

Devoted to the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17, 25-26

How were the earliest Christians so devoted to the mission of Jesus after He went to heaven?

Isaiah 11:1-10, Ezekiel 36:24-27, Acts 1:5, 2:1-4

Because of the Promise & Person & Presence of the Holy Spirit. Humans beings are bent towards being forgetful, stubborn, sinful, unsure, overwhelmed, lonely, easily distracted, unrighteous, unable, misled, helpless, comfort, in need of love, righteousness, transformation, conviction, forgiveness, guidance, empowerment and help, so upon Jesus' ascension back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to forever reside in God's people on earth!

What does Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit? John 14:16-17, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-8, 13-14

A Person, Helper, Advocate, Comforter, Counselor, Promise, Dwelling within, Spirit of Truth, Teacher, Coach, Recollector, Witness, Empowerer, Advantage, Convictor, Guide, Interceder, Declarer, Glorifier

What does Jesus desire for us & the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:12-17; Ephesians 5:15-20; Galatians 5:16-26

We are daily, continually, to be led by the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit, in order for our devotion to grow, for our fruit to last, and for the glory, goodness, and gain of God in us and His world.

Study Guide

Reflections: Those desiring to be a devoted to Jesus can ask themselves before the Lord in prayer :::

Jesus uses the word *paraclete* when talking about the promise of the Holy Spirit. *Paraclete* can be translated in different ways: advocate, helper, comforter, counselor. Which image of the Holy Spirit resonates with your most right now? Why is that?

Who is the Spirit drawing you toward as of late? Are they easy or hard to be with? Why would the Spirit be leading you toward them?

What is the Spirit wanting you to pay attention to that you don't want to? What are you devoted to these days other than Jesus? What step do you need to take to walk toward the Spirit's leading?

Readings: Read Isaiah 11:1-10. What is the effect of God's Spirit on this descendent of Jesse, King David's father? How does the resting on the Spirit on this King, impact how the Spirit rests upon the earth? What does this passage make you long for? Where do you most need the Holy Spirit of God to rest on you and bring the peace of Jesus into it?

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. How will God renovate His children with the Holy Spirit here? What will happen inside of us? What will be the effect of the Spirit here? What will the Spirit accomplish in us that we could never accomplish without Him? What are you trying to accomplish these days apart from the Holy Spirit? Why is that? How might the Holy Spirit be directing you back to the heart of God even in that struggle?

Read Romans 8:26-27. What does Paul tell us about the Holy Spirit here? What does Paul tell us about ourselves as human being here? What is the invitation here from the Holy Spirit when we are weak? How might praying without words when we are weak actually allow the Holy Spirit to pray for us from the inside out? Take a few moments of silence before God, sitting with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to see your heart (without explanation) and intercede for you before God the Father. Rest in the confidence that your weakness does not disqualify you (Rom. 8:1), but opens you to trust on the God who is in control (Romans 8:28).

Resources: *Where Prayer Becomes Real: How Honesty with God Transforms Your Soul* (2021) by Kyle Strobel & John Coe. *John Through Old Testament Eyes: A Background and Application Commentary* (2021) by Karen Jobes. These will help you understand the person, promise & presence of God's Holy Spirit inside you!