**“The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts”**

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**Do you have a passion for truth?** (God’s Word)

**Do you have a commitment to humble obedience?** (even when you don’t want to do what God is leading you to do)

**Are you devoted to spirit-filled Christian community?**

**Do you desire to hear God’s voice in increasing measure throughout each day and live a life led by the Holy Spirit?**

***Gal. 5****:****25******Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***

**Who is Holy Spirit and what is His role in the Godhead?**

**Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead: Father, Son, Holy Spirit and was there at the creation of the world.**

***Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.***

***Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image***

**Holy Spirit is given generously to those who seek Him.**

***Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”***

**Holy Spirit is our advocate.** (called to one’s side to defend)

***John 16:7 it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.***

***John 14:15 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth.***

**Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.**

***1Thessalonians 11:5 Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.***

**Holy Spirit is our teacher, our guide and our helper.**

***John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.***

***Psalm 32: 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.***

**Holy Spirit teaches us what to say in difficult situations.**

***Mark 13:11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.***

**Holy Spirit encourages us.**

***Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.***

**Holy Spirit intercedes for us.  (**prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another)

***Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.***

**Holy Spirit lives in us. We have access to the Holy Spirit at all times.**

***John 14:17 The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.***

***1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?***

**Holy Spirit fills us with joy, love, and peace.**

***Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.***

***Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,***

***Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

**Holy Spirit gives us courage.**

***Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.***

**Holy Spirit gives power.**

***Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

(Paul) ***My message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.”***

**Holy Spirit speaks to us and gives us instructions in community.**

***Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”***

**Holy Spirit warns us of impending danger or hardship.**

***Acts 20:22 “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.***

**We are connected through Holy Spirit with other believers.**

***Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.***

**Holy Spirit confirms what God has put on our hearts.**

***Hebrews 10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: 16 “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”***

**Gifts of the Spirit**

***41 Cor. 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.***

**When God gives you a spiritual gift to be used for HIs purposes, He gives us the skills to do it through the Spirit.**

***Exodus 31:2 I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.***

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Have you experienced Holy Spirit working through you or through someone else? What was it like?**

**How can you simplify your life to make room for seeking the truth of God’s Word?**

**How do you overcome the flesh within you that wants to rebel against God’s Word and the leading of Holy Spirit?**

***Rom. 8:5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.***

Below is a quote from **Bill Irwin** who was the first blind man to hike the Appalachian trail alone with only his seeing eye dog (mentioned in Lowell’s sermon on Sunday).

*“God, if there is any way I could pay you back for what you have done for my life, just please, let me know what it is, and I’ll do it.” And then the Lord told me through a dream that He wanted me to hike the Appalachian Trail this year, and so I tried to reject that thought…I said, “God, if you’re really serious, just keep bugging me about it. I’m like an old mule, you have to hit me over the head with a 2×4 to get my attention. I’ll do it if I have to, but I don’t want to.”*

**How are you like the mule in Psalm 32:9?**

***Psalm 32:9******Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.***

**Are you committed to allowing Holy Spirit within you to overcome the demands of your flesh?**

***Gal. 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. … 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.***

**How do you access the power of Holy Spirit daily in your life? *(1 Cor. 2:2-5)***

**How can you simplify your life to make room for seeking the truth in God’s Word, responding to God’s direction, and committing to Christian community?**

**Are you committed to getting to know Holy Spirit intimately so you can lead a spirit-filled life as Jesus did?**