

## Foundations – Ministry of the Holy Spirit

*Identity - "I am a temple of God. I am seated with God in heaven."*

### I. Introduction

- When is the Holy Spirit first mentioned in the *Bible*? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Holy Spirit is a (circle one):                      A. IT                      B. HE

### II. Indwelling Ministry:

- When did the disciples first receive the indwelling Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ you to give you the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- How do we receive the indwelling Spirit? "By \_\_\_\_\_" (Galatians 3:14b).
- The work of the Indwelling Spirit:
  - John 14:26, Romans 8:14-16 – \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us
  - John 16:8 – \_\_\_\_\_ us of sin
  - John 16:13-14 – \_\_\_\_\_ the Word
  - Galatians 5:22-23 – \_\_\_\_\_ the character of God (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control)
- Warning! The Spirit can be \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:29-31)

### III. Empowering Ministry

- When did the disciples first receive the empowering Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ you in power to give you the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- 1 Samuel 10:6 – "Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man." (ESV)
- Acts 19:6 – Empowering is an \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_, and must be \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1 Corinthians 12:1 – "Now concerning \_\_\_\_\_ I do not want you to be uninformed." (ESV)[wisdom, knowledge, discernment, healing, faith, miracles, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues]
- How do you receive the empowering? Luke 11:13 – \_\_\_\_\_!
- Warning! The Spirit can be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

#### **IV. Character of the Holy Spirit**

- Fire (Acts 2:1-5) – The fire of God burns up sin, illuminates, guides, and comforts.
- Wind (John 3:8) – The wind of God directs us, is always changing, and felt but not seen.
- Water (John 7:38-39) – God’s living water cleanses us, flows, brings life, and satisfies.
- Oil (1 Samuel 16:12-16) – The oil of God anoints us, mobilizes us, and is flammable.
- Dove (Matthew 3:16-17) – The dove of God rests upon us and keeps us sensitive to the Lord.

#### **V. New Identities!**

- I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
- I am seated with God in heaven (Ephesians 2:6).

#### **VI. Small Group Questions**

1) Share some of the ways that the Spirit has revealed Himself to you.

2) Read Isaiah 61:1-3. Why has the Lord empowered us with His Spirit? Zechariah 4:6 says, “Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit.” (ESV) We cannot fulfill any of these verses apart from the Spirit of God working through us. Reading these three verses, which are some areas of serving that you would like the Spirit to empower you to do more of (such as comforting others or releasing joy)?

3) Which character (fire, wind, water, oil, dove) of the Spirit would you like to see more of in your life? Why?

4) You are a temple of the Living God and in the spiritual realm you are seated with God in heaven. How does that make you feel? 😊

5) What are the 19 identities we have covered so far? What does each mean for us?

*Memory Verse of the Week –*

## Foundations – Ministry of the Holy Spirit (Master)

*Identity - "I am a temple of God. I am seated with God in heaven."*

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### I. Introduction

- When is the Holy Spirit first mentioned in the *Bible*? [Creation \(Genesis 1:2\)](#)
- The Holy Spirit is a (circle one):                      A. IT                      B. HE

The Spirit is always referred to as a person in the *Bible*. The Spirit is not a spiritual force or energy; the Spirit is part of the trinity and acts in direct relation with God's people. We will see many of His characteristics through this study.

### II. Indwelling Ministry:

- When did the disciples first receive the indwelling Holy Spirit? [John 20:21-23](#)

Was there power immediately released in the disciples? Not necessarily. So what was the purpose for them receiving the Spirit in this way...

- The Spirit lives within you to give you the character of Christ.

So how do we receive the indwelling Spirit? When does He come into us?

- How do we receive the indwelling Spirit? "By faith" (Galatians 3:14b).
- The work of the Indwelling Spirit:

- John 14:26, Romans 8:14-16 – comforts and guides us

Without the Spirit we are subject to every lie and temptation of the Enemy; however, with the Spirit's help we are reminded of who we are in God which enables us to receive guidance from God so that we may obey and live for Him.

- John 16:8 – convicts us of sin

Do you know the voice that sometimes speaks a warning to you before you give into temptation? That would be the Spirit giving you the conviction you need to overcome sin. It might be subtle and quiet but without His help we would simply be animals on earth, living without conviction. It's by God's Spirit and grace alone that we are able to be convicted of sin and live with morals.

- John 16:13-14 – illuminates the Word

When you are struggling with reading the Word, you need to take a moment and pray and ask God for wisdom. He will grant you revelation through His Spirit which is living within you.

- Galatians 5:22-23 – Develops the character of God (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control)

We love because God first loved us. The more we walk in obedience to the Spirit, the more we are able to receive God's love and God's heart. The Spirit is able to convict us of our weaknesses and turn them into strengths.

- Warning! The Spirit can be grieved. (Ephesians 4:29-31)

If we live in disobedience and do not submit to the leading of the Spirit, we can grieve Him. The Spirit is a gentleman. Hence, if we don't want Him or refuse to listen to Him, He will step aside and allow us to do what we want. Disobeying in this way limits our ability to listen to the Spirit and we become more prone to backsliding and falling deeper into sin. If we are living in sin or severely backsliding, we need to repent for grieving the Spirit and seek His guidance in returning to obedience.

### III. Empowering Ministry

- When did the disciples first receive the empowering Holy Spirit? Acts 2:2-4
- The Spirit comes upon you in power to give you the ministry of Christ.
- 1 Samuel 10:6 – “Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.” (ESV)
- Acts 19:6 – Empowering is an experience, is sudden, and must be maintained.

Usually believers do not feel the Spirit coming in and dwelling in them, but when they are baptized by the Spirit it is usually observable to those around them. Manifestations such as shaking, shouting, clapping, crying, dancing, speaking in tongues, falling and visions may occur. The empowering is also sudden. While the character of Christ takes a lifetime to develop within us, the empowering ministry is given to us in a sudden, powerful way. The disciples did not have to pray and wait for years before their first miracle. However, the empowering ministry must be maintained. Every time in the *Bible* where it says, “The disciples were filled with the Spirit,” it meant that they were receiving a fresh empowering. We are able to maintain the empowering through prayer, the Word, and living in obedience to God.

- 1 Corinthians 12:1 – “Now concerning spiritual gifts I do not want you to be uninformed.” (ESV)[wisdom, knowledge, discernment, healing, faith, miracles, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues]

Just as there are nine fruits of the Spirit for the indwelling ministry, there are nine gifts of the Spirit for the empowering ministry. While we are called to bear all nine of the fruit of the indwelling, it is rare for a Christian to be equipped with all nine gifts of the empowering. Usually, Christians operating in the spiritual gifts have one or two gifts given to them that they are to use and sharpen. The distribution of the gifts demonstrate that we are part of the body of Christ and must work together.

- How do you receive the empowering? Luke 11:13 – Ask!

The indwelling Spirit enters at our confession of faith. The empowering usually comes at request. For some the empowering may come right away while for some it may take an extended period of prayer before the empowering comes. God knows our hearts and knows when we are ready to carry the empowering for His glory. 1 Corinthians 14:1 tells us that we need to eagerly desire the spiritual gifts. God loves giving gifts to those who are grateful and really want it.

- Warning! The Spirit can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

While the indwelling Spirit can be grieved by our disobedience, the empowering Spirit can be quenched by our actions. In another translation, it says, "Do not put out the Spirit's fire." When we judge the works of God's Spirit and do not offer thanks or praise, He will stop working and will move on. Even Jesus could do little miracles in areas that lacked faith (Mark 6:5-6). Although the empowering may make us feel uncomfortable, we must not judge the works of God but rather pray and seek discernment, blessing the Lord's name.

#### IV. Character of the Holy Spirit

- Fire (Acts 2:1-5) – The fire of God burns up sin, illuminates, guides, and comforts.

The fire of God is all throughout the *Bible*. Fire purposes to purge what is unclean. When the fire of God hits, you will receive more conviction of sin and a greater desire for holiness. Fire is also used to bring light. As we receive greater fire we are able to see and understand things we previously had not. This light also serves to guide us. It was the fire of God that led the Israelites through the desert at night and it is God's fire that can grant us clearer vision for our lives. Fire is also used to keep us warm, it serves to comfort us, and it reminds us that His presence is near.

- Wind (John 3:8) – The wind of God directs us, is always changing, and felt but not seen.

Wind reminds us that there is more than what meets the eye. Just as the wind is always changing, God's course is always changing. We must remain sensitive to the wind of the Spirit in order to stay within God's perfect will.

- Water (John 7:38-39) – God's living water cleanses us, flows, brings life, and satisfies.

Just as we can't live without water, we can't live without God's Spirit. Acts 17:28 says, "In him we live and move and have our being." (ESV)

- Oil (1 Samuel 16:12-16) – The oil of God anoints us, mobilizes us, and is flammable.

Oil was used to anoint kings and those meant for God's service. Oil can make objects that were once worn out back to working smoothly and like new again. Oil is also flammable. This allows us to burn but not be destroyed, much like the burning bush that Moses saw. And as we touch others the oil and the fire are able to spread. Priests in the Old Testament were commanded to always keep the lamps in the Lord's temple lit with oil. The foolish virgins in Matthew 25 had no oil to keep their lamps lit and were unable to meet the bridegroom.

- Dove (Matthew 3:16-17) – The dove of God rests upon us and keeps us sensitive to the Lord.

Doves, unlike pigeons, are pure, peaceful, and gentle. Doves choose only one life partner and will never mate with another dove. In the *Bible* doves are a symbol of hope, such as with Noah's Ark. Doves are easily startled and serve as a reminder that we are called to be sensitive to the Lord's leading.

#### V. New Identities!

- I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Identity #4 states that we are sealed and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Colossians 1:27 says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Here in Corinthians, God says He will destroy anyone who destroys His

temple. We have to understand that we represent God here on earth. We don't need to fear this world because God is going to protect His temple. Instead, we need to fear God and put to death our lives of sin and take care of our bodies: physically, mentally, and spiritually. God shouldn't live in a sick, physically weak body. Nor should he have to live in a body that is living in sin. We are temples of the Living God! Repeat after me, "I am a temple of God!" Amen!

- I am seated with God in heaven (Ephesians 2:6).

Knowing the verb tense is critical. God will not raise us up later. He isn't raising us up now. It has already happened! When we died to sin we were made alive in Christ. In the spiritual realm we came to life and we have been raised up beside God in heaven and are seated with Him.

**Understanding your position is important.** There is a reason that I am teaching in the front behind a podium. Imagine if I was trying to teach to you all from in the back of the room underneath a table. There is not a lot of authority or power from that position. Instead I'm in front of you and standing while you all are seated in front of me. Some degree of authority is expected, right? Now imagine we are in a packed stadium and I'm on a huge stage teaching in front of all the top authorities of the country. Even more authority is to be expected, right? We have to understand our position. When we pray we aren't speaking amidst billions of people. We aren't far from God and hard to notice. No, we are seated with Him in the heavens. Angels are before us. We are above the demonic realm. We have authority! We are seated with God in heaven! This is the Truth! Please repeat after me, "I am seated with God in heaven!" Amen!

## VI. Small Group Questions

- 1) Share some of the ways that the Spirit has revealed Himself to you.
- 2) Read Isaiah 61:1-3. Why has the Lord empowered us with His Spirit? Zechariah 4:6 says, "Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit." (ESV) We cannot fulfill any of these verses apart from the Spirit of God working through us. Reading these three verses, which are some areas of serving that you would like the Spirit to empower you to do more of (such as comforting others or releasing joy)?
- 3) Which character (fire, wind, water, oil, dove) of the Spirit would you like to see more of in your life? Why?
- 4) You are a temple of the Living God and in the spiritual realm you are seated with God in heaven. How does that make you feel? 😊
- 5) What are the 16 identities we have covered so far? What does each mean for us?

*Memory Verse of the Week – Ephesians 2:6*

### Bibliography

Heidler, Robert. Experiencing the Spirit. Ventura, California: Regal Books. 1998.