

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PERSONAL - FEBRUARY 12, 2023

PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. - John 16:7 (ESV)

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 (ESV)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. - Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. - John 14:15-17 (ESV)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. - John 14:26

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. - 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 (ESV).

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. - Acts 16:6-7 (ESV)

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. - Acts 20:22-24 (ESV)

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. - Luke 12:11-12 (ESV)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (ESV).

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches



hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. - Romans 8:26-27 (ESV)

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Many Christians have settled for “a rotary phone version” of the Holy Spirit when a “smart-phone version” is available to us.
2. The work of the Holy Spirit cannot be separated from the work of Jesus and the Father.
3. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal “it”, but a personal “He” for like the Father and Son He possesses intellect, emotions, and a will.
4. The Holy Spirit is “Our Helper.”
5. He helps us personally as:
 - He **Teaches** Us - What is true
 - He **Guides** Us - As we seek to love and live for Jesus
 - He **Equips** Us - With Spiritual Gifts
 - He **Prays** for Us - In our weakness, when we don’t know what to pray, and in perfect alignment with the will of God
6. The help that “The Helper” gives is help to accomplish what “The Helper” wants done!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you grown in your understanding of or relationship with the Holy Spirit over time?
2. Why does Jesus say it’s to His followers’ advantage that He goes away and the Holy Spirit comes to them? How does this affect the way you view/engage with the Holy Spirit?
3. The Holy Spirit is “our Helper”. This term includes the idea of Him being our Counselor/Legal Advocate, our Comforter, and the one who gives us the help we need to accomplish what He wants done. How have you experienced the Counsel, Comfort, and Help of the Holy Spirit personally?
4. The Holy Spirit **TEACHES** us Truth. What are some truths the Holy Spirit has revealed to you about Jesus or yourself that you can point to and say, “That was the work of the Holy Spirit in me!”?
5. Where are you sensing the Holy Spirit **GUIDING** you even if following Him means you’ll face persecution and hardship because of your faith in Jesus?
6. What spiritual gift(s) has the Holy Spirit **EQUIPPED** you with to build up the body of Christ and expand His Kingdom? How are you currently using those gifts? How would you like to use them moving forward?
7. How do you want this group and the Holy Spirit to **PRAY** for you this week?

Holy Spirit, help me love and live for Jesus today!

***Teach** me. **Guide** me. **Equip** me. And **Pray** for me.*

And help me listen to and follow your leading.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Consider reading J.D. Greear’s book about the Holy Spirit entitled: “Jesus, Continued...: Why the Spirit inside you is better than Jesus beside you.”
2. Check out this artistic and engaging video about the Holy Spirit at:
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/holy-spirit/>

