

Name:

This I Believe

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Week 7: I Believe in the Holy Spirit

Day One

Christians believe God is the Trinity. We've already seen that God has eternally existed as one essence and three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the three persons of the Godhead is fully God, yet there's one God. The Apostles' Creed affirms the trinitarian formula when it affirms belief in the Holy Spirit.

The following passage describes each person of the Trinity:

READ JOHN 16:7-15

Why did Jesus tell His disciples that it was to their advantage for Him to go away- ascend into heaven-and for them to have the Spirit instead?

**How did Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit?
What do the names suggest?**

According to Jesus, what would the Spirit do? Be specific.

Sometimes people speak of the Holy Spirit in impersonal terms. In contrast, Jesus referred to the Spirit as He (a person), Helper, and Guide. The Spirit is never an "it."

Why is it essential that we speak of the Holy Spirit in personal terms?

The Bible testifies that no one can know Christ except by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Spirit is known as the One who gives life (see John 6:63).

READ JOHN 3:1-8

We get the phrase born-again Christian from Jesus' words in John 3:3. To be a part of God's eternal family, to live forever in His heavenly kingdom, we must be born again. The Greek word *anōthen*, translated here as "again," can also be translated as "from above." In other words, verses 3 and 5 are clear that spiritual life requires spiritual birth.

Have you been born again, born from above, born of the Holy Spirit? How do you know you've received the gift of life from the Spirit?

READ EPHESIANS 1:3-10

When the Father gives you the Holy Spirit, you also receive all of Christ's benefits of sonship. Your personal relationship with Christ, your right standing before God, your spiritual growth, your adoption into God's family, and the promise of your future resurrection are all given to you by Christ through the Holy Spirit. Salvation, from beginning to end, is a gift from God the Father, accomplished by God the Son, and given through God the Holy Spirit.

How does each member of the Trinity's role in our salvation encourage you? Why is it important to realize that salvation is a gift?

Prayer

Father, thank You for drawing me by Your Holy Spirit to your beautiful Son. The indwelling presence of the Spirit gives me more joy and peace than anything this world could provide. Please help me walk in accordance with the Spirit and not the flesh, for the Spirit is worthy of all honor and praise. Thank You for the gift of knowing You through Your Holy Spirit.

Day Two

The Holy Spirit is specifically mentioned in the Apostles' Creed because the Bible teaches that the Spirit isn't the Father, nor is He the Son, yet He's fully God. Because the Spirit is fully God and God is personal, the Spirit has personal attributes. and He acts personally. In other words, the Spirit cares about us and is intimately involved in our lives.

READ JOHN 14:26 & 1 JOHN 2:18-27

According to these two texts, what does the Holy Spirit teach us?

It's vital for believers to be able to tell spiritual truth from lies. One job of the Holy Spirit is to help us read and understand the Bible. This doctrine is called illumination. Illumination means God must enlighten the human mind in order for us to understand the things of God. The Spirit renews our minds and restores our senses by revealing and helping us understand spiritual truth.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-16

What does verse 14 say about a person's natural ability to comprehend spiritual truth?

Is this passage encouraging, discouraging, or both? Explain.

What does it mean to read the Bible with the mind of Christ?

While the Holy Spirit works in accordance with the Father and the Son to bring about salvation in the lives of believers, the Spirit also enables us to live as Christians according to His power.

READ GALATIANS 5:16-24

According to Paul, all virtue is born of the Holy Spirit, and all evil is born of the flesh.

From which failings of the flesh do you seek the Spirit's help to be free?

How do you seek the Holy Spirit's power in resisting selfishness?

What specific fruit of the Spirit have you noticed most evidently in your life since you've known Christ?

What fruit of the Spirit, with God's help and power, would you like to exhibit more in your life?

Prayer

God, I give You all honor and praise. Have mercy on me. Give me a humble heart. Holy Spirit, help me never lose sight of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Illumine and enlighten my mind to spiritual things. Reveal to me the beautiful truth of Scripture. Lead me out of darkness and into the way of Christ. Make me a faithful, righteous person known by faith, hope, and love. Spirit of God, never let me depart from the truth that You teach me in Christ. Preserve me forever in my love for the Savior. I ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ. my Lord and King. Amen.

Day Three

The Spirit of God literally changes everything about your life. He ransoms you, saving you from being a spiritual orphan; bringing you into the household of faith; and marking you as a son or a daughter of God who's known, loved, provided for, cared for and pursued. Being adopted into the family of God is an identity marker that nothing and no one can take from you. Through faith in the Son, by the grace of the Father, you're a Spirit-filled member of His family.

READ JOHN 15:26 & ACTS 2:1-4

The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to the church in one of the most climactic events in salvation history-Pentecost. The Spirit was poured out on the church as a gift from the Father and the Son. The triune God began a new work of creation. He made us new-a new Spirit-born people- the church-characterized by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

In what way is the gift of the Holy Spirit greater than any other gift we could receive, even from God?

The Holy Spirit indwells believers in the church and uniquely gives them and the church the gift of discerning and receiving the truth about God (see 1 John 1:1-3; 4:6) and rejecting false teaching (see 4:1). The Spirit unites believers and causes us to abide in Christ. The Spirit also fills us and gives us Christ-like character that's powerfully and beautifully different from the way we once lived according to the flesh.

2 Timothy 1:7 says, "*For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.*"

In what ways is fear the opposite of power, love, and self-control?

In what areas of your life can the Holy Spirit help you live with greater power, love, and self-control?

The Holy Spirit is now the presence of Christ everywhere, available to all believers at any given moment. Now, with the Holy Spirit, humans are turned into proper vessels for cosmic renewal. Let this awesome reality sink in as you use the four areas of our theological grid to guide your time of reflection and prayer.

1. SYMMETRY

How does the Holy Spirit give believers a robust understanding of the Bible?

2. CLARITY

Why would you have an incomplete understanding of who God is without a right belief in the Holy Spirit? Who is the Holy Spirit?

3. COMMUNITY

How does the Holy Spirit provide unity among fellow believers in Christ?

4. COUNSEL

What truth has the Holy Spirit impressed on you, illuminating your mind as you've studied this week's lessons? How can you rely on the Holy Spirit when you counsel and receive counsel from other brothers and sisters in Christ?

Prayer

Thank God for the life-changing gift of His Spirit. Take time listening to the Spirit in prayer. Be still and quiet as you ask the Spirit for discernment to be aware of His guidance and spiritual ears and eyes to recognize what He reveals to you.

NOTES FROM THE VIDEO "7 REASONS WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT"

OCTOBER 29, 2017

1. The Holy Spirit is a _____
2. You don't have to _____ for the Holy Spirit
 - The Spirit _____ us to Christ
 - The Spirit _____ us pray
3. The Holy Spirit _____ us
4. The Holy Spirit _____ us
5. The Holy Spirit _____ us
6. The Holy Spirit produces _____
7. The Holy Spirit _____ us