keep in step with the Spirit" in your thoughts, words, and actions. Ask God to help you cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

Day 3: The Power of God's Word

Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and Hebrews 4:12-13

Devotional: Scripture is "God-breathed" - alive and active in our lives. It's through His Word that we often hear the Holy Spirit speaking to us. Reflect on times when a particular Bible verse or passage has deeply impacted you or provided guidance. How can you make engaging with God's Word a more consistent part of your daily life? Consider memorizing a verse that speaks to you today, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring it to mind throughout your day. Pray for a hunger for God's Word and the wisdom to apply it to your life.

Day 4: Living a Spirit-Filled Life

Reading: Ephesians 5:15-21

Devotional: Paul exhorts us to "be filled with the Spirit" instead of being controlled by worldly influences. This filling leads to a life characterized by worship, gratitude, and mutual submission. Examine your life - are these qualities evident? Where do you see areas for growth? Being filled with the Spirit is not about achieving perfection, but about continually surrendering to God's work in us. Today, practice intentional gratitude and look for opportunities to encourage others as an expression of your Spirit-filled life.

Day 5: The Spirit's Role in Our Spiritual Growth

Reading: Romans 8:1-17

Devotional: This powerful passage highlights the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Through the Spirit, we are adopted as God's children and set free from condemnation. The Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us. Reflect on your spiritual journey - how has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life, even in times of struggle? Take time to thank God for His ongoing work of sanctification in you. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue transforming you into the likeness of Christ, and to help you live according to His will today and always.