

Lesson 8:

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- A. Matt. 3:16-17; 28:18-20 The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity: God is One in Essence, Character and Perfection.
- B. John 14:15-17 He is our Helper/Counselor (*Parakletos*).
- C. John 14:25-26 He is our Teacher: Sent by the Father, in Jesus' Name.

The Holy Spirit is our dearest Friend, our closest Ally.

He is always for us; He is never against us.

II. What has The Holy Spirit come to do?

David Wilkerson (Founder of Teen Challenge): “The work, ministry and mission of the Holy Spirit is to wean us from the world...to create a longing in us for Jesus’ soon appearance...to convict us of everything that would blemish us...to turn our eyes away from everything but Jesus...to adorn us (the Church) with the ornaments of a passionate desire to be with Him as His Bride.”¹

- A. We must look at the pattern of the Old Testament (oriental/ eastern) wedding tradition in order to understand the return of Christ for His Bride, the Church.

¹ David Wilkerson, *Hungry For More of Jesus: Experiencing His Presence in These Troubled Times* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 1992). *Hungry for More of Jesus*, 102.

1. John 14:1-6 Jesus is preparing a place for us.
2. I Thessalonians 4:16-18 He will return for His Bride.
3. Rev. 19:6-8 The Bride will be ready.

B. The Holy Spirit is preparing the Bride for Christ's return:

1. I John 2:15-17 By weaning us of self and the love of the world;
2. John 15:9-12 By teaching us to abide in Christ's love through obedience;
3. Ephesians 3:14-19 By establishing us in love.

III. How will this be accomplished?

A. I Cor. 12:12-13 Unity: We were all baptized by one Spirit into the Body of Christ, the Church.

B. Ephesians 5:15-21 Keep on being filled: "under the influence" and control of the Holy Spirit.

1. Ephesians 4:29-32 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.
2. I Thess. 5:19-22 Do not quench the Holy Spirit's fire.

PRAYER:

"Father, forgive me for I have sinned. Cleanse me with the Blood of Jesus. Don't leave me as I am, but change me, and fill me to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit, for Your glory and Your purposes. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen!"

This Week's Memorization Verse: Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

"For I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

“The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit”

Small Group Discussion Questions

Note to Discussion Leaders: It is helpful to begin by asking the women if there was some point in the lesson that they identified with, or that was new to them, before turning to the following discussion questions.

- 1) Have you ever prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you afraid of what He would have you do? (As a new believer, I was afraid God would have me stand on Main Street, and preach the Gospel.)

- 2) As an immature believer, I pursued the gifts and power of the Spirit, while not growing in the fruit of the Spirit, with disastrous results. Can you relate to this? (Please read 1 Cor.13:1-2; 14:1)

- 3) Have you seen through this lesson how essential unity is, in order for the Church to become the glorious Bride for whom Christ is returning? Have you separated yourself from believers in other denominations or circles (ex: Catholics vs. non-Catholics, charismatic vs. non-charismatic) because of different views? How does God see these differences, if all true believers are “in Christ”?