

Book of Acts Session 09

Saturday Seminar: Growing In Intimacy With the Holy Spirit

On YouTube: @htchurch

Send questions to: pastornick@htchurch.com

1. Introduction.

God encourages us like this: *“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”*

This session ties in with the first session, because it’s really the **delightfulness** of knowing Jesus and the Holy Spirit that will keep us and safeguard us in His love.

How easy it is to forget that the first and greatest of all God’s commandments is this: *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment” (Matt. 22:37b-38).*

In Philippians 3, Paul said he wanted to know Jesus. But he already knew Jesus. I believe the New Testament writers assume that we will both have **and develop** intimacy with Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

We need to spend time with Him!

Paul’s benediction is this: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)*

2. There are no orphan Christians!

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:15-18).

- Jesus promises His friends another Helper, another Comforter like He had been to them. The Greek means *another one of the same kind*.
 - The Spirit would remain with them forever.
 - He is the Spirit of Truth.
 - He would dwell within them. Aside from the *dunamis* of God coming upon them and empowering them for witness and service, we need all the beautiful ministries of the Spirit that Jesus describes at the Last Supper.
- How does Jesus come to us? He comes to us through the Spirit of Christ! So, there are no orphan Christians.
- Please consider John 14, 15, and 16 a part of the *Acts* class as well and meditate on those chapters.

3. Seeing the Spirit's Work in Acts

- It's helpful to survey the Spirit's activity in *Acts* and make some observations.
- Learn more by watching Life In The Spirit One on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/LITS-1>.

3A. Peter with Ananias and Sapphira: Acts 5:1-5, 9

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.... " Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

- Peter's intimacy with the Spirit makes him aware of what God is doing in the Church.

3B. Peter and the other Apostles, before the Council: Acts 5:30-32a

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit..."

- The Spirit **witnesses to Jesus**.
- Have we ever asked the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus through us?

3C. Philip's guidance and direction: Acts 8:26-29

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

- Notice that God will lead you into encounters with people, whether it's by an angel, the voice of the Spirit, or some other way.
- He is not opposed to sending you on a long and inconvenient trip. What do you do in those times? What do you do in your in-between times?
- In the business world, people tell us not to have any "dead time." Do you spend any of your *dead time* sowing to the Spirit?
- Philip had to walk a long way. A lot of time for fellowship, but he stayed sharp!
- Philip only had a word to get on the road. He had no clue as to why.
- *"Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea" (Acts 8:39-40).*
- He can help us make up for the time we spend on those longer errands.
- What amazing fruit came from intimacy and obedience!

3D. Walking in the comfort of the Spirit: Acts 9:31

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

- Notice what helped the churches to not only grow by addition, but to be multiplied:
 - The fear of the Lord.
 - In Isaiah 11, we read about the Holy Spirit resting upon the Messiah. And there we read that the Holy Spirit who rested on Christ would be *the Spirit of... the fear of the LORD*, and that the Messiah's delight would be in the fear of the Lord.
 - They also walked in *the comfort of the Holy Spirit*.
- Jesus is indeed our Comforter, but He says the Spirit is another one. Whenever you need some encouragement, just remember that you have two Comforters!
- The Greek word for "Comforter" is the word *parákletos*. Some call the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, and that's where it comes from.
- *Parákletos* is formed from two other words: (1) First, the word *para*, which means near, or alongside; and (2) *Kaleo*, which means to call.
- A Paraclete is someone who gets called to come alongside you and help you.
- He's our Comforter, Advocate, Helper, Encourager, Intercessor and Counselor. It can even mean a defense attorney!
- The churches were experiencing all the ministries of the Spirit that Jesus was teaching them about in John 14, 15, and 16. As they did, they were multiplied.

3E. Continued ministry of the Spirit

All the way through the end of Acts you'll see God using people to do the miraculous!

- Acts 10: He speaks directly to Peter. Are we open to hear Him speak to us?
- Acts 11: the ministry of prophets.
- Acts 13: The prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch worship the Lord together, and fast together. The Spirit speaks and says to release Barnabas and Saul into their ministries. Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Spirit!
- Acts 14: the Spirit enabled Paul to see that a man had faith to be healed.
- Acts 14: the Spirit also enabled them to ordain elders.
- Acts 15: the Spirit guided the leadership of the Church, enabling them to make the most important decision in the history of the Church. The leadership were in such close communion with the Spirit that they could say that the decision seemed good to them and to the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16: the Spirit guided them as to how to obey the Great Commission.
- Acts 20: Paul experiences prophetic people giving him words about his upcoming tribulations, everywhere he went.
- Acts 20: Paul notes how the Spirit makes people overseers.

The Spirit's invitation to draw closer is being extended every day and every moment. Paul says in Galatians 5, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Let's make Him our constant Companion!

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