

discussion guide for october 15th

*"I Believe in The Holy Spirit"*

John 14:16-17



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **Launch the Discussion** (11:00 am)

A few years ago, the Barna polling organization found six out of ten Americans agreed with this statement: "The Holy Spirit is a symbol of God's presence or power, but is not a living entity." Amazingly, 55% of all born-again Christians said the same thing.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17 to the group. Notice the Bible says, "The Lord is the Spirit." In the service, Tom reviewed things the Holy Spirit does with nonbelievers and believers. (Convicts, Converts, Empowers, Enlightens, Equips, Encourages)

- How does it make you feel to know that these actions are those of the Lord himself?
- Do you feel *valued* that God would take a personal interest in your life, or do you feel *uneasy* that God is so close to everything you experience?

➤ **Guide the Discussion** (11:10 am)

Pastor Tom focused today on two basic points: Who the Holy Spirit Is, and What the Holy Spirit Does.

1. Who Is the Holy Spirit?

- Read John 14:16-17 (p. 1537-DSB\*) and 1 Corinthians 3:17 (p. 1419-DSB\*) Do these verses picture the Holy Spirit as a person? Why?
- Read Matthew 28:19 (p. 1301-DSB\*) By comparison, what can you know about the Holy Spirit from this verse?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19 (p. 1517-DSB\*) Where does this person we know as the Holy Spirit reside?
- Read Ephesians 1:13-14 (p. 1559-DSB\*) At what point does the person of the Holy Spirit enter and live in the soul of a believer? Compare Titus 3:5-7 (p. 1604-DSB\*)
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2. What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

First, the Spirit's works upon non-believers:

- Read John 16:8-11 (p. 1422-DSB\*) Discuss three truths the Holy Spirit communicates to non-believers.
- Read Ephesians 1:13-14 (p. 1559-DSB\*) When does the Holy Spirit enter a believer? [cf Titus 3:5-7 (p. 1604-DSB\*); Ephesians 2:22 (p. 1604-DSB\*].]

Second, the Spirit's works within believers:

- Read Galatians 5:25 (p. 1556-DSB\*). This verse urges us to "keep in step with the Spirit." What can we do in our daily life to follow the Spirit's leading?

\*"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

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➤ Apply the Discussion (11:35 am)

Read Galatians 5:22-23 (p. 1555-1556-DSB\*). This passage lists “fruit” (results) of “giving control”\*\* of your life to God’s Spirit.

\*\*Christians often refer to this as “being filled” with the Holy Spirit, or a “fresh anointing,” an ongoing activity for a believer.

- Of the nine traits, which one is strongest at this point in your life? Which one is your weakest?
- Would you be willing for the group to pray that you would reflect the fruit listed in this passage?
- What does it take for these traits to become active in your life and the lives of all believers?

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for those who share things God is leading them to do in response to this discussion.
- Pray for other shared needs from the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. (*Who will contact them this week and TELL THEM THEY WERE MISSED?*)

HERB SAYS:

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

PLEASE TAKE THIS GUIDE WITH YOU AND USE IT TO:

Go Deeper: Use the “Going Deeper” section in your personal daily devotionals. It is a great way to strengthen and reinforce what you are learning and applying to your life.

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➤ Going Deeper

Last Sunday you discovered who The Holy Spirit is and what The Holy Spirit does. These daily readings should help strengthen those foundational truths.

Monday, October 16: Read Romans 8:5-11 (p. 1496-DSB\*). What is one way to be absolutely sure you belong to the family of God?

Tuesday, October 17: Read Psalm 51:1-12 (p. 706-DSB\*). What does the Psalmist request of God? Does the Spirit of God represent a connection to God for him? What about you?

Wednesday, October 18: Read Romans 15:13 (p. 1507-DSB\*).. What does the Holy Spirit cause to be abundant in the life of a believer?

Thursday, October 19: Read Ephesians 4:20-30 (p. 1564-DSB\*). How might you “grieve” the Holy Spirit if you are a believer?

Friday, October 20: Read 2 Timothy 1:14 (p. 1496-DSB\*). Paul portrays the Holy Spirit as a “treasure.” In what ways is the Holy Spirit a treasure to you? How do you “guard” your treasure?

\*\*“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” available in common ground.