



5 minutes / 5 days

READING, UNDERSTANDING, AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD
AS YOU PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S MESSAGE...AND FOR LIFE.

BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

July 6-10, 2009

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Five Days with the Holy Spirit

MONDAY

First Things First

Of all the Christian doctrines, the one that is perhaps least understood and most neglected is the Holy Spirit. This week we'll revisit the Holy Spirit and examine who He is, what He does and how He impacts our lives.

The best way to examine the Spirit of God is to examine the Word of God. We'll do that this week. Placing 1st things 1st is important to this week's look at the Holy Spirit: To understand the Holy Spirit we need to understand that this isn't just another name for God. The Godhead is a triune God of 3 personalities within 1 Substance, co-eternal existing side by side forever.

FOR TODAY: Pray with me that we'll draw closer to Him this week as we reconsider the Holy Spirit.

TUESDAY

Who or What is the Holy Spirit?

God's Word is clear: The Holy Spirit is a *person*. He has personality, will, emotion, the ability to communicate and personal identity. He isn't an eerie "thing" or an inanimate object.

Romans 8:27 reminds us of the mind of the Spirit, and the Scriptures speak of His infinite comprehension (1 Cor. 2:11). A force does not comprehend but a person does.

The Holy Spirit can also be grieved. Eph 4:30 tells us that grief can be caused by our unwholesome words and speech. The word "unwholesome" literally translates as "rotten" in the original language. May we be free from rotten words that grieve God's Spirit!

FOR TODAY: Prayerfully dedicate your words and speech to God, praying that they would be fresh and good; never grieving the Holy Spirit.

WEDNESDAY

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

The late D. James Kennedy said, "I believe in the Holy Spirit not only because of who the Bible says He is, but because of what the Bible says He does." Let's consider just a few of the innumerable things that the Holy Spirit does:

He inspired the writing of the Scriptures. He caused Christ to be conceived in a virgin's womb. He regenerates believers. He sends out missionaries. He comforts the church. He illuminates the mind. He reveals the things of God. He guides, empowers and gives joy to Christ followers.

Now I ask you: Where would we be without God's precious Holy Spirit?

FOR TODAY: List ten reasons why you are thankful for God's Spirit at work in you.

THURSDAY

What is the Believer's
Relationship to the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit indwells every Christian: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16). Imagine! God "pitched His tent" within each believer! That causes me to pause and examine myself. To consider that the omnipotent and omniscient Creator chose me, (and also you if you are His child), to be a living temple for Him, gives me both joy and an overwhelming sense of responsibility.

The 3rd member of the Godhead lives within me. Nothing could be more precious, relational or meaningful than that truth.

No one is worthy of that distinction, but He chose us, nonetheless, to be His earthly sanctuaries!

FOR TODAY: Read 1 Cor 3:11-23 aloud and pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the fact that God abides in you.

FRIDAY

How is the Spirit a "Guarantee"?

Paul refers to the Holy Spirit as a "down payment" (2 Cor 1:22) which represents a portion of what is to come. That means the Holy Spirit is a first fruit of the guaranteed heavenly banquet that we will experience in eternity.

This guarantee is a "seal", implying God's mark of ownership! Think about this again: The Holy Spirit marks each Christ follower as "owned" by God. Irrespective of what troubles Christians face, they are divinely sealed by God for eternal redemption. That unshakeable, permanent, undeviating, everlasting seal of the Holy Spirit guarantees our future resurrection life. Wow! The Holy Spirit bears in human lives the new fruit of the age to come!

FOR TODAY: Pray 3 times that you will go forth to live and walk in the Spirit by serving God with joy.