

Session 3: The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is God's personal and active presence in us. Far from being a vague energy or an impersonal force, the Holy Spirit is God Himself, living and working within us to transform, guide, and empower us for the mission to which we've been called.

Through the Spirit, we experience the fullness of salvation, find strength for holy living, and contribute meaningfully to the life of the Church. Our session will cover three major topics:

1. An Introduction to the Holy Spirit – Who He is and His role in Scripture and in our lives.
2. Spiritual Empowerment – How the Holy Spirit equips believers for victorious living and bold ministry.
3. Spiritual Gifts – Discovering, developing, and using the gifts God has given us to build His Church and serve others.

Topic 1: An Introduction to the Holy Spirit

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, co-equal with the Father and the Son. Like the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is a divine Person with intellect, will, and emotions. The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God (1 Corinthians 2:10-11), speaks to God's people (Acts 13:2), and can be grieved by our disobedience (Ephesians 4:30).

Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Comforter or Helper, promising His disciples that He would send the Spirit to dwell in them (John 14:16-17, NKJV). The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now lives within us (Romans 8:11).

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, the Spirit works in four primary ways:

1. Creation: Bringing order and life to the universe (Genesis 1:2).
2. Empowerment for Service: Equipping individuals like Samson and Bezalel for special tasks (Judges 14:6, Exodus 31:1-5).
3. Prophecy and Revelation: Inspiring prophets to deliver God's messages (Ezekiel 37:1-14).
4. Worship and Devotion: Stirring hearts to repentance and worship (Psalm 51:10-12).

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

At Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out, empowering believers for bold witness and ministry (Acts 2:1-4, Acts 1:8). The Spirit continues to convict of sin, indwell believers, and empower the Church.

Topic 2: Spiritual Empowerment

The Promise of Power

Jesus promised the power of the Holy Spirit for bold witnessing and victorious living (Acts 1:8). This power equips believers to proclaim the gospel, overcome sin, endure trials, and serve effectively.

Living a Spirit-Empowered Life

We can live Spirit-empowered lives by:

1. Praying for empowerment (Luke 11:13).
2. Surrendering to His guidance (Galatians 5:16).
3. Acting in faith.
4. Staying connected to community (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

Reflection Questions

1. How have you experienced the Spirit's power in your life?
2. In what areas do you feel you need more of the Spirit's empowerment?
3. How can you rely on the Holy Spirit to face a current challenge?

Topic 3: Spiritual Gifts

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts are divine abilities given to believers to build the Church and glorify God (1 Cor. 12:4-7). Examples include teaching, leadership, encouragement, healing, and hospitality.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Discover your gifts by:

1. Praying for revelation (James 1:5).
2. Reflecting on your passions and abilities.
3. Serving actively.
4. Seeking input from others.
5. Studying Scripture (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4).

Reflection Questions

1. What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you?
2. How can you begin using your gifts to serve others?
3. How can you encourage someone else to discover and walk in their gifts?

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit uniquely gifts each believer for the body of Christ. By discovering and using these gifts, we glorify God and serve His Kingdom (Romans 12:6-8).

Additional Resource

For additional resources, please visit <https://wilfredgraves.org/review>.