

Sermon Quotes
April 22nd, 2007
Living In The Good Of The Gospel
Recognizing and Responding to the Spirit

Through the Gospel—through what Christ accomplished for us on the Cross—believers can now have the same kind of relationship with God that Jesus had while on earth.

The Holy Spirit hasn't come to replace Jesus, but to serve as **a living link** to Jesus and the Father.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...”

Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

Acts 4:8 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”

Acts 13:4 “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia...”

Acts 15:28 “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...”

Self-Test Question: How much influence does the Holy Spirit have in your life right now?

Is He...

1. Central
2. Marginal
3. Almost non-existent

Luke 11:11-13 ESV “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give **good gifts** to your children, **how much more** will the **heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit** to those **who ask him!**”

How can we better recognize and respond to the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Growing in your Relationship with the Holy Spirit:

1. The primary way we relate to the Holy Spirit is **through Prayer**.

Luke 11:13 “...how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit **to those who ask him!**”

Acts 1:14 “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer...”

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

*“Prayer obtains fresh and continued outpourings of the Spirit. He alone begins the work of grace in a man's heart. He alone can carry it forward and make it prosper. But the good Spirit loves to be entreated. And those who **ask most** will have **most of His influence**.”*

—JC Ryle

Growing in your Relationship with the Holy Spirit: (cont.)

2. Relate to the Spirit **as a Person**, not an impersonal Force.

“For most of us our understanding of the Spirit falls considerably short of personhood. We have a certain immediate empathy with the student who once told a colleague of mine: 'God the Father makes perfectly good sense to me; and God the Son I can quite understand; but the Holy Spirit is a gray, oblong blur.'...Because He is not visible, we tend to think of Him in non-personal terms. At which point our images take over; we think of the Spirit as wind, fire, water, oil—impersonal images all—and refer to the Spirit as 'it.' No wonder many regard the Spirit as a gray, oblong blur.”

—Gordon Fee

*“...God does not have a physical body, nor is He made of any kind of matter like much of the rest of creation. Furthermore, God is not merely energy or thought or some of other element of creation. Instead of all these ideas of God, we must say that God is Spirit. **Whatever this means**, it is a kind of existence that is **unlike anything else** in creation. It is a kind of existence that is **far superior** to all our material existence.”*

—Wayne Grudem

3. Learn to Recognize the **Differing Ways** the Holy Spirit does lead us and guide us.

*“This is how I hope we understand the Spirit in Sovereign Grace Ministries...not simply in terms of the miraculous. Now we thank God for the miraculous. This isn't to critique or minimize or ignore or dismiss the miraculous. It's just to adopt the inspired perspective of Paul, and to understand the Spirit's power in **the broadest possible way**, so we can appreciate the Spirit at work **in every possible way**.”*

—CJ Mahaney

Scriptural Examples of this “Broad Work” of the Spirit:

1. Whenever spiritual truths (the truths of Scripture) become clear to us.
2. Whenever a Scripture comes to mind that helps or guides us.
3. When we experience the conviction of sin and godly sorrow.
4. Whenever we are able to resist temptation.
5. Whenever we understand or become clear about God's will for our lives.
6. Whenever we change or experience any growth in areas such as:
 - Loving God or others more.
 - Experiencing joy not connected to our circumstances.
 - Experiencing peace in troubling times.
 - Having more patience with others than we used to.

- Responding to others with kindness, even when wronged.
- Doing the right and decent thing, even when it's hard.
- Following through on things we've agreed to do.
- Handling situations with gentleness, instead of harshly or in anger.
- Finding strength to say no to things we know we should avoid.