

# The Way, part 10

## The Holy Spirit in our Formation

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How do we change?

Talmidim

To be with Jesus, in order to become like Jesus, and do the things that Jesus did.

“Our Society is losing the structures that it once had for bringing people together, individuals participate less in long-lasting communities, socialize less, and trust less. A confluence of entangled factors has been converging to produce a decline in social connection in the United States over the past 50 years. Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials have become the most individualistic and materialistic generations, have less leisure time and more financial pressures, and consume more electronic entertainment in a more mindless way. We are, as a society, more relationally disconnected than we once were. This has negative consequences for our emotional and spiritual well-being.” Dr. Todd Hall, Connected Spirituality

1. Community is not optional for a follower of Jesus.
2. Community is needed for a full life.
3. Community is not the same thing as having friends
4. Community is the bi-product of commitment
5. Community takes time and intentionality

Community does not happen around a stage and a service it happens around tables:

- Exposure and encouragement

The Holy Spirit

both/and

Without him we can't, without us he won't

*2 Corinthians 3: 17-18*

First order desires and second order desires

First order desires

Second higher desires

Freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want. Freedom is the ability to want/will the right thing, and then to have the willpower to overcome your first order desires (flesh in NT) and to choose what is good and right.

To live in freedom takes willpower

One of the key tasks in discipleship to Jesus is learning how to exercise our will and make it stronger

We can't influence our will directly but you can influence your will indirectly

No matter how much will power you have it will never be enough

The goal is to become like Jesus!

*Exodus 34:29-35*

Who has access to God?

*2 Corinthians 3: 7-8, 12-18*

The Holy Spirit = "God's empowering presence." The person, the presence and the power of God.

The Holy Spirit is the primary change agent in your spiritual growth and formation

Transformation occurs in two ways that is very important to understand:

- Breakthrough moments and practice moments

Breakthrough moments are good but the reality is they are rare. The truth is this: most deep transformation happens in the crucible of everyday-ordinary life, in the practice moments.

*walking in the spirit*

*Galatians 5:22-25*

As you walk in the Spirit, abide in Christ, allow his presence to be known by you throughout your day, by utilizing spiritual practices/disciplines in your life the byproduct will be the fruit of the Spirit. This is why the spiritual disciplines are essential to deep transformation in your life. You and I will never be transformed inside out without them.

"The Disciplines are the mechanisms in which we open ourselves up to God, and in doing so gain access to the power of the Holy Spirit in order to change deeply." – Dallas Willard

Long obedience in the same direction

It will take a long time, and it will take a lot of time

Practices/Application:

- Keep up the silence, solitude, prayer in your daily practice
- Incorporate teaching into your weekly practice
- Pray about joining an EFC community group

Liturgical Audit

- Spend a few minutes day and write down all your habits and routines
- How do you spend your week and weekends?
- What are these habits/practices doing to your heart?
- What do you need to eliminate/reduce and what spiritual practice replace it with?