



FOCUS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Alpha Course Saturday 22 April

Talk 9 - What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

John 3:3–8

‘In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again.” “How can anyone be born in old age?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they can’t enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but Spirit gives birth to spirit. You shouldn’t be surprised by my saying, ‘You must be born again’. The wind blows wherever it pleases.”’

The Spirit makes you a child of God (Romans 8:14).

The Spirit helps you to develop this relationship by giving you access to the Father and by helping you to pray.

The Spirit forms in you the family likeness - the likeness of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Spirit brings unity to the family of God (Ephesians 4:3-4).

The Spirit gives gifts to all God’s Children (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

The Spirit gives us power to be witnesses to Jesus and so the family grows (Acts 1:8).

Discussion questions

1 Corinthians 12:7–11

“⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

- What do you think each of the spiritual gifts refers to? (vv. 8–10)
- What is the gift of tongues? Does anyone have any experience with this?
- How do you feel about the idea of God giving us supernatural gifts?
- Does everybody have the same gifts? (vv. 4–6)
- Why does God give spiritual gifts to people? (v. 7)

Talk 10 - How Can I be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit in them. In fact, this is the definition of a Christian. Paul says, **'If anyone does not have the Holy Spirit, they don't belong to Christ.'** Romans 8:9

But not every Christian is filled with the Spirit. Paul writes to the church in Ephesus: **'Don't get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery, but be filled with the Holy Spirit.'** Ephesians 5:18

The disciples prayed and longed to be filled with the Spirit leading up to the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:2-4

'Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

When this happened

- They Experienced the Love of God
- They Expressed their Love for God
- They Received a New Love Language

Jesus says, **'Ask and it will be given to you.'** (Luke 11:9-13)

Talk 11 - How Can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Romans 12:1-3

'Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

What should we do?

- Break with the past. **Do not conform any longer.**
- Make a new start. **Be transformed.**

How do we do it?

- Present your body as a living sacrifice.

Why do we do it?

- To embrace God's **'good, perfect and pleasing will'** for our lives.

Spend some time alone considering the next steps for you. You could jot down your ideas below.