



## Lesson Six: An Introduction To The Holy Spirit

We are still in our first G, which stands for Gather. Remember that the Gather is an introduction. So far, we have been introduced to God, sin, Jesus, and salvation. In this lesson we are going to be introduced to the Holy Spirit, the third person in the trinity.

### Tour Guide

Have you ever been on a guided tour before? If you have, what was it for? \_\_\_\_\_

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A couple of years ago, Lysandra and I went out to the Los Angeles area, and while we were out there we went and took a tour of Warner Brothers Studios. One of the highlights for me was being able to sit on the iconic Friends couch. The guide led us around and told us where to go and where not to go. He told us when we could take pictures and when we had to put our cameras away. Our guide gave us information about where we were and where we were going. It was so fascinating to see some of the places where famous movies and tv shows were filmed and to learn some of the backstory of how it all happened.

Many times, in our lives we are aimlessly wandering around in life. And that can cause us a lot of pain, sorrow, and trouble. Wouldn't it be great if we had a guide that could help us in our lives? A guide who could tell us where to go and where not to go. Someone to help us make the important decisions that we need to make. A guide to help us fight temptation and to flee from doing wrong. Gracefully, God has provided such a guide for us! That guide is the Holy Spirit.

### Profitable

In John 16:7 we find some very interesting words from Jesus, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." As one of Jesus's disciples, it would be hard for me to wrap my mind around what Jesus is saying here. I had spent the last 3 ½ years living with Jesus, watching Him heal the lame, the sick, and the blind. He had raised the dead to life. And now You are telling me that it is more profitable for me for You to leave? How can this be? It almost seems like blasphemy to say that there is someone who will be more beneficial for me than Jesus. This must be quite an incredible person that you are sending to be a part of my life! Jesus tells us that this person is the Helper. That is another name for the Holy Spirit. So, when Jesus goes away, He was going to send the Holy Spirit to come and help us. Who did Jesus say would be more beneficial to us than Jesus, Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Let's take a look at a few ways that the Holy Spirit is profitable to us.

### Profitable For Salvation

Jesus continues to tell His followers why it is beneficial for Him to go and for the Holy Spirit to come in John 16:8-11, "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." Jesus began by

telling the disciples that it would be beneficial for them, but now He turns His focus to the entire world. It wouldn't just be beneficial for those who have believed on Jesus, but for those who haven't yet believed as well.

He begins by saying that the Holy Spirit would convict the world concerning \_\_\_\_\_. We have already had a lesson on sin and learned that we all have broken God's rules. And it is the Holy Spirit that convicts and convinces us of our wrongdoing. Man can only speak to the ears. It is the Holy Spirit who speaks to our hearts. He shows us beyond a shadow of a doubt that we have sinned. Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit convicting you of breaking God's rules? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is one sin that you remember Him convicting you about? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus then goes on to say that not only does the Holy Spirit convict us of sin, but He convicts the world secondly of \_\_\_\_\_. He is the One who shows us that we cannot live up to God's righteous standard of perfection. It is impossible. We can't do it. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convince us of that.

Then He convicts us of judgment. He shows us that there is a price to pay because we have broken God's rules. We deserve to be punished for our sins. What was the punishment that we have earned because of our sin? \_\_\_\_\_ Without the Holy Spirit, we wouldn't know that we were sinners deserving spiritual death, eternity in the Lake of Fire.

### Profitable For Sanctification

The next thing that the Spirit of God does in our lives is sanctification. Sanctification is a Bible word that refers to the work that the Holy Spirit does to transform us into the image of Jesus. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. We see this in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." When He comes to live within us, He begins to do His transforming work in us. He takes us from where we are to where He wants us to be. We don't have the power to change ourselves. It is the Spirit who works in us. Galatians 5:22-23 describes some of the things that the Spirit of God produces in us, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Which one of these fruit do you need a little more of in your life today? \_\_\_\_\_ Ask the Holy Spirit to produce these in your life. You can't be what He wants you to be without Him.

### Profitable For Study

Not only is He profitable for salvation and sanctification, but the Spirit is also profitable for study. Look what Jesus says in John 16:12-13, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." Jesus tells His followers that there are a lot of things that He wants to tell them, but He can't. The reason that He can't tell them yet, is because they really can't understand or handle what it is that He wants to tell them. So, Jesus says it is profitable for you that I go away and send the Spirit, because He will \_\_\_\_\_ you into all truth. Just like a tour guide, He directs you to the truth. He is the One that will teach you what you need to know exactly when you need to know it. Every time the Bible is opened, you should be asking the Spirit of God to guide you to the truth that you need in that moment.

### Profitable For Supplication

The Holy Spirit also help us in our communication with God. Take a look at Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." When we don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us. When we don't know what to say He speaks for us. When we go to God in prayer, we should be asking the Spirit of God to direct our conversation. After all, there is no one that knows God better than the Spirit of God.

## Conclusion

We could say a lot more about the Holy Spirit, but this lesson is only meant to be an introduction to Him. What is the work that the Holy Spirit is trying to do in your life? Is He convicting you of your sin and your need for a Savior? Trust in Jesus today! Is He encouraging you to put off your sin and grow in love, peace, and self-control? The Holy Spirit will guide you into the next step that you need to take, but you need to listen to what He is leading you to do and then obey Him.