

## **TOPIC: RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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### **SUMMARY OF MESSAGE**

Why do we need to 'receive' the Holy Spirit?

First we need to know that the Holy Spirit will not impose His will on us because He respects our will and response to Him. He is perfectly gracious and kind.

What does it mean to 'receive' the Holy Spirit?

It is about welcoming and receiving Him in various roles and positions in relation to the believer. To do so meaningfully, we need to know who the Holy Spirit is.

He is:

- The Spirit of God the Father (Gen 1:2)
- The Spirit of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:19, Acts 16:7, Gal 4:6, 1 Pet 1:11)

The Holy Spirit is always in perfect unity with the Father and the Lord Jesus. There is no division in the Godhead. They are always in perfect union, in perfect oneness and in perfect agreement.

The Holy Spirit is always at work from Heaven to Earth. As in 1 John 5:7-8, on earth, there are 3 things that testify:

- 1) The Holy Spirit
- 2) The water of the living Word of God. In John 6:63, the words that Jesus speaks are life and spirit.
- 3) Blood. There is life in the Blood. When Cain murdered Abel, the blood cried out for revenge. In a place called M, killings happen here and there because blood calls out for revenge.

**The Holy Spirit has three fundamental positions, in relation to the believer.**

#### **1) The Holy Spirit is with & in us.**

*John 14:17*

*"The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

Mark the words, "with" and the word "in". The Holy Spirit is "with" us. This refers to the presence of God. He is with every human being on the face of the earth regardless whether we are aware of Him or not. In Matthew 1:23, when Jesus was born, he was called, "Immanuel", meaning "God with us." The Presence of God will always be with the believer in all circumstances and situations of his life. He may be sleeping under a starlit sky, running on a treadmill in a gym, enjoying steak at Botak Jones or lying through his teeth to his boss.

*In Isaiah 43:2*

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned nor shall the flame scorch you.”*

When we are in trouble, He is with us. When our investments erode, He is with us. When we are exasperated with our CG member or are angry with our CG leader or are frustrated with our children or are retrenched, He is also there with us. He is always with us in times of conflicts and difficulties.

*Psalm 23:4*

*“Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

The presence of God will always be with the believer even in the valley of the shadow of death.

### **How do we know His presence is there with us?**

A) We know when we draw near to Him in worship (Psalm 100:4-5). Worship can be a time where spiritual songs are sung. These are unrehearsed songs and this is what anointed worship is all about.

B) We know His presence is with us when we chat with Him continually, talking to Him when we come in and go out and when we rise up and lie down. This must be our starting point: to know His presence as we journey in this life.

### **2) The next fundamental position: the Holy Spirit is in the believer.**

The Holy Spirit is not in everyone. Who is the believer? He is someone who has opened his heart and received Jesus into his life as Saviour and Lord.

What comes with the Spirit's indwelling? His indwelling brings us the peace of God. As in Philippians 4:6-7, the Holy Spirit in the believer brings the peace that guards the heart and mind of the believer. This Peace of God is Greek is “eirene” which means “wholesome well being” of our spirit, soul and body. Literally, it means “Prosperity” of our being [Strong's]. When we are in trouble, we ask that His Peace will guard our mind from scattered thoughts and anxieties.

The Holy Spirit in the believer is the Anointing that instructs, teaches and guides the believer in his journey (1 John 2:27)

He provides:

a) Direction through broad principles or guidelines from the Word. E.g. principles of marriage, life partnership, submission to parents, government, boss at workplace, etc. The details of the guidance are always from the Spirit of wisdom. He is the inward witness (Romans 8:16). We may have to make decisions such as which condominium to buy or what course of study to pursue and the Holy Spirit guides us by directing us to a coach, a counselor, a professional, etc.

b) Resources. The Holy Spirit directs us to resources such as what books or articles to read or which seminars to attend, etc.

c) Situations and Circumstances. The Holy Spirit may direct us via divine appointments, connections, discernment, gut feel or intuition.

The Holy Spirit is called the Helper.

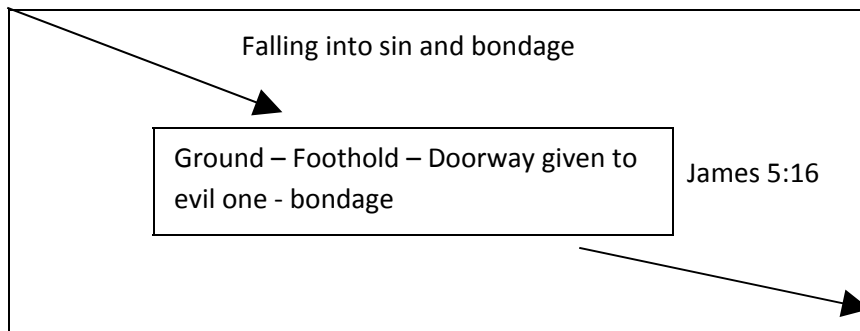
John 14:26

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

### 3) Lastly, the Holy Spirit is ON/Upon the believer.

It is one thing to know the presence of God but another to know the power of God. The Power of God upon the believer is to enable and empower him to:

a) Live victoriously – Romans 8:1-2



Our self-will enables us to overcome temptation. However, if we persist in sin, a ground will be given to the devil. We will then need people to help us. For some people, the bondage may be pornography while for others it may be a loose tongue.

b) Be witnesses of God i.e. to serve Him, to share Christ. Acts 1:8

c) To minister the specific grace of God to others. Luke 4:18

### Summary Applications

How do I continually “receive” and “have” the Holy Spirit?

1. Continually surrender to Him (Eph 6:18)  
We acknowledge and welcome His Presence in every area of our lives.
2. Do not grieve Him in disobedience (Eph 4:30)  
We will lose the connection with Him when we grieve Him.
3. Do not quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19)  
We quench the Holy Spirit when we resist His work and flow. On one hand, we need to resist the works of the flesh and on the other, receive the anointing upon for victorious living and ministry.

### Conclusion:

Have you intentionally welcomed and received the Holy Spirit in your life?

## Questions for discussion

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- 1) Why do we need the Holy Spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What applications can you make in your daily living from knowing that the presence of God is always with you? You may want to share some personal experiences of His comfort, help, enabling or deliverance from near calamity.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Share your experiences during worship and how that has helped you sense His presence.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) One outcome of the Holy Spirit's indwelling is the Peace of God. Share your experiences of His peace or your struggles if peace has evaded you.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Ephesians 4:30 says not to grieve the Spirit and 1 Thess 5:19 says not to quench the Spirit. Share your understanding of what these verses mean to you.

6) The Holy Spirit is also on/upon the believer, enabling and empowering him to live victoriously and to be a witness of God. In this regard, how is the Holy Spirit working in your life?

7) What's your understanding of Eph 5:18? Would you like to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

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No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...