

COMMUNING WITH THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT

LIFE OF PRAYER CLASS - SESSION 1

The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)

I THE NEW BIRTH: THE UNCREATED GOD LIVING IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT

A. God designed us as spiritual beings that have a soul and a body. Our spirit and soul are considered our “inner man”, while our body is considered our “outer man”.

“May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless” (matured righteousness) (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

“Our outward man (body) is perishing...the inward man (spirit/soul) is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

“Do not let your adornment be merely outward...let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.” (1 Peter 3:3-4)

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:3, 6)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (renewed spirit).” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“He saves us through the washing of the regeneration (renewed spirit) and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)

Out of his heart (innermost being, NASB version) will flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38)

B. Adam and Eve received the indwelling Holy Spirit (breath of life) and became living beings. We we’re always meant to live from the life (power, direction, heart connection with God) of God in our spirits.

C. They were deeply connected to God by the Holy Spirit, but lost their connection when they sinned. Their spirits and all humanity after them had spirits that were disconnected from God’s life. Humanity began living based on the directions their souls and bodies gave them moment by moment. Side note, this is why this teaching and next week’s

teaching on praying in the spirit is so vital to our spiritual walks. Both realities build up our spirits and cause our spirits to properly lead our souls and bodies.

- D. At the new birth, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our spirit, which revives our spirits and fills them with light and life. The new birth is about much more than being forgiven, it emphasizes being born into a new reality of connectedness with the Spirit. The uncreated life of God dwelling in us is the core reality of the new birth (Jn. 3:3-5). We are one with Jesus through our union with the Holy Spirit. The indwelling Spirit is the primary benefit of the New Covenant that Jesus made with us (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:24-27, 37:14, 2 Corinthians 3, Romans 8).

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor 6:17)

- E. God deposited the “seed” of His very being into our spirits at the new birth experience. The eternal uncreated life of God came to live in us the day we gave our lives to Jesus. One purpose for this was to destroy the works of darkness in us. The person born of God no longer lives in habitual sin (as they formerly did) but wages war against it.

8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin (habitually), for His seed (uncreated life) remains in him. (1 John. 3:8-9)

- F. Jesus is a high priest according to the power of the Spirit who is described as an “indestructible life.” In other words, the Spirit has power to destroy all the lust and darkness that opposes Him. At the new birth, we received the Holy Spirit or the power of God’s indestructible life.

15 If another priest (Jesus) arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become such...according to the power of an indestructible life (Holy Spirit’s power). (Hebrews 7:15-16)

II. INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT: OUR ESCORT INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

“Eye has not seen, no ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. BUT God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches (explores) all things, YES, the deep things of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:9-12)

- A. The Holy Spirit is our escort/guide into the transcendent beauties of the heart of God. God has put Himself within us, so that He can reveal the deepest things of His heart to us. The Holy Spirit explores the deep things of the Father and the Son. He knows all things because He is as much God as the Father and the Son, but in relationship He searches their hearts. The Holy Spirit actually enjoys revealing God to us.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He

*will tell you things to come. **He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.***” (John 16:13-14)

- B. The Spirit is our teacher and our guide in the knowledge of God. He is the bridge between the Creator and the creation. He alone can go into the unapproachable light of God’s glory and reveal it supernaturally to the human heart. Every single impression level thought you have about God are actually supernatural in nature. The Spirit mostly inspires thoughts about God that are centered around the Word of God, which then touch our emotions.

*That He would grant you...to be **strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell** (manifest His presence) **in your hearts** (emotions/thoughts/will)...that you...**18 may be able to comprehend...19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...** (Eph. 3:16-19)*

- C. The common expression is that Jesus lives our hearts, but in reality He dwells in our spirits through the Holy Spirit. Paul prayed that our souls would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in order to contain a greater sustained manifest presence of God in our hearts. God wants to increase His presence and power in our souls in a sustained way. Our prayer is for Christ to dwell in our hearts more and more in an experiential and transformational way.

*The riches of the glory of this mystery...which is **Christ in you** (union with Jesus through the Spirit), **the hope of glory** (experience God’s presence in this age and experience the resurrection of the dead in the next age). (Colossians 1:27)*

III. BEHOLDING THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with **unveiled face** (confidence before God, access to His glory), **beholding as in a mirror** (faint impression level) **the glory of the Lord** (Indwelling Spirit), **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)*

- A. We experience the power (fruits of the spirit, power over sin, power over negative emotions and desires, intimacy with God) of the Spirit by closing our eyes, gazing on the indwelling Spirit in our minds eye and then talking to Him.
- B. The Spirit releases liberty (freedom from negative thoughts, emotions, desires) to our souls when He releases His manifest presence. We gaze on Him with unveiled faces, which speaks of unhindered communion. We behold the Spirit dimly, as if we were looking at ourselves in an ancient and dim mirror. The mirrors of Paul’s day were very faint and only gave general reflections.

- C. This impression level beholding of the Spirit actually connects us to God and releases life to our souls. God transforms us and fills us with literal glory as we gaze on Him.

The Spirit...whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him (it does not behold Him, NAS) nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He...will be in you. (John 14:17)

- D. We live according to the Spirit by setting our mind on the Spirit. This is what it means to be spiritually minded (Rom. 8:6) or to be “mindful of the Spirit” or “mind-filled with the Spirit.”

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, (set their minds on) the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded (but the mind set on the Spirit NAS version) is life and peace (Romans 8:5-6).

- E. Picture the Holy Spirit as a consuming fire, glorious light or a river of life on the inside. These are common manifestations of God in the Bible. Again, literally picturing Him is critical to communing with Him and receiving from Him.

God is light... 7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (1 John 1:5-7)

He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light... (1 Timothy 6:15-16)

Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment... (Psalms 104:2)

For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29)

Set Me (Jesus) as a seal upon your heart...for love is as strong as death...its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. (Song 8:6)

- F. Imagine the Spirit inside of you and just focus on Him with your minds eye/imagination. Communing prayer has the sense of just being together, or of a gentle giving and receiving to each other in friendship. As you behold Him, there will be subtle things that rise up in your heart to say back to Him. They may be simple statements of adoration, thanksgiving or petition to know Him and experience Him more. Express anything that rises to the surface of your heart.
- G. Speak biblical phrases back to Him softly, slowly and repetitively as well as having extended times of silence. You may quietly whisper phrases to Him or you may silently think/pray them to Him. Gently pray in the Spirit as you set your mind on Him. Take times to just wait
- H. Picturing Him and talking to Him are forms of agreement. Agreement with God is the primary way God releases His power in our hearts. Agree with Him by thanking Him for specific truths we see about Him or ourselves in the Word. “Thank you that You are

our guide into the heart of God. I receive revelation about the Father from you in faith.” Then wait in a receiving posture before Him.

- I. We can thank Him for the fullness of the fruits of the Spirit that dwell in our spirits and picture Him releasing them into our souls. I picture a river that is contained by walls in our spirit, that is then opened up slowly as I agree with the realities of the Holy Spirit that dwell in my spirit. After some time of thanking and waiting before Him, I feel His presence increasing on my heart. I have consistently felt the various fruits of the Spirit in the actual prayer times with the Spirit.
- J. We talk to the Holy Spirit as the way to experience the release of His power in our inner man. He releases small measures of power on our mind and heart, but the power is real. We experience the Spirit’s power in small incremental ways like we do with food and water.
- K. The result of our communion with the Holy Spirit is 9-fold in our thoughts, emotions and will.
The fruit (result of us engaging the Spirit consistently) of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. (Gal. 5:18, 22-23)
- L. This form of prayer will reveal the busyness of your soul unlike no other form of prayer. Practice bringing your mental attention back to the Holy Spirit as random thoughts come to mind.
- M. Most people fill their lives with “white noise” and regular distractions through the day, so when we come to this form of prayer all the busyness of our souls comes up, as well as a deep awareness of how barren our souls are. We must wean our souls from the busyness of life and the media sources that stimulate our minds every day.
- N. During this class, my challenge to you is to have your phone/computer in another room during all of your prayer times. Consider not having your phone/computer on you for hours at a time, when you normally would be checking texts, facebook and emails every 15minutes of the day.
- O. We must face our barrenness in order to be filled with God’s manifest presence in an increased measure. Small distractions are serious hindrances to experiencing more of God’s presence.
- P. Take specific chunks of time in your daily schedule to commune with the Holy Spirit in these ways. Then be intentional to take a few minutes through the day to do the same thing. Our scheduled times of communion usually lead to us communing with Him spontaneously through the day.