

Communion with the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

[by the way, did you notice the mentioning of the Trinity in this verse? Father, Son and Holy Spirit.]

The “**missing link**” is—**communion with** the Holy Spirit, which it seems many Christians miss. They receive God’s love and Christ’s grace but miss the communion of His Spirit.

Scripture illuminates the work of the Spirit to us:

Ephesians 2:18 “For through Him we both have access **by one Spirit to the Father**”.

Jude 1:20-21 “But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,** keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Ask yourself: “Is the Holy Spirit in me?” **Jesus told His followers:** “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” John 14:16-17.

The apostle Paul asked the Corinthians,

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; **therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's**”.

Scriptures remind us that the importance of carefully “hosting” the Holy Spirit cannot be overstated, or underestimated:

Galatians 3:3 “Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”.

Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”

Jesus is the picture of God’s grace. His very coming was “grace in the flesh.” You are loved, and by grace you are saved, **but how is your communion with the Holy Spirit coming along?**

- Communion of the Holy Ghost is not an event, but it does begin with an event.

- Communion is not something that God does for you or to you, but rather communion involves two parties, with both parties mutually embracing and engaging one another.
- Communion is present tense.
- Communion presupposes a relationship.
- Communion is progressive; it is always developing.
- Communion is cooperative and reciprocal.
- Communion of the Holy Ghost is one-on-one fellowship with the third person of the Trinity!

1. **WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is God! He is the third person of the Trinity. Scripture is clear that God is three distinct persons, yet One.

This is hard to wrap our minds around, but we do not have to have a doctorate of theology to be in right relationship with God.

- In John 3, Jesus makes it clear that we come to see and enter the kingdom of God when we are born again of the Holy Spirit.
- It cannot be made any plainer than in 1 Corinthians 12:3: “No one can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.”

One of the most revealing moments concerning the Holy Spirit is seen when Christ met with His disciples behind closed doors after His resurrection:

John 20:21-22 “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, **He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’**”.

He breathed on them and said these words: “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

There are two times in the Word where God breathed into man:

- At creation, when man became a living soul – Genesis.
- When Jesus breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would come, and He had taught them about the Holy Spirit.

But after the crucifixion, and the glorious Resurrection, He introduced them to the Holy Ghost by breathing on them.

The Holy Spirit never fails to manifest Himself to those who **will** receive Him!

The communion of the Holy Spirit begins the very moment that we, by faith, confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in our heart, that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Romans 10:9 says we will be saved; but the communion does not stop or reach fulfillment there.

Without the communion of the Holy Ghost, you miss the assurance that you belong to God—that inner knowing when you know that you know, that you know!
There is nothing worse than not being sure. Satan uses this absence of assurance and confidence to fuel your doubts and fears.

2. **It Is Only Through the Holy Spirit in Us That We Know We Are Saved.**

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”.

1 John 3:24 “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, **by the Spirit whom He has given us**”.

1 John 4:13 “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, **because He has given us of His Spirit**”.

Without the communion of the Holy Ghost—

- You do not recognize when He is speaking.
- You cannot sense His Spirit at work.
- You miss His divine appointments.
- You are never prepared for God moments when He would minister in a powerful way, and when He wants to use you to make a difference!

Whatever we see Jesus doing and teaching while He was on earth is what we can expect the Holy Spirit to be doing.

John 16:14 Jesus said, “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

His purpose is to “glorify” Jesus, and to make Jesus known. Everything He does brings glory to Christ!

It seems that so many are pointing more to themselves than to Christ, more to their ministries than to Christ’s, more to building a ministry career.

- Jesus Christ did not die on the cross to give anyone a career!
- Jesus Christ did not send the Holy Spirit to give anyone a career.
- It’s all about the redemptive plan of God for human kind!

That is what the Holy Spirit is all about! He does not speak of Himself. Everything the Holy Spirit does magnifies Jesus, not Himself, and not any human being!

3. **Without the Communion of the Holy Spirit, We Miss the Very Present Help in Time of Need—the Paraclete Who Walks Alongside Us as Our Advocate, Counselor, and Comforter.** We fail to take advantage of the Advantage God gives us.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

John 16:13 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

- In my personal walk with Jesus, often I have been impressed and stirred by the Holy Spirit. I know it is He that leads and guides me. Sometimes, He Whispers, sometimes gently nudges, and, other times, there are dramatic moments that electrify.
- He has spoken to me about some things that I needed to change, and He has spoken to me about some blind spots—and, I have changed my mind!
- The things He has spoken to me might not seem like great earth-shaking revelations to you, but He has always been my ever-present help in time of need!

4. **Without the Communion of the Holy Spirit, We Miss the Fruit of the Spirit!**

- “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, **but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**” Romans 14:17.
- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” Galatians 5:22-23.

5. **Without the Communion of the Holy Spirit, We Miss the Opportunity for the Enduement of Power!**

There is an experience in the Holy Spirit described in Scripture as the enduement of power from on high or the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Matthew 3:11.

It is a sudden “coming upon” experience—an outpouring of the Spirit.

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” Luke 24:49.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” Acts 1:8.

It was first seen and recorded in the Book of Acts.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” Acts 2:4.

The Day of Pentecost came after Jesus ascended into heaven. What happened in the Upper Room came after Jesus had breathed upon the disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit speaks only what He hears.

He will never speak anything contrary to the Word. The test of "is it God/or is it me?" is: "Is what I am hearing or feeling in harmony and unity with the character of God and the Word of God? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

He will show you things to come.

This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is your fortune teller!

He has a higher purpose as revealed by Jesus: "**He will glorify Me**" **John 16:14.**

What kinds of things to come does the Holy Spirit show?

The things the Holy Spirit shows us is for the benefit of the Body, not for personal benefit. Every time we find the Holy Spirit leading, guiding, or showing things, it is never for an individual's personal aggrandizement, and it is not a one-person revelation.

Read the Book of Acts, and you will see that when there is a record of the Holy Spirit speaking or giving a special revelation, it is clearly to bring glory to Christ and for the benefit of the gospel.

Conclusion

Several things marked the first generation of Christians:

- Their priority was Jesus. It wasn't about them, it was about Him!
- They were constant in prayer. Their prayers were earnest and honest!
- They gave up everything. They were tortured and put to cruel deaths for the gospel. They paid with their lives for this church.
- Their fellowship with one another cannot be understated. It was as much their strength as any other factor. They would not have survived without caring and supporting one another!
- **They took the Holy Spirit seriously.**
They relied on Him for He gave them direct and personal guidance, and even forewarnings of things that were going to happen!
He was their Comforter, Counselor, and ever-present Companion!

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached the first Pentecostal sermon with the following result:

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name**

of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

" Acts 2:37-39.

So how is your fellowship with the Holy Spirit?

- **Is it current and up to date and active?**
- **Have you grown passive?**
- **Like Paul asked the Christians at Ephesus; have you received the Holy Spirit since you first believed?**
- **Do you have the knowledge that you are right with God? Born again – Saved?**
- **Do you have the Peace and Joy promised by the Holy Spirit?**
- **Do you have the Comfort from Him?**
- **Do you have the fruit of the Spirit operating in your life?**