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## The Resurrection Life: God Can Be Within You

**John 14:16-17, 25-27**

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.

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

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I'm very excited today about beginning to talk for five weeks about the resurrection life and how you and I can continue to live in it, or begin to live in it, or live more fully in it.

Of course, this is a life that has been offered to us through the gift of Jesus, and it seems appropriate in the church calendar and church history, even though we're not to Pentecost yet, to begin talking about the work of the spirit in our lives, because that was Jesus' promise after he was crucified, resurrected, and then ascended. And we're living this side of that moment in history.

Peter described the first person living the resurrected life as Jesus, and he did it in a very simple manner when he said in his letter, First Peter, chapter three, verse 18, Jesus was put to death in the body, physically killed, but he was made alive by the spirit, made alive by the spirit, the Holy Spirit of God.

Now, I don't know about you, but when I was younger and I went to church, I heard a lot about Jesus. I heard a lot about God, and I heard the Holy Spirit mentioned now and then. And when he was mentioned, I was just so curious why he wasn't talked about more in the particular church that we were in, if all that was true about the Spirit of God being God, one of the Trinity, and what was displayed in the scriptures about his work and what he does among us.

I was a little confused why we didn't talk more about him, and my parents must have been as well, because they decided to seek some teaching outside of the church on the Holy Spirit. And I'm so happy they did because of what I learned from them back in those early days of our faith journey as a family.

I wanted to learn more back then, and I'll tell you now, even though I've been in the faith for a long time, I've come to understand that the more I know, the more I don't know. And what I really desire now is to even know more about the work of the Holy Spirit and how he's moving in our world. And I want to sense him better and feel his movement in my life, and have him lead me more and taste of the things that he has to offer.

And so we begin today talking about the resurrection life. The subtitle would be learning to live in the guidance and power of this same spirit that raised Christ from the dead, how you and I can live a supernatural Christian life, and how we can grow and mature in that over the course of our time here on the earth.

But as I was sitting down to pen this out, I thought, Tim, more thoroughly, why? Why do this? And so, instead of actually teaching some of the learning to walk in the spirit on this first week, I want to highlight five biblical reasons why we would give five weeks to the Holy Spirit.

Actually, there's four. I narrowed it down for the sake of time.

First of all, we would want to learn about the Holy Spirit because of what Jesus said about him. He is God's helper for us in the Christian life. Jesus said it this way: I will ask the father, and he will give you another helper to be with you forever, the spirit of truth. You know him, for he dwells with you. He was saying this to his closest followers, but he will be in you.

A little history on the Holy Spirit. The first thing we read about him is Genesis, chapter one, verse one, where it says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness hovered over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters." It says he was there in the beginning, a part of the Trinity. "And God said," that's the spoken word, Jesus. So you have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit creating all that is.

And then, if you read through the Old Testament, you'll see the Holy Spirit visited upon individuals like Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Joseph, and the spirit empowered men and women at different times. Samson became very strong under the power of the spirit, but he would come and go upon the prophets, and he would be with them, and he would empower them, and he would speak to them. But he didn't stay with the people.

The Holy Spirit did reside in the Ark of the covenant of God's people, but the people couldn't go in the Spirit's presence there, only a priest once a year. And so you have the spirit all through history involved in the world. He's convicting people of wrongdoing. He's empowering and strengthening people, and he is with God's people, but he's not highly approachable by God's people until the sacrifice of Jesus.

And when Jesus died, the Bible says the temple curtain, which would have been three to four inches thick, the curtain that separated mankind from the presence of God, was torn in two. And the opening to the presence of the Spirit of God was provided for people, the likes of you and I. And Jesus said he would not only be with you, but now he would be in you.

It's a marvel. It's a wonder.

Paul wrote it this way to the believers in Ephesus: In Christ we have obtained an inheritance. When we heard the word of truth, believed the gospel, we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit who was deposited within us as a guarantee of our inheritance to come.

If you're a believer here today, I want to encourage you. My only assignment for this week is just to meditate on this in your mind, your heart, and your spirit all week. Just this simple phrase, or you can word it however you want: As a believer, God is in me. God is in me. God is in me. God is in me.

It's a marvel, friend.

Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth, "Do you not know that you are God's temple?" He no longer lives in buildings built by human hands, but now we are the temple of the Most High God.

We have three parts, just like the Old Testament temple: a body, an outer court; a soul, an inner place, the holy place; and then a spirit, the Holy of Holies. And that spirit takes up residence in our spirit, and we become a temple of the Most High God.

This made me marvel and wonder as a youngster. God lives in me. When I confessed Jesus and believed on the Lord Jesus, his Holy Spirit entered me.

Paul wrote a little later again to the believers in Corinth, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own. You are bought with a price." For sure, you would want to glorify God with everything you do in the body.

We should spend time learning about the Holy Spirit and what God has taught us here because he is our helper, the power for the Christian life, the strength for the Christian life. As a matter of fact, you and I can't live the Christian life without the spirit. And we can't bear any spiritual fruit or do anything of lasting value apart from the spirit.

Jesus said it this way in John, chapter 15, as John recorded it, Jesus saying, "I am the true vine. My father is the gardener. Remain in me." How do we do that? By abiding with His Spirit, listening to His Spirit, flowing with His spirit.

"Remain in me as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain connected to the vine, and neither can you and I bear fruit unless we remain connected to Jesus through His Spirit. I am the vine," he said. "You're the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. But apart from me, you can't do anything of lasting value."

A branch that doesn't bear fruit becomes useless and should be thrown away. But God's desire is for you and I to bear a whole lot of spiritual fruit in our lives and in the world, and that comes through His Spirit.

We can't bear fruit in and of ourselves. And I will just say this: we can't even build a thriving, functioning faith community, or small-c church, without the Spirit's help. That is God's job through his people.

And I, for one, enjoy that truth that God Himself is doing the work of building the church in the world through his people, infusing them with his spirit, strengthening them, empowering them, quickening them to go as he leads them so his faith family can flourish here on the earth.

Jesus said it this way, Matthew 16: “I will build my church.” Jesus is saying this. “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades,” it’s not quite hell, but Hades, “will not stand against it.”

We can’t build the church without the spirit. We can’t bear spiritual fruit without the spirit because we need his help to do these things in the Christian life. And he is the builder of the church in the world through his people.

And this church has been sustained by God’s Spirit, carried along by God’s Spirit for many years. And as we seek him and pray to him, he can continue to help this church family flourish and grow in the fruits of the spirit, and even bring more fruit in here by the work of His Spirit. No one comes to the father unless the spirit first draws them. So we’re totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit for the work of God in the world and for the building of the church.

But it gets better.

The Holy Spirit’s not only our helper and the builder of the church, but he is the source of real life for us, the abundant life that Jesus promised. He’s the source of all joy and hope and peace and power in our lives.

Paul wrote to the believers in Rome, saying, “If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His spirit who dwells in you.”

Which is to say, spiritual life. This is to say fruits of the spirit. This is to say the Spirit of God can stir in us the zeal, or the passion, or the zest of the Lord Almighty. This comes from the spirit.

If you’ve ever been around someone who’s deeply entrenched by the Spirit of God, there’s something different about the way they move and the way they live and the spirit that comes off of them. They become the aroma of Christ to people around them.

He is our life. He gives life to these bodies that, yes, can live in the flesh. But when the spirit comes alive in us and the spirit reigns in us, what do we experience? Something supernatural in our lives. The resurrection life. The supernatural life.

But it’s not just life. “The Lord is the spirit,” the Scripture says, “and where the spirit of the Lord is, there’s freedom.”

This freedom that is being spoken of here is a spiritual freedom, freeing us from enslavement to things that take life from us, freeing us from anxieties and worries and fears and depressions and enslavements and addictions to things that will rule our lives. They may give us a temporary buzz, but slowly they take life from us.

The Spirit of God can come in us and slowly free us from all these sins that so easily entangle us, so we can begin to live in the glorious freedom of the children of God, unhindered even by the fear of man or the fear of death. And that's a supernatural thing that doesn't happen to the natural man.

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. The Bible says true freedom. If Jesus sets you free, you are free indeed. Truly free.

But there's more.

The kingdom of God is not a matter of physical things, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Where is life found, friends? Where is peace in this mad world found? Where is an unquenchable, inexpressible joy experienced outside of the giver of peace, the giver of joy, the giver of life?

It's good to spend time learning on how to stay in step with the spirit and be empowered and guided and led by the spirit, because he is our life, our true life, our joy, our hope, and our peace.