

*Dear Friends,*

*This week we continue our study on the Holy Spirit. I'm so excited about this study and your week in the Word, looking at and experiencing the Holy Spirit of God. May you be open, aware and be willing to submit yourself to the movement of the Spirit that dwells within you. Know that the very presence of God lives in you, as you open the Scriptures each and every day this week.*

### **Monday, February 12, 2018**

We realize that the Spirit of God exists from the beginning of time. The Spirit is not something that was created or comes later. It has always been and will always be. The Spirit is God.

First, we see the Spirit appear in Genesis Chapter 1 verse 2 and it is intrinsically involved in the Creation of all things.

What has been your experience of the Spirit of God?

Take a moment to ponder this question and reflect on it for a bit and write down your notes.

We will look at some examples of where the Spirit is active in the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament).

#### **Read**

2 Samuel 23:2

Judges 6:34

Psalms 143:10

What do you notice and what do you see about the role of the Spirit in the Old Testament?

Jot down your answers and what you notice here.

What is your "takeaway" here? What can you learn from these passages about how the Spirit was active in the Old Testament?

### **Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

As we continue our study today, we look at the words of Jesus and His promise to us about the one He is sending - the Spirit. (I can almost see Jesus say these words with a huge smile on His face!)

#### **Read**

John 14:15-17

What are the major characteristics you notice about the Holy Spirit in this passage?

Why do you think this was God's plan all along, to send Jesus in human form and then after the Resurrection to leave the Holy Spirit as a gift for God's people?

How does this change the way we begin to view the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day lives?

#### **Read**

John 3:5-8

This is a conversation Jesus has with Nicodemus about the future of humanity and how, through Him, we are to be and live.

What are the characteristics Jesus describes about the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus?

How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is this wild, untamable presence of God, change the way we view the Spirit?

### **Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

Today we move on to the Spirit's role within us, or what is commonly called the "indwelling of the Holy Spirit" within believers. The Word of God is clear that, to all who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in God is given the gift of the Holy Spirit, which lives within them.

These are three of the most dynamic and deep passages about the Spirit of God from the Apostle Paul within the New Testament. I'm so excited that you will spend time reading them. Read them through carefully, as I will not leave any questions to answer afterwards but I will let the Spirit of God lead you through these passages and bring to light what you need to hear as you learn to practice listening to the Spirit of God that dwells within you. Be aware of the things that come forward in a strong manner for you. Take note of them, write them down and if possible share them with either your Small Group members or somebody who can join you in your spiritual journey.

#### **Read**

Galatians 5:16-26

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

Romans 8:9-17

#### **Pray**

Spirit of God, open me to the movements within. Open my heart and my mind so I may better understand your word and your role in my life.

### **Thursday, February 15, 2018**

As we move from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that lives within us with those amazing verses from Galatians, 1 Corinthians and Romans, we are going to talk about another aspect of the Spirit, called "filling."

For many of you who did not grow up in a more charismatic or Pentecostal movement (more open to talking about and experiencing the Holy Spirit), the next two days may be challenging, but bear with me for this concept of "filling" is all over the New Testament, not just in the book of Acts, but it seems to be a prevalent movement of the Holy Spirit.

"With indwelling, every Christian has all of the Spirit, but the command to be filled by the Spirit enables the Spirit to have all of the believer."

#### **Read**

Acts 4:8

Acts 4:31

Acts 13:52

What is the common thread you see in all of these passages? Move beyond the answer of "they're all being filled with the Spirit" and look deeper into the context and the surrounding text.

Each of these "fillings of the Holy Spirit" happens to those who have already professed faith in Christ and have been baptized. What does this tell us about the movement of the Holy Spirit and the New Testament church?

If indwelling with the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit are two separate occurrences that are both invited for the believer to experience, what then should we desire of the Holy Spirit when it comes to our being filled?

Have you ever been filled with the Holy Spirit? If so, what was that like and what happened?

### **Friday, February 16, 2018**

On this final morning we will take another look at the concept of “being filled with the Spirit.” We will look at the words of the Apostle Paul from the book of Ephesians, as he likens being filled with the Spirit to being “drunk with wine.” One absolutely has to love Paul’s analogies. (I certainly do.)

Today will be a challenging reading, and even more challenging is the invitation that the Spirit of God is going to place before you. May you read with openness and not be afraid to move forward in what the Spirit of God is asking you.

#### **Read**

Ephesians 5:15-20

Paul is giving us a contrast on how to live our lives. He uses the image in 5:18 about being “drunk with wine” and contrasting that with being filled with the Holy Spirit. Take a moment to reflect on this image of being drunk on wine vs. being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Why do you think Paul uses this illustration? When one gets drunk on wine, what takes place? How then do we begin to implement those descriptions you came up with in the area of being filled with the Spirit?

Examples such as loss of control, given over to the influence, done purposefully and done slowly (the wine in the New Testament was much more diluted than we have now and would have taken a lot more to consume). So, intentionally getting intoxicated would be a much greater commitment in the New Testament than it would be today.

Paul is encouraging the people of God to be filled with the Holy Spirit on an ongoing regular basis, to be as intentional about it as getting “drunk on wine.”

You are invited to be more filled with the Holy Spirit than you are today.

Here comes the challenge. Spend a moment in prayer asking the Spirit of God to fill you, to open you up and make you more aware of the Spirit’s presence in your lives.

#### **Pray**

Spirit of God, come and fill me, have every aspect of my life. I want more of you in me. Spirit of God, take over my life and have your way with me, direct me and lead me in the way that leads to worshipping and glorifying God.