

Resurrection Relevance – Week 2 – “The Holy Spirit”

Introduction

We don't seem to talk much about the Holy Spirit in Presbyterian circles, but the role that the Spirit plays in our daily walk of faith is significant. The Holy Spirit gives us power for living daily as we seek to follow the Way of Jesus, the Gospel of hope and encouragement. Much attention is paid to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gift of speaking in tongues, but this is only one manifestation, and not, in the view of the Apostle Paul, the least important of the Spirit's power in the life of the believer. Jesus declared that his power to heal and to cast out demons came from the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28).

The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, is the Presence of God living in us, who guides us and comforts us as we seek to live out our faith in the world. The Holy Spirit actively directs our thoughts and understanding as we read the Bible and go to God in prayer. The Holy Spirit guides us in our faith by convicting us when we sin. The sense of guilt that arises is a good thing because it leads to repentance and opens our hearts to receive God's gift of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He guides us in the truth by helping us sort God's truth from the falsehoods of the world.

The Holy Spirit lives in everyone who has accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. This means that we look inward when we seek him. In prayer and meditation, we seek the presence of the Holy Spirit in us, yielding to his guidance in every decision that we make and every aspect of our lives. We can cultivate our awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence by intentionally working to live out the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit living in us encourages us, challenges us, and comforts us along life's journey and helps us to look forward to that day when we will experience God in His fullness in His eternal kingdom.

Opening Discussion:

1. Share one thing that you found helpful from Sunday's message.

Study Time:

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in his disciples after he ascended to his heavenly Father. Acts 2:1-3 briefly describes the dramatic moment when the Holy Spirit “came to rest” on the disciples. Each began to speak in tongues, declaring the good news about Jesus in the languages of the pilgrims who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. The Holy Spirit transformed everyone into whom he entered. There is no better example of this than Peter, who went from denying Jesus three times and hid after he was crucified to boldly declaring the gospel to many of the same people who had clamored for Jesus’ death. Peter was filled with the Spirit, and his life was changed forever.

1. Peter was radically transformed after the Holy Spirit filled him. He was no longer afraid of those who had worked to put Jesus to death. What changed?

2. Read **Ephesians 1:17-20** and make a list of the ways that Paul prayed for the Holy Spirit to help believers. How does the work of the Spirit described in these verses help us to learn more about Jesus?

3. Read **John 14:24-26** and reflect on some ways that the Holy Spirit can remind us of what Jesus taught. What are some ways that we can help the Holy Spirit to do this in our lives?

Faith is supposed to be exciting and dynamic, not dull and lifeless. When our faith falters or we do not feel much enthusiasm for living our faith, our best option is to turn to the Holy Spirit to regain our fervor. The Holy Spirit is our Guide and our Helper, especially when we do not feel capable of staying on track. The Holy Spirit indwells us permanently, not just when we're doing well.

- 1.** It is important to remember that being filled with the Holy Spirit is integral to the life of the believer. Paul framed it as a command in Ephesians 5:18 when he wrote “Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.” One way we do this is by actively working to demonstrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit with our words and actions. Read **Galatians 5:22-23** and reflect on how each characteristic can be a spiritual blessing for the giver and the receiver.
- 2.** Read **1 Timothy 1:6-8** and reflect on what Paul meant when he declared that “the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline” (v. 7). Discuss the relationship between being bold and fearless while also being loving and under control.
- 3.** Read **Romans 8:11-13** and reflect on what it means “live according to the flesh” versus what it means to live by the Spirit. **Galatians 5:19-21** can help you with what it means to walk according to the desires of the flesh.