

Overview:

This week we're going to focus on the Holy Spirit and His relationship to the other members of our three-in-one God, as well as His relationship to us, our city, and the church. One of the best sections of the Bible for understanding the Holy Spirit is John Ch. 14-16. In these three chapters, Jesus is teaching His disciples about the Spirit.

The Father: The Spirit is His Gift

Read John 14:16-17 & 26 and 15:26. Jesus is teaching His disciples about the Holy Spirit. In both verses, Jesus uses the same word to describe the Holy Spirit. That word is _____.

14:16 says that the Father will "give" the Holy Spirit to followers of Jesus. What does it tell us about the Father that He would give us a Helper? What does that tell us about ourselves? Take a minute to write down some reflections:

The Father sends the Spirit to live in us so He can help us live out the mission He has given to us. The Father doesn't just give us a mission and say "Good luck!". He wants to empower us from the inside. He wants the presence of the Spirit in us to remind us that we are His beloved children and His promises are for us. In fact, the apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 1:13-14 that when we trust Christ, the Spirit comes into us as a guarantee that we are God's children and all His promises are for us. If He fulfills the promises of giving us His Holy Spirit, then surely He will fulfill all the other promises He has made. Read that passage now, and take a moment to pray: **Father in Heaven, thank you for helping me live for you by giving me the Helper, your Holy Spirit. May He empower me and lead me today. Amen.**

The Son: The Spirit Points to Him

Open up with a prayer this morning: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teach me from your Word this morning.**

Read John 15:26. Jesus teaches His disciples about what the Holy Spirit will do. Jesus says that the Spirit comes from the Father and the Son. And when He comes, Jesus says he will "bear _____". In other words, the Spirit's job is to point people to Jesus.

Read John 16:13-14. In verse 14, Jesus says about the Spirit, "He will _____ me." Again, the Spirit's job is to point people to Jesus.

In fact, the Spirit's job is so closely tied to pointing people to Jesus, that Luke calls Him "the Spirit of Christ" in Acts 16:7.

The Holy Spirit's role is like that of a spotlight. His job is to shine a light brightly. But that light is pointed somewhere: on Christ. As the Spirit does His work, we can count on seeing Jesus more clearly, and people in our city seeing Christ for the first time. Close with a short prayer: **Father and Son, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Spirit of Jesus, please teach me more about my Savior and Lord. And please allow my friend _____ to see clearly who Jesus is. Amen.**

The Holy Spirit: His Titles & Actions

Father, Son and Spirit, help me to find comfort in getting to know the Holy Spirit. Empower me with His presence. Amen.

Just like Jesus is called "Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36), the Holy Spirit also has names and titles that describe who He is and what He does. We've already learned that He is called "The Helper", and today we're going to learn a few more. Open up to Romans 8, another great chapter on the Holy Spirit. Read the verses and fill in the blank:

vs. 1-2: "the Spirit of _____". This means that the Spirit is setting us free from the power of sin.

Vs. 9: "the Spirit of _____" and "the Spirit of _____". Paul helps us understand that if we know Jesus, then God is our Father, and the Spirit is living in us and helping us live for God, rather than fulfilling our own sinful desires. See also vs. 13-14 for another description of this principle.

vs. 15-16: "the Spirit of _____." We aren't God's children by natural birth, but rather by spiritual birth. We are born as sinners. For those who turn away from what God says is wrong, and turn to Jesus asking for forgiveness, they become part of God's blended family through adoption and our lavished with the Father's love. Paul uses the term "sons" to describe the status of all people who turn to God through Jesus. This doesn't mean that God only has men in His family. Rather, in Paul's days, the culture believed that "sons" had a greater status than "daughters". Paul is saying that both men and women who don't deserve to be in God's family, take on the high-status of becoming a son.

vs. 26-28: "the Spirit helps us in our _____." "The Spirit Himself _____ for us." As broken people living in a broken world, our weakness is apparent to us and we often do not know what to pray. But, as the ESV Study Bible says, "The Spirit interprets and brings human prayer before the throne of the Father". In other words, the Spirit comes to us in our humanity, and helps us connect with God and His will. We don't have to be super spiritual to connect with God. In fact, the opposite is true. It is the Spirit, living in us, deeply flawed, broken people, that helps us grow our relationship with God.

Review the fill-in-the-blanks. Which one sticks out to you the most? Why?
Close by praying: **Father, thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit. Spirit, teach me and empower me to live as Christ's representative in my city.**

Me: Do I Have the Holy Spirit?



Reflect on this question: How do you know that you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you, guiding you, and empowering you to live as a follower of Jesus?

Stop there for a moment and try to answer honestly.

What did you come up with? Turn to Acts 2:37-39. Peter is preaching to a crowd that has just been convicted of their sin. What does Peter tell them to do in the first part of vs. 38? What does he tell them will be the result in the last part of vs. 38? Here's what Peter is saying:

Repent: turn away from sin, from your evaluation of what is right and wrong, from living life on your terms with you at the center.

Be baptized: water baptism is an action someone takes when they trust in Jesus to forgive their sins. It is a symbol of the person's need for spiritual cleansing, and God's cleansing them through the work of Jesus on the cross. Baptism doesn't literally wash the sin away. Rather it is a sign of the washing.

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit: Peter puts it simply. For those that are spiritually awakened, see their sin, turn away from it to God, and ask for forgiveness through Jesus, they receive the Holy Spirit. This is simply called "becoming a Christian". As we read yesterday in Romans 8:9, Jesus puts His Spirit in His people.

The simple question for you today: are you repenting and turning to Christ in faith? If so, God has given His Spirit to you. If not, ask yourself what is blocking you from making that decision?

The Church: Made by the Holy Spirit



Harry Boer says that when the Holy Spirit came on people in Acts 2 to create the church, it "made the Church a **witnessing** Church." What do you think that means? Is that how you view the church in general? Is that how you view God's Blended Family at New City Fellowship? Stop for a moment to pray that New City would be a "witnessing church".

The City: Spirit on the Move



Read Acts 2:41-47. In Ch. 1, there were 120 people. How many were added in vs. 41? _____ What impresses you about this new Christian community? Do you think that the Spirit could grow a new church family in our city? Do you think that it could look like this this first church? How? Pray that God would grow us in our love for Him and each other.