

HELP IS HERE

Finding FRESH STRENGTH and PURPOSE in the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 3 – OUR PEACE AND GUARANTEE

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." **John 14:27 (TLB)**

We aren't guaranteed much in this life. It seems the older we get, the less guarantees we have. But there is one guarantee on which we all can depend ...it is the greatest guarantee of our lives, both on earth and in the life to come.

Calm In The Chaos

1. The Holy Spirit is the calming presence of God in the world today. He will help us defy the voices of fear and come into his presence of peace.
2. The inaugural activity of the Holy Spirit was to hover over a frenzied world. When we turn to the New Testament, where we can find this same image.

"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." **Genesis 1:2 (NKJV)**

Why would Jesus want to be baptized?

"Jesus answered, "For now this is how it should be, because we must do all God wants us to do." Then John agreed." **Matthew 3:15 (CEV)**

- From the very beginning, Jesus identifies with our unpleasant condition in the chaotic world. His plunge into the Jordan river is a picture of his plunge into our sin.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him."
Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

"And the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove settled upon him." **Luke 3:22a (TLB)**

3. There are times in which our Spirits are troubled and anxious. We long for the tranquil assurance of a loving mother. For this, we turn to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy dove of God soothes the noisy, full of confusion, excited, and vindictive atmosphere of the human heart.

"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Psalms 4:8 (NKJV)

"Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me." Psalm 131:2 (NKJV)

- One of the ways in dealing with **anxiety** is in whom the Spirit dwells has the greatest of resources. We can turn to him for help. We can go immediately to the Spirit in Worship.

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:18-19 (NIV)

Fill the air with celebration with Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Constant worship clears the debris from our hearts. Praise flushes the trash of worry and anxiety. The Spirit of God soothes us in this chaos-filled present world.

The Spirit soothes our anxieties of the world to come.

4. Sealing is the act that says: "This is mine, and this is protected." The Holy Spirit's work is in sealing not only your present **Salvation**, but also your future **Blessing**.

"When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13b-14 (NIV)

5. Your salvation, and your eternal inheritance, are **Guaranteed** by God's Spirit. You will never lose them. You will never be separated from God. You can take that **Truth** to the bank.

- In the original Greek, the word guarantee meant a **down payment**. The Holy Spirit acts as a down payment for the inheritance you will ultimately receive in heaven.
- The Holy Spirit not only guarantees your inheritance but also guarantees your **identity** as a child of God.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:14-15 (NLT)

6. Even in a world defined by **Chaos**, we are undeniably God's own children. We can persevere through the **Storms** that rage not only around us, but also inside us.

*“His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.” **Romans 8:16 (NLT)***

*“God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”
Romans 5:5 (NIV)*

The Spirit of God is urging you to listen as he affirms in your Spirit that you are a child of God. You have been adopted into the family. The reality is there will be challenges in life. But you can also be assured that God will be there in the midst of it, through the presence of his Spirit, he will calm your fears and bring you peace. And he will guarantee that he knows what you are facing. He will remind you that you are his beloved child and that your place with him and eternity is secure.