

So this year we're reaching....our hope is to strengthen our walk.

**What we believe influences what we do so in all we do, we want to reach**

This fall we're reaching in faith, what we believe. These are basic doctrines of our faith. These are things we should hold most close to our heart and have a good grip on.

**So we want to go deeper into understanding what they really mean.**

We've looked at God the Father (*His Creating Work*) (*He is Above All*)

We've looked at Jesus the Son (*His Rescuing Work of Salvation*)

Tonight we look at the Holy Spirit (*and His re-creating work*)

Look at **John 14:16-17, 16:7** – it gives us our aim and focus when thinking about the Holy Spirit

Listen - If Jesus is saying it's better I go away so the Holy Spirit can come.

This is the first and really only clue we need to know this is important.

**BOTTOM LINE: Through the Holy Spirit we are made new in and through Jesus Christ and are empowered to live a life that brings God glory**

We want to dive into what this means and what this looks like.

When was say "I Believe in the Holy Spirit" - What are we saying?

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**There are a couple of things we need to know about the Holy Spirit –**

**He is somewhat of a scary thing to us....we are unsure of His purpose and role really.**

Because of this we just assume rather than know –

this can bring fear, uncertainty and in the end we miss out on the fullness of our Walk with God.

So rather than assume, let's know, be confident in Him...that's a good idea right? gain wisdom?

2 Huge Facts drive our understand and reality of the Holy Spirit - **He is Divine and He is Active**

**Holy** – let's us know He is divine & **We know He is active** because we see Him all throughout Scripture.

But what is He doing?

The Holy Spirit was there, in the beginning, at CREATION (**Genesis 1:2**)

He was there INSPIRING God's spokesman (**Isaiah 61:1**)

He was there EQUIPPING & ENABLING God's servants, those who knew God (**1 Samuel 16:13**)

He was there LEADING people to godliness

The Holy Spirit has always been at work, doing what He does.

Only in the NT this gains deeper meaning leading to Christ.

**The fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:26-27** comes forth (God said through the Prophet Ezekiel) "I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my SPIRIT within you and cause you to walk in my statutes.?"

Now get this: Jesus is the way to Father, He is the bridge. Without Christ we are hopeless.

**The Holy Spirit is the enabler.** He is no less important. He has a role, a purpose.

It's crucial and without Him we are hopeless, lost, confused and still wandering.

*The Spirit shows Jesus to us through the Gospel, unites us to him by faith, and indwells us to change us "into his image" by causing "the fruit of the Spirit" to grow in us.*

*The Spirit's purpose and His Goal is no different than God's.*

*That God's glory be known through the Son Jesus Christ.*

**So now, for us, why is The Holy Spirit important?**

Why should we believe in Him? Jesus said it was to our advantage that He went away...so the Helper, Holy Spirit, could come and continue His work (**John 16:7**) **How & Why?**

**1. He is a Teacher – I John 2:27, 5:7** – without the Holy Spirit teaching us, we don't have a clue. We can't think for one minute that we're actually smart enough to get al of this on our own. This is the heart of the Gospel (God doing for us.....) The Spirit teaches, He bears witness. He helps us to see what we cannot see on our own. He illuminates. (sheds light on the dark)

**2. He is a Comforter – Romans 8:16** (have you ever doubted or struggle with doubt regarding your salvation? The Spirit is the only voice you should listen to during these times. Don't get advice from people....trust the voice that has already spoken.

**3. He is an Enabler – John 15:26-27** (What?) He enables us to see what was always there. The Gospel didn't come out the day you believed....you didn't discover something new...it's always been there. The Spirit enabled you to see what was always there. Much like he teaches us things that were always there He also allows you to see clearly the Son, Jesus, who has always been.

Our need for the Spirit is huge....without Him we are hopeless to see, hear, understand

**4. He is Equipper – 1 Cor. 12:4-7,**(He equips us to accomplish the work) What work? Just like the Spirit's ultimate work will not be different from God's (to glorify God through Jesus Christ)

Our work will be to bring glory to God through Jesus.

The Holy Spirit will equip us to do this work.

Our gifts are different but the work pursues the same end.

**These 4 huge roles of the Holy Spirit are huge in our life.**

We cannot function without Him.

Other denominations believe the Holy Spirit is a second level thing. Something other than salvation.

But how could we ever be saved without the Holy Spirit invading our lives?

**So how do we know if the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives?**

**that I turn from sin to a life of holiness.**

This is a result only possible through the Holy Spirit doing His work.

After this the result is a life led by the Spirit in which we see the fruits of the Spirit being lived out.

You don't try better at this...it's a work the Spirit does in us.

Fruit is a result....you don't make a pine tree bear apples...they just do pine cones..

**What does this do or teach?**

When I say, as a Christian, "I believe in the Holy Spirit" I am saying:

I believe in fellowship with Christ to be a reality **and** that I am open to being led daily by the Spirit into Christian knowledge, obedience and service **and** I bless him as the author of my assurance that I am a son/daughter and heir of God.

bottom line: **Through the Holy Spirit we are made new in and through Jesus Christ and are empowered to live a life that brings God glory**

**So what does this mean for us? What do we do with this?**

**1. See The Holy Spirit as your greatest help to live a life that glorifies God and exalts Christ.**

**He is HELPER, Counselor, Equipper, Enabler, Teacher**

You can't live, learn, grow, be without His leading. Be led by Him.

Our hope as a ministry is to help you know Jesus and follow Jesus....we can't do this, you can't do this without the Holy Spirit as your greatest help. That's why Paul says in Galatians 5 "Walk in the Spirit" It's our only hope in accomplishing the goal of glorifying God and exalting Christ.

Paul says if we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit – seek this life

**2. See the need to be led -**

stop thinking you can do this...you can't....so submit and be led.

HOW? Read the Word, Seek the heart of God, Do what it says.

Attach yourself to people going the same way, learn from them, pour into them.

**3. See the Gospel – again.** God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. The Spirit's role in our life is an inescapable reminder of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are never fully capable of living the life we should live

Questions: REACH DEEPER WITH THESE QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from tonight's sermon and Scriptures?
2. What were your thoughts on the Holy Spirit before tonight? Were there fears, concerns, doubt, and uncertainty? How did tonight help?
3. Is it important that we believe in the Holy Spirit and that He is active today?  
Can you put into your words the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?
4. The Holy Spirit is crucial to our life today. Work through these Scriptures and as a group list out why the Holy Spirit is so important to us. **(What does the Bible say about what He does?)**  
1 John 2:27, John 16:13, John 14:26, John 14:15-19, John 16:7-11, 2 Cor. 1:20-22 (2 Cor.5:1-5)  
2 Cor. 3:12-18 (The Spirit is the one who allows us to see our need for God, Salvation)
5. How does knowing the Holy Spirit's role/purpose comfort you? Or how should it comfort you?
6. How does a person act if the Holy Spirit leads them?  
How does living by and walking in the Spirit look? How is it lived out?  
Read through Galatians 5:16-25
7. Finish your time by observing your own life. How often do we see these "fruits" in our own life? If we are weak in areas what should our response be?
8. Finish but completing the sentence....(without the Holy Spirit\_\_\_\_\_)