

Uprising

Week of April 10

The Holy Spirit is perhaps the most misunderstood person of the Trinity. We don't speak much of the Holy Spirit because we don't understand His role, purpose, and power. And yet, the very fact that we call Jesus Lord and desire to know Christ personally in the first place is due to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. The Holy Spirit stirs within us a desire to know God. If you can remember back to the first time you heard the name of Jesus and something resonated inside of you, that was the Holy Spirit drawing you into a personal relationship with your Savior.

Read Acts 1:1-8

Jesus told His apostles: "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (vv4-5). Being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with God. When a person accepts Christ into their heart, that person is welcoming the Holy Spirit to come live inside their heart, mind, soul, spirit, and body. Before He left, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His followers.

1. The Holy Spirit is a Person. Read Jesus' words in **John 16:5-15**. What functions of the Holy Spirit do you see in these verses (specifically vv 8, 13-15) and how have you seen the Holy Spirit working in these ways personally?

One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to guide believers into "all truth." Why is it important to ask for the Holy Spirit's help in our prayer and Bible study time? As we gather for corporate worship or in our Life Groups? As we go about our day-to-day work and activities?

The Bible says God chose Christ as a ransom for sin "long before the world began" (1 Peter 1:20). God also chose the Holy Spirit from the beginning to bring order out of our chaos and write God's ways on our hearts (see Genesis 1:1-2, Jeremiah 31:33-34). Christ Jesus paid for our sins on the cross and put death to death when He rose from the tomb. When we place our faith in Christ we are instantly forgiven of the debt of sin piled against us. The problem is, though, we don't instantly go to heaven. We live in this world – still in a body of flesh – and we need help in order to follow Christ faithfully and be made into His image. We need the Holy Spirit to give us power, courage, and strength to become the new creation He saved us to be.

The Holy Spirit is power. Peter was a different man after being filled with the Holy Spirit. From the night he denied Jesus to the day of Pentecost when He stood to preach and thousands gave their hearts to Christ—something dramatic happened in Peter. It wasn't Peter's self-will and determination. It was the indwelling presence of God's power ignited in Peter's heart that gave him courage to step forward and shout to the crowds (see Acts 2:14-41).

2. When have you witnessed a time of sheer courage and boldness for Christ, and knew undeniably it was the work of the Holy Spirit?

It is important to welcome and acknowledge the work of God's Holy Spirit. Do you believe the Holy Spirit can come upon you and your church today? How can we show the Holy Spirit we are serious and sincere (and that we mean business) when it comes to living in victory and winning people to Christ? Are we prepared for the harvest He may very well send our way?

Jesus turned to His disciples and said: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields" (Matthew 9:37b, 38). The "Lord who is in charge of the harvest" is the Holy Spirit. We need all kinds of people in the Kingdom—people willing to plow the ground, people who are willing to sow the seed, people willing to work the ground, and then folks willing to bring in the harvest when it's time. The Holy Spirit will prompt us to do the work that needs to be done when it's the right time.

3. Why is it crucial to depend (and prayerfully discern) the accurate promptings of the Holy Spirit?

Why is it imperative to act quickly when we are prompted to go, send, or pray?

There is order in what God is about in this world. The Holy Spirit will bring power, life, and order to our lives and ministries as we call upon Him and seek His direction. Jesus didn't leave us without a Helper. We have access to the Power of His glorious Presence through the indwelling gift of His Holy Spirit. We are all connected—the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, believers, saints, all who have gone before us, the armies of heaven, and the entire landscape of time, history, creation, and future wonders. "For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

4. In closing, are you in need of Holy Spirit refreshment? If so, write a prayer of honest confession and surrender in the space below. Tell the Lord everything going on—tell Him you love Him and that you need His love, mercy, and forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to do a new work in you starting today.

UPRISING

Text: Acts 1:1-8

The Plain Truth:

“No Holy Spirit, No _____, No _____,
No Ministry”.

Three primary functions of the Holy Spirit:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

One Year Bible Reading

Apr. 10: Deut. 34:1-Joshua 2:24, Luke 13:22-14:6, Psalm 79:1-13, Prov.12:26

Apr. 11: Joshua 3:1-4:24, Luke 14:7-35, Psalm 80:1-19, Proverbs 12:27-28

Apr. 12: Joshua 5:1-7:15, Luke 15:1-32, Psalm 81:1-16, Proverbs 13:1

Apr. 13: Joshua 7:16-9:2, Luke 16:1-18, Psalm 82:1-8, Proverbs 13:2-3

Apr. 14: Joshua 9:3-10:43, Luke 16:19-17:10, Psalm 83:1-18, Proverbs 13:4

Apr. 15: Joshua 11:1-12:24, Luke 17:11-37, Psalm 84:1-12, Proverbs 13:5-6

Apr. 16: Joshua 13:1-14:15, Luke 18:1-17, Psalm 85:1-13, Proverbs 13:7-8

I confess Jesus as Savior and to be filled with
the Holy Spirit

April 9 & 10, 2016