

Holy Spirit More

Session Three: Eagerness - Wanting more?

Welcome, opening prayer and worship	(5–15 minutes)
Introduction	(5 minutes)
Bible study	(15 minutes)

Read John 7:28-39

1. What is it about Jesus' behaviour that makes the Pharisees so angry? What is their motivation to stop him at all costs?
2. Read verses 37 and 38. In what way(s) is 'water' a good metaphor for the Spirit? What 'Spirit-like' characteristics does water have?

Discussion time and video (40 minutes)

Theology always pushes us in a particular direction. The knowledge of God is not neutral- it demands something of us. Every thought and belief in our minds leads us to some sort of action. Unfortunately, we don't always grasp the significance of what we claim to believe. If we stop short of applying a truth to our lives, then we do not actually grasp that truth. Until our lives (and not just our beliefs) are changed, we are not doing theology.

More important than what we know is how we act. Being a Christian isn't about knowing a set of propositions- it's about knowing Christ and acting on His behalf in the world. But our beliefs shape our actions. As we study the Holy Spirit, it's vitally important that our understanding of who He is and what He does is accurate. But once our theology is in the right place (or at least headed in the right direction), we need to act on it.

1. Name a few of the things that you've learned about the Holy Spirit in the last two sessions. How should those truths start shaping the way you act?

Think about the football-huddle analogy for a minute. Too often the church is like a football team that huddles, calls a play, and then sits on the bench- never to run the play that they got so excited about. Perhaps we've forgotten the Holy Spirit because we don't need Him. We don't need the Spirit for the huddle; we need Him when we step out of the huddle and run the play.

2. Think about St. Martin's or your small group in the light of the huddle analogy. Have we been running from the huddle to the bench? If so, in what ways?
3. God gave us the Spirit so that we might change the world through His power. How do you think the church would look if we all began "running the plays"? How do you think the world would respond?
4. God's Spirit works in and through us in a variety of ways to glorify Himself. Below is a list of ways that He does this. Choose a number of items and ask yourself, "How is the Spirit working in this way in my everyday life? Or how might He do so?"
 - a. The Spirit helps us when we are in precarious situations and need to bear witness (Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12)
 - b. The Counselor teaches and reminds us of what we need to know and remember. He is our comforter, our advisor, our encourager, and our strength. He guides us in the way we should go (Psalm 143:10; John 14-16; Acts 9:31; 13:2; 15:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 1 John 5:6-8)
 - c. From the Spirit we receive power to be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth. It is the Spirit who draws people to the gospel, the Spirit who equips us with the strength we need to accomplish God's purposes. The Holy Spirit not only initially draws people to God the Father, but He also draws believers closer to Jesus (Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 3:16-19)
 - d. By the power of the Spirit we put to death the misdeeds of the body. The Spirit sets us free from sin, which we cannot get rid of on our own. This is a lifelong process we entered into, in partnership with the Spirit, when we first believed (Romans 8:2)
 - e. Through the Spirit we have received adoption as children, which leads us into intimacy with the Father, instead of a relationship based on fear and slavery. The Spirit bears witness to us that we are God's children (Romans 8:15-16)
 - f. The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin. He does this both before we initially enter into right relationship with God and as we journey through this life as believers (John 16:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)
 - g. The Spirit brings us life and freedom. Where the Spirit is, there is freedom, not bondage or slavery. In our world that is plagued with death, this is a profound truth that points to real hope (Romans 8:10-11; 2 Corinthians 3:17)
 - h. By the power of the Holy Spirit we abound with hope because our God is a God of hope, who fills His children with all joy and peace (Romans 15:13)
 - i. As members of God's kingdom community, each of us is given a manifestation of the Spirit in our lives for the purpose of the common good. We all have something to offer because of what the Spirit gives to us (1 Corinthians 12:7)
 - j. The fruit of being led by the Spirit of God includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These attitudes and actions will characterize our lives as we allow ourselves to be grown and moulded by the Spirit. The Spirit is our sanctifier (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - k. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. When we don't know what to pray for or what to do, He actually intercedes on our behalf. He gives us strength in the midst of uncertainty and asks the Father to work according to His will (Romans 8:26-27)

Prayer ministry and closing prayer (15 minutes)