

THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFT-GIVER

Small Group Guide • Part 4 • May 14 2017 • #HolySpiritSeries

Of the three persons in the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—the Spirit is the One most maligned and misunderstood, not only by unbelievers but by the Church. Sadly, most people who misunderstand are basing their beliefs on anything but the Bible. The purpose of this series is that we may deeply know and understand the amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14).

In this concluding message of the series, we focused on our three-in-one God who is THE GIVER. He so loved, He gave us His Son. Jesus, the Son gives us eternal life. The Father gave the Holy Spirit to every believer, and the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer. A spiritual gift (in the Greek, "Charis"), is a gift of God's grace that brings joy; a special Divine ability that God gives to each of His children, so that collectively we can advance His purposes in this world. God has put these gifts inside us that we don't see in ourselves. There are ministry gifts, leadership gifts and supernatural gifts listed in the New Testament, but ALL are the work of the one and the same Holy Spirit. They are for ALL believers, not to be abused or avoided. Everything the Holy Spirit wants to give us is good and we are instructed to eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit.

1) The Holy Spirit's gifts reveal God's purposes for our lives. 2) His gifts are the key to our fulfillment. 3) His gifts make the difference for others. They are not given for our entertainment, but that collectively through us, others will experience Jesus.

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 14:1)

Talk About It

1. [Read Luke 4:18-19] How is learning and growing in your friendship with the Holy Spirit changing your life?
2. Have you ever sacrificed to give someone a gift, but they rejected it or set it aside, refusing to open it? On the other hand, have you experienced the joy giving (or receiving) a special gift that truly excited and blessed the recipient (or you)? When you think of all God has given to you, how does this change your appreciation for the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
3. [Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6] Pastor Darryn illustrated the diverse gifts at work in a small group as each person responded to a minor mishap. Describe a time at work, at home, or in another environment when people exercised their spiritual gifts in a mutually beneficial way.
4. [Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11] According to v.11 these gifts are available to believers. What do you think of the idea that while we may not permanently possess this gift, God may want to use us to give one of his gifts to someone in need?
5. [Read John 15: 8, 11] Have you had an opportunity to use your spiritual gifts in a way that fulfilled you? Describe a time when you knew you were doing exactly what God designed you to do, so that your joy was truly complete.
6. [Read 1 Peter 4:10] We are to manage our gifts well and always follow the way of love, so that God's generosity can flow through us. Describe a time when you (or another person) by faith ministered in a grace-gift to make an eternal difference in this world.

Think About It

Then we come face to face with God, He will ask us what we did with His son Jesus and how we grew in intimacy with the Holy Spirit in order to reach His children. This week, prayerfully and honestly consider what answers you will give.

Act On It

If you have not yet attended the Heartland Growth Track, make a point to attend Step 3 to discover your spiritual gifting. If you know your gifts but are not actively using them, attend Step 4 on the fourth Sunday of the month to find out how to plug into the Dream Team and let God's generosity flow through you to others.



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