



How? Through the Power of the Holy Spirit

Date: May 19, 2024

Text: John 14:15-18

BIG IDEA

How? That becomes the biggest question of all. How on earth are we to live like Jesus, continue His ministry, and be all that we are called to be? The task seems daunting and far too much for us to bear alone- and it is.

But Jesus left us with a promise at the same moment He gave us our calling- He promised the presence of the Holy Spirit. We could never do or be anything that we are called to be apart from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. There are many titles given to the Spirit (Comforter, Advocate, Counselor, Helper, etc.), each one articulating a different way in which the Spirit moves in us, and through us, to the world. Now we recognize the Spirit is the answer to that daunting question “how?”- only through Him.

Conversation Starter

- Which title for Holy Spirit relates to you most? Why?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Verses 15-17) Jesus tells His disciples that in light of all that Jesus has done for them, their response should be one of

obedience. “If you love me, keep my commandments.” Now, Jesus knew that His disciples would never obey or live perfectly- He wasn’t asking for that. What He was saying was that their obedience should come from a place of love, not of performance or striving. Jesus knew this would be an impossible task so He reassures them that He will pray for them and send them the Helper- this comforting Presence that would ever abide within them, empowering them, and strengthening them. And in contrast to the world’s inability to know or accept this Spirit, we as believers have the ability to know intimately the indwelling power of God within us.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to obey because of love and not for love? Do you do this or do you often find yourself striving/performing?
 2. How does it make you feel that Jesus prays for us?
 3. How can we “know” the Spirit within us? How does He comfort us?
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COMMENTARY #2

(Verse 18) Jesus then speaks to His disciple’s fears and promises that they are not being abandoned or left as orphans, but that He would come to them. Regardless of what they faced, they would never face it alone- and while the world may not see Him, His children would.

Discussion Questions

1. How does it make you feel that you are not called to do

- anything alone? That the Holy Spirit has already equipped and empowered you to do what you are called to do?
2. How does the Holy Spirit empower us? Have you ever personally experienced the Spirit in a way that empowered you to do something you couldn't do apart from Him?
 3. Why do you think we struggle to feel/hear or obey the Spirit in our lives?
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GOING DEEPER

1. In other portions of Scripture, Jesus tells His disciples that the Spirit is “better than I.” What does Jesus mean that the Spirit is “better?”
 2. What are some ways the Spirit moves in our lives? In your life personally?
 3. How does the Spirit offer comfort?
 4. What are some practical ways we can make room to hear the Spirit?
 5. We often speak about Jesus or God in church- but how do we get to “know” the Spirit more intimately in our lives?
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/doing-the-works-of-jesus-and-greater-works>- sermon
 - [John 14:1-14: Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled – God-Centered Life](#)- Devotion
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GROUP ACTIVITY

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=pete+greig+ talking+about+hearing+voice+of+god&&mid=4207005FE6425A86FEA64207005FE6425A86FEA6&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Listen to this sermon by Pete Greig (author of *Hearing the Voice of God*). This sermon is about being filled with the Spirit and hearing His voice during prayer. Practice what He talks about in prayer (do not put pressure or expectations on yourself! But we know that the Spirit is within us and longs to make Himself known).

Next week, talk about the sermon and your experience in prayer.