

A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

THE PRESENCE AND PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MONTH 2

WEEK 2

The Spirit is God's (and therefore also Christ's) mind and purpose and presence, therefore, His purpose is one with God's. The Holy Spirit is contrary to the desires of our sinful nature. Romans 8 describes how our sinful nature sets itself on its own desires without even recognizing its sinfulness. Therefore, the sinful man is hostile to God, unable to submit to His Spirit, and unable to please Him. Living according to the sinful nature brings death.

Choosing to be controlled by the Spirit, however, brings life and peace. It is the only way by which we lay claim to the same resurrection, the same glory, and the same inheritance as Christ. It is only the mind controlled by the Spirit that can submit to God's law and please Him. It is by the Spirit's testimony that we are claimed as God's children. The purpose of the Spirit is to guide us into the salvation that was purchased for us by Christ. It is the Spirit of Christ in us that makes us belong to Christ. The Spirit that Christ received when He was baptized (Mark 1:9-13) was the evidence and seal of His Sonship. The same is true for us. The presence and purpose of the Spirit is that we can come to life with the Father instead of death. Our natural spirit cannot bring us there, but the Spirit of Christ, God's Spirit can.

Since we don't even know what we ought to be praying for, the Spirit intercedes for us. It is very rare that I pray for a physical hardship, a crisis, or even the blessing that I could never have imagined. I have learned to pray the words of Psalm 139:23,24 "Search my heart, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." What I am really asking there is for the Spirit to intervene on my behalf. That is when I can trust that everything, good and bad, will work together for my spiritual good – **if I am called according to God's purpose.** It probably won't seem good at all for my natural desires! It is through God's Spirit that we are conquerors, that we are sealed into His love despite any sort of threat. We need His Spirit and are lost without Him!

READ:

Acts 8-12

Romans 8

(read this chapter
carefully at least 3
times!)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Now the Lord is
the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of
the Lord is, there is
freedom. And we
who with unveiled
faces all reflect the
Lord's glory, are
being transformed
into his likeness
with ever-increasing
glory, which comes
from the Lord, who
is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians

JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Matt. 10:18-20 says that the Spirit of God will speak through us when the need arises. How? _____

Describe an experience you have had with that: _____

Did you recognize it as the Spirit's words at the time? _____

Describe an event from Acts 8 - 12 where you think one or more of the believers was given words by the Spirit: _____

How does the Spirit help us worship according to John 4:21-24? _____

What does John 6:44 imply about the role of the Spirit in our salvation? _____

How did Jesus refer to the Spirit in John 7:37-39? _____

How did Jesus refer to eternal life in John 4:10? _____

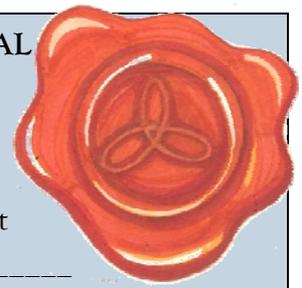
In what ways are the two the same? _____

LED INTO THE WILDERNESS Luke 4:1,2

We are soothed by the passages about the Spirit of God being our Comforter and Counselor and Guide, but what about the times He leads us, like He did Jesus, into the wilderness? Sometimes the Spirit leads us into difficult situations to test and strengthen us. In fact, that seems to be the very first thing that the Spirit did in Jesus' life after descending on Him at His baptism. What if Jesus had not followed the Spirit's lead into this time of hardship? _____

What if we refuse the same? _____

A PROMISE AND A SEAL



What purpose does 2 Cor. 1:22 give for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts? _____

What does 2 Cor. 5:5-10 say is a result of this deposit? _____

What is necessary to receive this deposit in Eph. 1:13,14? _____

The Greek word translated as a deposit to guarantee is "arrabon" which is like earnest money paid to legally secure a claim to ownership. (Key Word Study Bible 1594) The Holy Spirit is the initial payment of the redemption purchased for us by Christ. In due time, we will enjoy the fullness of that redemption, but in the meantime we can enjoy the deposit of God's Spirit in our hearts as a seal of the bargain that has been made.

Another Greek word used in connection with the Holy Spirit is "sphraegiein" which means to seal. A seal was placed on a document or product as a sign and proof of ownership. (Barclay 58) The presence of the Holy Spirit is God's mark of ownership on the believer. It is the marked proof of our identity in Christ.

What is the surrounding context of the admonition not to grieve the Holy Spirit in Eph. 4:29-32? _____

How is God's guarantee of ownership evident in the lives of His believers? _____

LACKING THE SPIRIT Acts 8

What did the baptized believers in Samaria lack (Acts 8:14-17)? _____

Why? _____

What did Peter and John do about it? _____

What did Simon want? _____

What was the response of the disciples? _____

VISIONS, ANGELS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT Acts 10

What is different about the angel who appeared to Cornelius in his vision and the vision that Peter had? _____

While Peter was still trying to soak in the vision, what did the Spirit tell him to do? _____

How did the visions, message from an angel, and the Spirit all work toward the same purpose in Acts 10? _____

What was that common purpose? _____

“GO AND JOIN THAT CHARIOT” Acts 8:26-40

Philip got a very clear command from the Spirit to “Go join that chariot.” How do you think that command was delivered? Does the Holy Spirit still give us such clear instruction? Do we ever miss His voice because we don’t know what we are listening for? How did the Spirit carry or “snatch” Philip away?

PAULS’ CONVERSION Acts 9

Describe the Spirit’s role in Paul’s conversion: _____

Do you think you have ever been called to help God’s chosen instrument and been reluctant to do so because it wasn’t safe to your natural self? _____

What did Paul give up to be God’s chosen instrument? _____

Would your spirit be willing to do that? _____

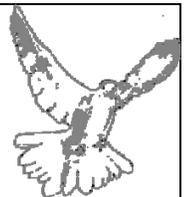
THE GIFT TO THE GENTILES Acts 10:44-48

Why do you think the Gentiles that Peter preached to received the Holy Spirit **before** their baptism? _____

Name a situation and purpose when the Holy Spirit might still act that way today? _____

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

A PROMISE AND A SEAL p. 2
Key Word Study Bible. 1996.



Barclay, William. “A Holy Guarantee.” The Contemporaries Meet the Classics on the Holy Spirit. Comp. Randall Harris. West Monroe, LA: Howard Publishing, 2004. 11-13.