

The Holy Spirit our Strength

Who is this Holy Spirit?

Some of us may have never heard of the Spirit before and some of us need a refresher on Him and his work in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is one third of the God Head, the Trinity where we see God the Father, Jesus and then the Holy Spirit. He is fully God but is the active part of God here on this earth.

The Spirit of God was sent by Jesus after he ascended into heaven to be our helper, our teacher, and our unifier.

The Spirit was our Gift from Jesus to enable us to fulfill his work here on the Earth and to complete his work in us.

Verse: John 14:15-17 To be with us and In Us

The Holy Spirit is not only with us but also fills us and through that relationship we can find that inner strength to walk this Christian path.

We all need help in this life. No one can do this Christianity thing by ourselves and those who try fail miserably.

I am not one who willingly admits my weaknesses or even wants to say I can't do a certain task but I have also learned the value of helping hands in times of need.

I needed help to build my shed, I needed help to move, and I need help moving when we sell our house.

I also need help to be a Christian. There are so many temptations that could overwhelm me and ruin me that without anyone's help I would be a miserable failure as a husband, or father, or pastor.

Jesus knew we needed this help and that is why he sent the Holy Spirit to us.

Verse John 16:12-15 Verse Luke 24:49 Names of the Spirit

The Spirit is to be our teacher and our helper in this life so we can fulfill our callings and to be his hand and voice here on the earth.

Learning how to follow the Holy Spirit can often leave us frustrated at first.

The Holy Spirit is a person of the God Head and just like a person, we need to spend time with him to get to know him and his voice.

David probably put it best when he made this comment, “Be still and know that I am God.”

One of the most important lessons we can learn is the lesson of being still, sitting quietly and listening for the voice of God.

Samuel the prophet learned this while sleeping at the foot of the alter of God.

Elijah learned this while he was pouting in a cave wanting to die.

Maintaining a time of devotions where we are alone and undistracted is the best way to learn God’s voice, and learn the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Another time we feel his presence is in Worship, where we focus our attention on God and push aside our circumstances.

Individual Purpose

The Holy Spirit is here to build us up as individuals and to prepare us for the work he has for us, that great plan that God has put into place.

There are two things I want to make known here and two things I want us to focus on.

One is to make us witnesses of Christ and the other is to help us realize the Holy Spirit gives us gifts for the purpose of ministry.

To strengthen us to be Witnesses

Verse Acts 1:8

The days are coming and have already come that anything we say will be twisted by the enemy and those who are against the truth of Christ.

No matter what we say there are those who will take it out of context and pervert the meaning of it. Look at our news and media. They will pick and choose fragments of a statement and the words they use convict and distort the true image of person or truth of the statement.

So what will our witness be? What will people believe and how will they know we are following Christ?

By our actions and our lives.

Our ability to persevere in the midst of trials.

So often we read in the bible that we should be glad in trials and that they are for our good but how many of us really wake up each day and say to ourselves, “Man I hope I get into a conflict with my spouse, or kids, or coworker.” Or “I really hope someone cuts me off in traffic, I can’t wait to lose a big account at work or have someone yell at me!”

Does anyone look forward to that?

But in the midst of those trials we can be sure that God will not abandon us and that the Holy Spirit will be there to help strengthen us. WE need to exercise our faith and trust in Him.

Verse Isaiah 40:29-31 Be strengthened to Make it Through

The Spirit is also here to give us gifts.

How many like to receive gifts? OK, how many of us like what we get all of the time?

I don't know about you but sometimes I see another person get something cool like a new truck for Father's day and I think, "Wow, that is cool, I wonder what I will get?"

Will I be happy with a pair of new socks? OK so when someone gets the gift of healing am I going to be jealous if I get the gift of helping?

Let's see what we can expect.

To give us Gifts to be used in Service Verse 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Each of us has certain gifts and abilities given to us by the Holy Spirit. Some might be cooler than the gift of cleaning the toilets but the person with the gift of healing is going to be really glad someone cleaned the toilet!

All gifts given by God are for a much higher purpose and if we tend to look at others gifts and neglect our own we miss the whole purpose. We are here to be a blessing, not just to be blessed. Our gifts, what ever they may be are for others.

What a weird concept, our gifts are for others! We are blessed so we can be a blessing! If we focus on that then we find joy in what we have because we can see the higher meaning, the goal and not just the grime.

We also start to see how we fit into our second purpose, the Body!

Corporate Purpose

One of the hardest things that the American Church faces right now is the lack of unity.

This lack of unity is what makes Church a pleasant picture of good people on the outside but if you get closer, all you see are many people going through motions as they are still just individuals gathering on a certain day of the week.

In our study on Wednesdays we have watched videos, which reveal people living in their own little boxes, cut off from the rest of the world and protected by their acute sense of preservation. Alive but not really living, working only at looking like they are alive.

In reality completely dead and automatons going through motions predetermined to make them appear happy.

I was once that person, cut off, isolated and thinking I was somehow having an experience that determined my self worth.

You see until we give ourselves to Christ we are not really alive and until we allow the Spirit to fill us and help us to become part of a Church we are still living in a white washed box.

Jesus died so we can be unified not only in a relationship with him, but with each other.

Verse Matthew 22:38-39 Greatest Commandment

Verse John 17:20-23 Christ's prayer for Us

He prayed diligently and still intercedes for us to be unified together in his service.

There is a movement happening all over the world right now and gaining strength here in America as well, and that is finding true unity and fellowship with our fellow Christians.

You are all here as the fruit of that. One of our main focuses here at NFC is to develop a sense of fellowship and community that will build you up and strengthen you in your pursuit of Christ and his calling on your life.

We also want you to realize that other Christians and Churches are our brothers and sisters in Christ not our competition.

Our relationships with other Churches that are constantly being cultivated are evidence of that.

The only power that could perform this incredible act of unification is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Verse Ephesians 4:1-6, 12-13 Till we all attain the unity of the Spirit

When the Holy Spirit was poured out in Jerusalem the disciples found the strength they needed to be a functioning body and to fulfill the calling God placed on their lives.

To give us courage to be a Body Verse 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Verse Ephesians 3:16-17 Prayer for the Church

As we close here today I want to pray for everyone who wants to know the Holy Spirit better. Those who have not heard his voice yet.

The other prayer I want to deliver is for true fellowship to be welcome and enter our lives so we can become that true Body Christ prays for.