

In our last lesson we learned who the Holy Spirit is. We learned about how important our relationship with Him is. And, the many things He does in our lives each day. We also looked at what happens if we do not have the Holy Spirit in our lives.

There is more to learn about the Holy Spirit and choices we make. We are told in Romans 8:14 those that are *led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Amen to that!*

The Spirit helps us tell what our needs are. Tell a time when the Spirit helped you to EXPRESS something that you just could not seem to find the words to say out loud?

1) A time of great pain or DISTRESS. _____

2) A time of great joy or praise. _____

Sometimes when we want very much to pray for someone or about something we are not able to find the right words. The Spirit helps us by taking our "GROANING" to the Lord in prayer. (Romans 8:26) Have you ever had God answer your "groans" when the Spirit took your needs to Him, when you were not able to?

When my father died my mother was only 42 years old. They had been married since they were 16. It was a sudden and very unexpected death. He died of a heart attack at home as he was getting ready to go to work. My mother's distress was so great she was unable to do anything but WAIL and cry out. I was 18 years old and didn't know what to do to help her. The Holy Spirit was her only comfort for a very long time. The Holy Spirit helps us in our time of weakness. (Romans 8:26) How did God answer you?

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to meet the needs of the church and each believer. We are told there are different kinds of gifts, service and works but the same Spirit, Lord and God. These gifts are given to different believers.

No one believer has all the gifts but every believer has a gift because they have the Holy Spirit. They are given by the Spirit as He chooses. All these gifts are to work together so that the church works well and meets all the needs of the church body. Just as a body works well with all its many parts.

The Holy Spirit is very active in our lives. This is how He reminds us of His PRESENCE. Each time you understand the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is showing Himself to you as Teacher. Each time you know that God has touched your heart to change directions in what you are doing, the Holy Spirit is showing Himself through leadership. When you give in service to the body of believers, the Holy Spirit is shown as the Giver of gifts. This is His WITNESS to your spirit.

We have seen the loving way the Holy Spirit protects us, gives us gifts, grows us in our faith and walk with Christ. But, how does what we do affect the Holy Spirit? In 1 Thessalonians 5:19 we are told not to "put out the Spirit's fire". This means we should not ignore or take lightly the gifts of the Spirit. We are to use these gifts for the benefit of the church body as a whole. We need to ENCOURAGE others to use their gifts as well. To fail to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to say "no" to God.

When we are not obedient to God's AUTHORITY we cause the Holy Spirit to become "less" in the our lives as believers.

What are some of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives to us and how might we use them?

Ephesians 4:11-12

apostles
evangelism
pastor
prepare God's people
for works of service

Romans 12:6-8

serving
teaching
encouraging
mercy
giving generously

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

knowledge
wisdom
faith
healing
prophecy

The Holy Spirit can be GRIEVED, this means to cause sorrow to the Spirit. In Ephesians 4:30 it says "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed.. " If we were grieved by someone or an event, such as my mother when my father suddenly died, it is like having a "broken heart". This suggests to us that the Holy Spirit feels pain. The Holy Spirit is a person not just energy or power because He feels joy and pain because of believers

The Bible says there is only one thing that causes pain to the Holy Spirit--that is those in whom He lives-- yes, dear sister, us the believer-- we who are also His great joy.

What do we do that "grieves" the Holy Spirit? Let's look at the next verse Ephesians 4:31-32. There are certain behaviors and attitudes that we are told to "get rid of". They are "all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice." This is sin in many different ways. It is :

- 1) speaking untruth or bad things about or to someone
- 2) it is being angry at someone, fighting with someone
- 3) it is planning evil against someone; such as revenge or taking what belongs to them
- 4) it is holding bad feelings towards someone; being unforgiving

This sin grieves the Holy Spirit. How are we to "get rid" of sin so that the person of the Holy Spirit will not be grieved? Will just saying "forgive me for all my sins" cause all the sin to just go away? It is important for us to pray SPECIFICALLY for each sin and then turn and walk in another direction. We must do as Zacchaeus did in Luke 19:1-10.

- 1) face our sin
- 2) give it a name
- 3) confess it to the Lord
- 4) turn and walk another way

We must also do as 2 Corinthians 7:10 tells us "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret...", this is because it is God centered sorrow over the wickedness of our sin and the desire to show our sorrow to the Lord about our sin.

If we have no sorrow for a sin, then we have not fully turned from that sin. Some sin we may not let go of. We admit to God we have committed them, but we do not have sorrow that would give us the strength to turn away.

God wants to pour out His blessing on every believer, but we hold back His hand when we hold onto our sin. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit; say **yes** to God's gifts, and **no** to sin. What does it mean to **live by the flesh**? To **live by the Spirit**? Read Galatians 5:16-21. We cannot make the flesh (our sin nature) and the Spirit work as one. It is not possible because they are OPPOSITES. It has nothing to do with strength against weakness.

Our God wants to hear from us. He wants to bless us, protect us, and bring only the best to our lives. But we must do our part. Learn His Word, live in His grace.

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

IS THERE A PRIORITY (what is important) TO CHANGE? Discover what your spiritual gifts are and bless yourself and others by using them the best you possibly can !
WHAT DID GOD SHOW US TODAY?

- 1) The Holy Spirit makes known our prayers to God, even if we cannot. Romans 8:26
- 2) He gives spiritual gifts to each believer for a purpose. Romans 12:6-8, 1 Cor.12:8-11
- 3) We grieve the Holy Spirit when we say "no" to our spiritual gifts and "yes" to sin.
- 4) Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to forgiveness. 2 Corinthians 7:10

What spiritual gifts have you discovered? How will you make it a priority to use them?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Prayer Request: _____

Word Study:

- 1) authority: the right to control or the power to command. God's authority is in us.
- 2) distress: great pain, sorrow, trouble, mental suffering. She was in great distress all day.
- 3) encourage: praise, support, lift up another person. She was a great encourager to them.
- 4) grieved: to feel grief, great sorrow or mental suffering. She grieved the loss of her son.
- 5) groaning: the Lord listens past the words or sounds and hears the needs of our heart brought by the Holy Spirit.
- 6) opposites: totally different such good/bad, right/wrong, faith/ unbelief. Her actions were totally opposite of her faith.
- 7) specific, specifically: a special way, identify clearly and exactly. Pray in a specific way.
- 8) wail: a long mournful cry as in grief or suffering. Her wailing was heard by many.
- 9) witness: to see, hear, or know by personal presence. The death of Christ bears witness to the love of God the Father for all believers.