

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Spirit is the most mysterious member of the Trinity, and it could be said that He is the most overlooked. The beginning of the Bible (Genesis 1:1-2) reveals that the Spirit was active in Creation, and the Spirit continues to be active at the end of the Bible (Revelation 22:17). It seems that most of us try to live the Christian life on our own strength, rather than depending on the power of the Spirit. However, the Spirit is essential to us! What do we know about Him?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss with your group some of your beliefs about the Holy Spirit.
2. Read Acts 1:1-8. How is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) reiterated here? How were the disciples going to accomplish it?
3. The Holy Spirit is mentioned many times in the Old Testament. Read Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 41:38-39, 1 Samuel 10:6-7, Judges 6:34; Judges 14:6, Job 33:4 and Psalm 51:11. What do you learn about the Spirit from these verses?
4. Read the following New Testament verses and list what name and/or activity you learn about the Spirit. Do His names and activities tell you anything about His nature?

- Matthew 10:19-20 _____
- John 6:63 _____
- John 14:16-17 _____
- John 14:26 _____
- Acts 2:4 _____
- Romans 8:26 _____
- Ephesians 1:13-14 _____
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 _____
- 1 John 5:6 _____

5. Is the Spirit's role different in the Old Testament and the New Testament?
6. Some people believe that the Spirit is a force rather than a Person. How would you respond to someone who states this?
7. Read Romans 12:1-2. Since the Holy Spirit renews and transforms, what is your part in the process?

APPLICATION

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 and Titus 3:5-6. How open are you to being transformed by the Spirit? Based on what you learned in this study about the Holy Spirit and what He does for us, what is one area of your life that you can make an effort to live more fully in the Spirit? Or, if you have recently felt the conviction of the Spirit in a certain area of your life, how do you plan to yield to Him? Discuss it with your group, and put it into practice this week.

SCRIPTURE

“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ Then they gathered around him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth’.”

Acts 1:1-8 (NIV)