



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Basics

John 14:17

1. This week we began a sermon series on the Holy Spirit. As we began, we looked deeper at the truth that the Holy Spirit lives inside those who follow Christ.

Jesus taught this in John 14:17, the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. Many other New Testament verses confirm this reality.

Francis Chan says this about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit: "Those of us who believe in Jesus would never deny the truth that we have the Spirit of the living God living inside of us. I'm just not convinced we have internalized this truth and enjoyed its blessing. It seems that so many Christians only have head knowledge and have not understood it or owned it."

Do you agree with this quote? Do you feel you have internalized, understood, and owned what it means to have the Holy Spirit inside you?

2. Having the Spirit living in us means we have access to a supernatural supply of strength and energy.

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

2 Timothy 2:1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

These verses and many others speak to the ability of the Spirit to strengthen us. Tell a story of a time the Holy Spirit strengthened you.

How do you think someone draws strength in their inner being through the Spirit, as Paul mentions in Ephesians 3:16?

3. Having the Spirit living in us means we have the Spirit of Truth with us to teach and guide us.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Those who follow Christ need guidance in both the big and small decisions of life. We need to know God's will, and we need to know the truth. God's Word is our source of truth, but we also have the Spirit of truth living in us to guide us into all truth. Tell a story of a time you know you were guided by the Holy Spirit.

How do you think someone learns to listen to the gentle whisper of the Spirit and receive guidance from Him?

4. Another role of the Spirit is to comfort us in times of grief and trouble.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

What are your thoughts about this verse?

Acts 9:31 (ESV) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

What are your thoughts on this verse, especially the phrase “in the comfort of the Holy Spirit”?

One of the names given by Jesus to the Holy Spirit is the Comforter. Tell a story of a time you were comforted by the Holy Spirit.

Do you agree that because the Spirit lives in us, the comfort of the Holy Spirit is available to us every waking moment? If true, does that change how you view the indwelling of the Spirit?

5. To understand the work of the Spirit, we need to understand the mysterious relationship between “filling” and “quenching”. The Bible boldly and clearly says we should be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

This is a command, and the Greek indicates it is an ongoing process. We should be continually refilled by the Spirit. What are your thoughts?

Interestingly we are commanded to be filled, which means it is something we need to learn to do and do regularly.

Paul also directly commands us in **1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.**

The word used here for quench applies to a fire. It means “to suppress, douse, or smother the fire”. So, Paul is letting us know that there are things we might do or think that suppress the work of the Spirit that lives in us. What are these things that would hinder or suppress the work of the Spirit in our lives?

In my opinion, the most obvious way for us to quench the work of the Spirit is to sin, to live in a way that does not honor God. I also believe the work of the Spirit is strengthened by faith and the work of the Spirit is quenched by lingering doubts (see **James 1:6-8**).

Our mindset is important as well. Ignoring God most of your day will quench the Spirit, and abiding with Christ throughout your day will strengthen the work of the Spirit in your life. Do you agree?

What are some things you currently do that you think might be suppressing the work of the Spirit in your life?