

## **Understanding & experiencing the Holy Spirit**

05/01/2020

Readings: Acts 5/1-11; John 14/15-17,26; Acts 13/1-4; Eph 4/30-32  
and 2-cor 13/14

In this new year, I want to look, teach and learn as well as understand the ministry and Person of the Holy Spirit, who some describe as the shy member of the “Trinity”.

The reason He is referred to as “shy” is because He appears reluctant to talk about Himself. The one who inspire the Bible, keep Himself very much in the background.

However, in reality the Holy Spirit is not shy. His reticence about focusing on Himself is not due to shyness but to His commitment to turning the spotlight on the face of Christ, and revealing to us the way of salvation through faith in His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins.

Despite the Holy Spirit’s reticence, the Bible contains a wealth of revelation about Him. A lack of understanding of the Person & ministry of the Holy Spirit will impoverish our Christian faith and could stunt (slow down growth/development) our spiritual growth. To understand more about Him is to understand more about God Himself and that knowledge will strengthen our faith and make us more spiritually fruitful.

One of the problems facing us as Christians today is when we come to discuss the Holy Spirit is the fact that the Church is greatly divided over the issue of how He operates and functions in the life of believers. The Church is however united on one thing—Christianity is a faith in which the Holy Spirit plays a prominent part. The benediction widely used in Christian circles/Churches includes the phrase “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”. Note the steps involved:

The grace of Jesus Christ introduces you & me to the love of God which results in us enjoying the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Grace and love are designed to lead you into a relationship with the Holy Spirit and that relationship is for all.

It is the destiny of every Christian to understand who the Holy Spirit is and experience the companionship. Anything less is less than what God intends for us.

The Holy Spirit seeks to draw out of us, all the potential which God has built into us and is continually at work, developing us into the kind of persons God sees us to be.

He stimulates us to pray, and prays in us and through us. He brings hidden things to light in our souls and seeks to rid us of all sins. The divine Counselor shines the laser beam of knowledge & wisdom through the fog that sometimes surrounds us and guides us in ways of which we are both conscious and unconscious along the path He wants us to take.

He teaches us as no other could and leads us in the thing our hearts were built for—truth. The heavenly dove broods over our lives to bring beauty & order into our dark empty worlds. He comforts us whenever we are in need of solace and strengthen our hearts to go on even though we have no clear answers to our questions.

The Holy Spirit longs to produce His fruit in our lives and bestow us with gifts and abilities to build up the body of Christ and reach out to others with the message of God's love.

When we open up to Him and consult Him, we receive the love, wisdom and spiritual sustenance we need to live effectively & dynamically for Christ.

We need the Holy Spirit's fire personally for our intellect, emotions and will and also for our homes, our churches, our businesses and our nations.

We not only need to have a deeper understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit but also a closer communion with Him. The creed simply say "I believe in the Holy Spirit" but much more than mere belief is needed. Belief must become experience.

It is not enough to believe in the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, we must experience Him in all His fullness. That is the challenge that lies before us in 2020—to move from belief to experience, from knowing about Him to actually knowing Him personally.

In the coming months as the Lord leads, we will study the Person & fullness as well as fruit & gifts of the Spirit that we might be more fruitful, effective and lead a more spirit-filled lives, in the Kingdom of God (Luke 24/49).

Let us ask for Jesus' help as we prepare to partake in the Holy Communion.