

*This weekly devotional is offered as a resource and tool to be used during your personal time and/or in a small group environment.*

## *the other*

*Scripture memory:* John 14:15-17

In last week's devo-study guide, Step Four encouraged you to read John 14-16 and mark verses which referred to the Holy Spirit. What did you discover?

### *step one*

READ and DISCUSS the following:

WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT we can't...

- pray effectively
- hear clearly from God
- understand the Scriptures
- worship God
- identify and overcome sin or addiction

WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT we can't grow and become like Christ.

WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- my words are my own
- my gifts are reduced to my talents and best efforts
- my character is cut off from love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self control

Until we lose confidence in our own ability to DO LIFE, we won't seek the Spirit. Do you agree with that statement? Why, or why not? READ John 15:4-5. What do these verses indicate about the significance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

### *step two*

READ Titus 3:4-7, Galatians 5:16-18, Galatians 5:22-25, and Ephesians 3:16-19.

The Holy Spirit isn't a commodity to be bought, traded, or manipulated according to our individual wants or needs. The Spirit desires to lead us to holiness. He's here with us to accomplish God's purposes, not ours. Desiring the Holy Spirit to guide us isn't a means for God to super-charge our lives or to empower what we're doing. He's all about putting to death our own desires and fleshly (selfish) deeds in order to surrender to the Spirit's desires. Each of us must choose for ourselves whether we'll truly walk with the Spirit.

**BEING SPIRIT-FILLED IS AN ISSUE OF LORDSHIP AND SUBMISSION**

**IT'S ABOUT ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE US  
WHEREVER AND HOWEVER HE CHOOSES.**

TAKE TIME as a group to talk about the statements above.

What is daunting or even scary about following instead of leading? How difficult is it to surrender control? Is it easier when you're surrendering to the Spirit of God? Why? Why not? Can the Spirit of God be trusted?

### *step four*

“When we are at our wits' end for an answer,  
then the Holy Spirit can give us an answer.

But how can He give us an answer when we are still well supplied  
with all sorts of answers of our own?” Karl Barth

How can the Holy Spirit give us an answer when our lives are filled with so much noise?

Multitasking has become the norm. When was the last time you had a conversation without an interruption by a text message, phone call, or even by running the to-do list through your head?

READ Mark 1:35.

In our crazy, busy world, it takes a sincere effort to find a quiet place - to simply be still before our Lord. If we're serious about growing and nurturing our relationship with the Holy Spirit and knowing and becoming like Christ, finding that quiet place is critical.

What does your Mark 1:35 time look like? Do you consistently carve out a time to focus on God? Have you created a pattern/habit of quieting your spirit in order to hear from God's Spirit? Where do you go to tune out all the distractions? Do you have a place to do that?

God wants us to listen to His Spirit every day, throughout the day, in the midst of the mundane, and during the difficulties of life. Living in step with the Spirit of God is about seeking His leadership in every aspect of our lives.

READ Galatians 5:16 and 22-25 again.

Walking by the Spirit implies a habitual, continual, and active interaction with the Holy Spirit.

Do you listen to the Holy Spirit throughout the day? Are you aware of His presence? Do you submit to Him while spending time with family, friends, colleagues? Do you allow the Holy Spirit to lead as you figure out your budget? Do you allow the Holy Spirit to lead as you lead others?

THINK about areas in your life where you tend to simply do your own thing or slide into auto-pilot mode.

What would your life look like if you consciously submitted these areas to the Holy Spirit? Would any of these areas benefit from the fruits of the Spirit in your life? Could they benefit from God's wisdom?

### *pray:*

Holy Spirit, You're our comforter. You're our hope. We seek Your guidance in every area of our lives and ask Your help to quiet the noise and distractions so we may hear Your voice and direction clearly. In Jesus' Name. Amen.