

Week 11 | Holy Spirit

What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus took time the night He was to be arrested to _____ His disciples (John 14-16).

Of all the things Jesus could have talked to them about, it was the _____ that He emphasized with them.

Let me reread a verse we looked at in our last session. John 16:7.

“...it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”

As Christians, we also have the Holy Spirit living in us. There are three primary ways the Spirit helps us. First, The Holy Spirit e_____ us permanently. We looked at that in the last session.

Second, The Holy Spirit e_____ us spiritually. Third, the Holy Spirit e_____ us for service.

How does the Holy Spirit encourage us? Jesus describes the Spirit as the “_____” (John 14:6, 26; 15:26; 16:7) and “_____” (John 14:7; 16:13).

“Helper” in the Greek language of the New Testament can also be translated Counselor, Comforter, or Advocate.

The Holy Spirit encourages us by _____ our soul when going through difficulties. He can give a peace that passes all understanding.

The Holy Spirit encourages us by _____ us towards wise decisions. The Holy Spirit will take God’s Word and bring it to our attention when we make day to day decisions in our lives.

The Holy Spirit encourages us by _____ us out by faith to take steps of obedience. When the Spirit prompts, it is oftentimes toward something we can't do on our own. But if we respond in obedience, we see God's power show up and our faith enlarged.

The Holy Spirit encourages us by _____ the Bible for us to better understand it and how to apply it. In other words, He helps make Scripture understandable.

The Holy Spirit encourages us by _____ to us on behalf of the Father and helping us speak to the Father in prayer.

The Holy Spirit helps us in prayer...

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27

We are not left orphaned, just like the twelve disciples weren't. We have God's presence with us wherever we go through the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.



Whole Group Discussion

How have you seen the Holy Spirit either comfort or convict you?

The Holy Spirit helps us pray more effectively. Has this been true in your life? What are some ways you can create a healthy prayer environment to better "hear" the Spirit speak to you in prayer?

The Holy Spirit does a lot in our lives if we will let go of _____ and let Him. He wants to encourage us spiritually. The Holy Spirit also wants to equip us for service.

How does the Holy Spirit equip us? By giving us at least one spiritual gift. A spiritual gift is a divine e_____ most likely given at s_____ to accomplish ministry within the context of the Body of Christ.

The more you use the gift(s), the more you will grow in ineffectiveness and _____.

Spiritual gifts are mentioned in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Here is the full list of gifts mentioned in these passages: Prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy, words of wisdom/knowledge, faith, healing/miraculous powers, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, helps, and administration.

Different views on spiritual gifts...

Some churches teach that _____ spiritual gifts are still in operation today while others teach that the "sign gifts" (prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, gift of healing) were _____ gifts that were no longer needed once we had the completed Word of God.

Wherever you land on this issue, it should be based on careful study of God's Word and prayer. And wherever you may land, it's important that we use the gifts God has given us.

1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." How would you feel if you gave a gift and the person never used it?

Have you ever wondered how the Holy Spirit feels when He gives a spiritual gift and it isn't used? We must not _____ the gift. Let's honor the gift(s) the Holy Spirit has given us by using them for God's g_____ and the g_____ of those around us.



Small Group Discussion

Go back and review the different gifts of the Holy Spirit. What do you believe is one of your spiritual gifts? Why do you say that? How is God using that gift in your life and ministry?

Read Romans 8:12-17. What can be learned about the Holy Spirit in this passage?

What's one take home from today's session on the Holy Spirit?



Prayer Focus

Are you using your gifts to build up the body of Christ? Take time praying that God would use you and the gifts the Holy Spirit has given.