



Mosaic Christian Community

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17, Isaiah 11:1-3

MATERIAL FOR GROWTH GROUPS

JANUARY 2024, Week 1-4

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WEEK 1

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture: John 14:16-17 GNT, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive Him, because it cannot see Him or know Him. But you know Him, because he remains with you and is in you.

Goal: To help participants know who the Holy Spirit is and the reason why He was given to the believers.

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is not a mere feeling or force. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity (a). In the Gospel of John (John 14:16-17, John 15:26), Christ refers to Him with possessive pronouns ‘He’ and ‘Him’. When Jesus ascended into heaven, after His resurrection, He did not leave His followers or us all alone. He promised the Holy Spirit to come live in our hearts and our midst. And He promised that the Holy Spirit would never leave us (b). The power of the Holy Spirit was with Jesus throughout his ministry (c), in his death (d), and even in his resurrection (e). Have you ever wondered why God gave us the Holy Spirit when we believed? If Christ, though He was fully man and fully God during His earthly life and ministry, still depended on the power of the Holy Spirit, how much more do we who are weak in the flesh need the Holy Spirit? If we recognize our brokenness and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, we will experience rapid growth and tremendous fruitfulness in our Christian lives. This is exactly why the Spirit was given to the believer. Ultimately, He will conform us to the image of Christ (f).

Matthew 28:19, (b) John 14:16-17, (c) Luke 4:14 then 18, (d) Hebrews 9:13-14, (e) Romans 8:11, (f) Ephesians 4:12-13

Discussion

1. Who is the Holy Spirit according to your understanding? How do you describe him?
2. Why did Jesus promise to send another Helper, the Holy Spirit? What significance does this promise hold for believers?
3. What are the roles of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
4. How does the truth-revealing role of the Holy Spirit influence our understanding of God and His purposes? Refer to John 16:13
5. Why do believers need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

Conclusion

Believers can describe the Holy Spirit in many different ways according to their encounters, knowledge, or their relationship with Him. According to the truth of the word of God, we know Him as the Helper that was sent to us believers, to be our advocate, and comforter, to guide and to empower us. This promise is significant as it ensures the continual presence of God with believers, providing guidance, comfort, and empowerment (e). The Holy Spirit plays various roles, including being a Comforter (f), Teacher, Guide (g), Intercessor (h), Empowers us for

witnessing (i), Producer of spiritual fruit (j), Indweller (k), Convictor of sin, Righteousness, and Judgement (l), Giver of Spiritual gifts (m), Sealer of salvation (n), and Transformer into Christ-likeness (o). As mentioned in John 16:13, the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth, guides believers In all truth, helping us to understand the will Of God, purposes, and the teachings of Jesus. As written in Romans 8:26 and in 2 Corinthians 3:18, as believers need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to help with our weaknesses and brokenness since we cannot live according to God's standards and fulfill his purpose on our own. The Holy Spirit empowers, guides, and transforms believers, enabling us to live victorious and fruitful Christian lives.

(e) John 14:16-17, (f) John 14:16-17, (g) John 16:13, (h) Romans 8:26, (i) Acts 1:8, (j) Galatians 5:22-23, (k)1 Corinthians 6:19, (l) John 16:8, (m) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, (n) Ephesians 1:13-14, (o) 2 Corinthians 3:18

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for sending us the Holy Spirit to be our helper and to stay with us forever. We pray that we will always rely on his help, guidance, and teachings. We also pray for grace to obey him all the time. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

WEEK 2

THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-3a NIV “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. ”

Goal: To help us understand the sevenfold nature of the Holy Spirit and how to walk in the fullness of the Spirit.

Introduction

Different books in the Bible talk about the seven Spirits of God. In the book of Revelation, John speaks of the “seven Spirits of God” (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6). In no way does the number represent something contradictory to the triune nature of God (three-in-one), nor does it crassly suggest there are seven Spirits who represent God. In fact, the amplified version of Revelation 1:4 calls says “From the seven Spirits [the sevenfold Holy Spirit].” The seven spirits of God are a reference to the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, who is the perfect and complete Spirit of God. As with so many images in Revelation, the numeral seven represents the fullness of the Spirit abiding in God’s throne room and dwelling with the churches. Wonderfully, the same Holy Spirit who dwells in God’s heavenly temple (a) has been sent to dwell on earth (b). Isaiah 11 helps us to understand these sevenfold Holy Spirit, which rested on the shoot of Jesse (that is Jesus). Verse 2 described them as the spirit; 1. Of the Lord 2. Of wisdom 3. Of Understanding 4. Of counsel 5. Of Might 6. Of knowledge 7. And Of the fear of the Lord. When you are full of the Spirit, the sevenfold manifestations of the Spirit of God will find expression in your life as they did in Jesus and you will do greater works as Jesus promised (c). This is why Ephesians 5:18 says we should be filled with the Holy Ghost, and not drunk with wine. Through the power of the Holy Spirit that rested on Jesus, the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of the Lord) conceived him even when he was a child; the Spirit of Wisdom filled him with wisdom (d). Through the Spirit of understanding upon him, he understood everything, all men, and even knew their thoughts before they expressed them (e). The Spirit of power was upon Jesus mightily. Power to heal, raise the dead, and to resist temptations. Also, Jesus having the Spirit of the fear of the Lord always put the will of God first. The impact of the Spirit of Yahweh upon the Lord Jesus was profound, as we have seen. He could not doubt, change his mind, have no personal fear, no mistakes, never show surprise, never perform a selfish miracle, never distrust God, etc. all that is because of the Spirit that rested on him.

(a) Revelation 1:4, Rev 4:5(b) Revelation 5:6, (c), John 3:34 John 14:12(d) Matthew 1:18, Luke 2:40, (e) Mark 2:8

Discussion

1. What does the “sevenfold Spirit” mentioned in Isaiah 11:1-3 signify to you?
2. After reading in the introduction how the Sevenfold Spirit helped Jesus in his ministry, as believers why do we need the Sevenfold Spirit, and how can we go about pursuing the sevenfold Spirit in our ministries?
3. Reflect on the following aspect of the sevenfold Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord, and delight in the fear of the Lord. How can these attributes manifest in the life of a believer?

4. Consider instances in your life where you have experienced the Holy Spirit's wisdom, understanding, or counsel. How did it influence your decisions and actions?
5. In what ways can a believer cultivate a deeper reverence for the Lord and delight in His fear?

Conclusion

The sevenfold Spirit signifies the complete and perfect nature of the Holy Spirit. Each aspect mentioned represents a divine manifestation that the Holy Spirit brings into the life of believers. Believers should desire the sevenfold Spirit in their lives because as seen in the life of Jesus, the Spirit of the Lord upon Jesus anointed him for service (f). We need the sevenfold manifestation of the Spirit to fulfill our assignment on earth; to be anointed with the power to witness Jesus (g) to navigate life's challenges and make wise decisions, and to live in alignment with the will of God. We can receive the fullness or sevenfold Spirit of God by studying the word to get to know more about it and engaging in regular prayer. The sevenfold Holy Spirit can manifest in the life of a believer in several ways; anointing for boldness and service (h); Wisdom manifests in making sound and godly decisions, and understanding enables a deeper comprehension of spiritual truths and the ways of God. Counsel guides believers in seeking and giving wise advice. Might empower believers with the strength to endure, overcome challenges, and live victoriously. Knowledge provides access to spiritual insight into God's ways. The Fear of the Lord instills reverence and a desire to honor God in all aspects of life, which keeps us connected to God. What determines what measure of the sevenfold you experience is how much you desire, and surrender to allow Him to influence you in your decisions and actions. As a believer, you can cultivate deeper reverence for the Lord and delight in His fear by obeying God's commands (i), studying scriptures to understand God's characters, regular prayer and worship to establish a connection with God, engaging in fellowship with other believers for encouragement and accountability, and regular reflection on God's goodness, mercy, grace and faithfulness.

(f) Luke 4:18, (g) Acts 1:8, (h) Acts 2:17 (i) Deuteronomy 10:12

Prayer

Father, we thank you for the revelation of the sevenfold fullness of your Spirit. We open our hearts to the fullness of the Holy Spirit, to submit and experience the Spirit of the Lord upon us, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and reverence in our lives. We pray that you will empower us to walk in step with the Spirit, guided by your divine attributes. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

WEEK 3

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (NIV), To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge of using the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous power, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Goal: To explore and understand the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their purposes in the life of a believer.

Introduction

A spiritual gift is a specific God-given ability for Christian service. Certain blessings from God are referred to as gifts and are endowed to all believers, such as the gift of salvation, eternal life, the Holy Spirit, justification, and perhaps others (a). However, spiritual gifts are distinguished from the above gifts in that the spiritual gifts are distributed among believers as the Spirit wills: one in this manner, and to another in another manner. In today's Bible study, we will explore the nine Spiritual Gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. Spiritual gifts are different from natural gifts; natural gifts may refer to talents or skills that one was born with or developed over time. On the other hand, Spiritual gifts refer to abilities, skills, or talents that believers receive from the Holy Spirit when they receive salvation or any time after (c). Although some natural gifts and Spiritual gifts may appear the same outwardly, such as the gift of teaching where a believer may have the natural gift of teaching without having the Spiritual gift. However, since our body is the temple of the Lord, the Holy Spirit can express himself and his gifts through our natural gifts. You're probably wondering which gifts of the Holy Spirit do you have, or if you have anyone at all! The truth is that each believer has gifts given to them for the benefit of the body of Christ (d). All believers receive at least one gift at the moment of salvation. However, every believer must desire greater gifts of the Holy Spirit (e). There is much more God can do through you if you have some specific gifts of the Holy Spirit, so desire them and pray to have them. Do not limit what God wants to do through you.

(a) 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, (b) 1 Corinthians 12:13, Eph. 1:13-14, 2 Tim. 1:6 (c) 1 Peter 4:10, (d) 1 Corinthians 12:7, (e) 1 Corinthians 12:31

Discussion

1. What are the benefits of each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11?
2. How are the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to believers?
3. Why should every believer desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
4. Have you personally identified any spiritual gifts in your life? If so, how have you used these gifts for the common good?

Conclusion

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the following: A message of wisdom, a message of knowledge, faith, healing, and working of miracles, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. The word of wisdom has to do with the ability to discern the works of the Holy Spirit and the application of the relevant kingdom principles needed to solve problems to foster peace and purity. (e). The message of Knowledge refers to the ability to supernaturally know facts about a situation or something beyond natural knowledge (f). Gift of Faith brings unwavering confidence and assurance in the unseen and infallibility of God's word concerning a matter or situation (g). The gift of healing is the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit to bring healing and deliverance from disease and/or infirmity (h). The working of miracles demonstrates God's power. Prophecy edifies the church by providing strength, encouragement, and comfort (i). Distinguishing between spirits helps believers discern and identify spirits that are from God, preventing deception (j). Speaking in tongues builds up the individual and can have a corporate benefit when interpreted (k). Interpretation of tongues brings understanding to the congregation, ensuring the message is edifying for everyone (1 Corinthians 14:13). Every believer should desire Spiritual Gifts to fulfill God's purpose (l), edify the church (m), for Spiritual growth and maturity (n), etc. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to believers by the Holy Spirit as He wills (o), starting from the moment of Salvation when the believer receives Jesus Christ as Savior and the gift of the Holy Spirit (p). The believer can receive these spiritual gifts by desiring them (q), praying and seeking (r), and receiving the impartation of Spiritual Gifts by laying on of hands (s). When we have identified Spiritual gifts given to us, we should always remember that they are not given to us for our personal glory, but for building the Kingdom of God. Let us keep using our Spiritual gifts, do not hide or ignore them, but desire to have more.

(e) John 6:6 James 3:17 (f) John 4:16-19, Proverbs 2:6, (g) Hebrews 11:1, (h) James 5:13-15, (i) 1 Corinthians 14:3, (j) 1 John 4:1-3, (k) 1 Corinthians 14:4, (l) 1 Corinthians 12: 7, (m) 1 Corinthians 14:1-3, (n) Ephesians 4:11-16, (o) 1 Corinthians 12:11, (p) Acts 2:38, (q) 1 Corinthians 12:31, (r) Romans 12:6-8 (s) Acts 8:17-18, 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Prayer

Thank You God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and thank You for equipping us with them. As we learn and understand them, we pray that You give us a sincere desire for more and the desire to use them to build Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

WEEK 4

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-18 NIV. “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They conflict with each other so that you are not to do whatever[a] you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Goal: To help believers understand the practicality and benefits of walking in the Spirit.

Introduction

The Christian journey is not just about receiving the Holy Spirit and His gifts but also daily living in alignment with the Spirit’s guidance. Imagine having all the gifts of the Holy Spirit but you do not walk in the Spirit! The moment you experienced the new birth, you passed from death to life or from condemnation of the law to justification unto life (a). This is the beginning of the Christian walk. Now that you have the life of Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, your goal in life must be to manifest that life, so that all may see “Christ in you.” (b). The work of subduing the sinful desires of the flesh and reproducing the holy and righteous life of Christ in you is the work of the Holy Spirit (c). This work is the process of sanctification and it witnesses the salvation you already have in Christ through justification by faith. Hence, sanctification, which is made possible by the Spirit, is witnessing our justification by faith and the power of the gospel. But for this to happen, you must learn to walk in the Spirit. In the old man, Adam, all you were capable of doing was to walk in the flesh and satisfy the drives of the sinful nature. But now in Christ, as a born-again Christian, you can walk in the Spirit as Christ Himself did when He was on earth (d). This is what this lesson is all about — a practical guide on what it means to walk in the Spirit.

(a) Romans 8:1-2 (b) Galatians 2:20, (c) 2 Thessalonians 2:13, (d) 1 John 2:6

Discussion

1. What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit” in your understanding? And why is it essential for believers to actively choose to walk in the Spirit?
2. To avoid walking in the flesh, what are some practical steps that believers can take to crucify the flesh daily?
3. What shows you that you are walking in the Spirit?
4. Through what part of the body does the flesh or the Spirit control us? And how? Refer to Romans 8:5
5. What are the practical results of being carnal or fleshly-minded and Spiritual-minded? Refer to Romans 8:6

Conclusion

Walking in the Spirit is living by the guidance, empowerment, and influence of the Holy Spirit (e). When God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, He created them with certain desires such as hunger, thirst, etc. Although these desires were created by God, the original intention was for Adam and Eve to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. When they sinned, the Spirit departed from them and their minds became a slave to the flesh. Thus, the natural desires God created in our first parents became lusts. This is what they passed on to us. If you try to control these desires in your strength, you will meet with nothing but failure. That’s why every believer

should actively choose to walk in the Spirit to have victory over sin (f), live a fruitful Christian life (g), be transformed and renewed (h), have intimacy with God, be empowered for service, for purposeful living (i), for guidance and direction (j), etc. When you walk in the Spirit, you bear the fruit of the Spirit, which includes love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (k). To crucify the flesh daily, believers have to create a strong prayer life because prayer is communion with God; immerse themselves in consistent bible study to experience kingdom consciousness and realities; practice self-examination, be accountable to other believers, avoid tempting situations, engage in worship, develop the fruit of the Spirit, engage in acts of service, etc. Both the flesh and the spirit gain control through the soul of man (our mind, our will, and our emotions). The mind is a battleground for spiritual warfare; it is a place where imaginations are conceived to become either strongholds of captivity or a springboard of mountain-moving faith (l). An important question to always ask yourself is, "What is my mind occupied with?" Those who are walking in the flesh are always thinking about pleasing the desires of their sinful nature. When you walk in the Spirit, you want to please Christ and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. You cannot take a holiday rest to relax in the battle of the mind. The devil is going around like a roaring lion and seeking whom he may devour; he is looking for Christians who are on spiritual vacations. The moment you go on spiritual vacation, the devil will start parading all kinds of sinful thoughts into your mind. The flesh can only bring death to you, not life, because all that the flesh can produce is sin, and "the wages of sin is death" (m), but Spirit-minded life brings life and peace (n). Walking in the Spirit should be our daily choice, and it lays in your hands the blessings and possibilities of eternal life.

(e) Galatians 5:24-25, (f) Galatians 5:16, (g) Colossians 1:10, (h) Romans 12:2, (i) Acts 1:8, Ephesians 2:10 (j) John 16:13, (k) Galatians 5:22-23, (l) Romans 8:5-6, 2 Corinthians 10:3 (m) Romans 6:23, (n) Romans 8:6

Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the Holy Spirit You gave us, and for the opportunity You have given us to learn more about His ministry. We pray for the strength to continually walk in the Spirit in this year and the rest of our lives. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.