



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Led by the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:14

1. This week, we continued studying our Church Core Values. This week's focus was on the core value of being led by the Holy Spirit. Foundational to our understanding of being led by the Holy Spirit is the knowledge that the Holy Spirit lives within those who have authentically accepted Christ. Take a moment to meditate on these verses.

Romans 8:9-11 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

According to this verse, does everyone who belongs to Christ have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, living in them?

What does it mean to have the Holy Spirit living in you?

Take a moment to discuss this quote from Francis Chan: "This is the question I just can't get around: If its true that the Spirit of God dwells in us, then shouldn't there be a huge difference between the person who has the Spirit of God living inside of him or her and the person who does not?"

2. As you think about the Holy Spirit, one question may come to mind: What is His role? What does the Holy Spirit do?

In John 14, Jesus explains that He is leaving but that God is sending the Holy Spirit in a fresh and new way. The Spirit will be with us and live in us (John 14:17).

One essential role of the Spirit is to comfort us. He is called "the Comforter" in John 14:16. The Spirit is here to help us; Jesus calls Him "the Helper" The Spirit also teaches and guides us (John 16:26).

Several years ago, I described the work of the Holy Spirit by saying "The Holy Spirit is here so we can live through God's power to accomplish God's will". Tell a story of a time when you personally were impacted by the Holy Spirit through His comfort, correction, or guidance.

3. As you are thinking today about the Holy Spirit and His role in your life, you may conclude that you would like more of the Spirit's work in your life: more of His peace and comfort, more of His guidance and correction, more of His power to have self-control and endurance. Would you like to see more of the Holy Spirit's work in your life?

Romans Chapter 8 teaches us that one way to experience the work of the Spirit is to change our mindset.

Romans 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

What do you make of the phrase "set your mind"? What does it mean, and how do you do it?

Christian Pastor and Author John Ortberg says this about setting our mind: "You need to realize there is a fundamental battle being waged by the Evil One over the nature of the thoughts that run through your head. You have to understand you have the freedom to decide what your mind will dwell on. You can set your mind. At any moment, you can turn your mind to God. The Holy Spirit is flowing and wanting to renew your mind. We need to grasp the power of tuning our minds to the Spirit, asking Him to guide our thoughts. Then we must pause and listen." What are your thoughts on this quote?

I generally set my mind on the Spirit by pausing multiple times daily to acknowledge the Holy Spirit and invite Him to lead and guide me. After that brief prayer, I do my best to remain still and listen for God's direction. Have you ever done something similar? What did you do? What were the results?

4. Our last question will focus on the core value of being led by the Spirit. This means that we see the immense value of inviting God into our decision making and asking for His will. As the Spirit leads us, we must obey. If this core value makes you uncomfortable, I'll remind you that the Spirit led Jesus.

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and that all those in Christ should seek the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Are you willing to pause during the day or before you make a decision and humbly ask God for guidance? Are you willing to seek His will over your own?

Are you willing to lean in and learn more about the Holy Spirit and His guidance?