

Week 6 ~ The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-31 (The Passion Translation) ¹⁵ “Loving Me empowers you to obey My commands. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Savior, the Holy Spirit of truth, who will be to you a friend just like Me—and He will never leave you. The world won’t receive Him because they can’t see Him or know Him. But you will know Him intimately, because He will make His home in you and will live inside you.

¹⁸ “I promise that I will never leave you helpless or abandon you as orphans; I will come back to you! ¹⁹ Soon I will leave this world and they will see Me no longer, but you will see Me, because I will live again, and you will come alive too! ²⁰ When that day comes, you will know that I am living in the Father and that you are one with Me, for I will be living in you. ²¹ Those who truly love Me are those who obey My commandments. Whoever passionately loves Me will be passionately loved by My Father. And I will passionately love you in return, and will manifest My life within you.”

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²³ Jesus replied, “Loving Me empowers you to obey My word. And My Father will love you so deeply that We will come to you and make you our dwelling place. ²⁴ But those who don’t love Me will not obey My words. The Father did not send Me to speak My own revelation, but the words of My Father. ²⁵ I am telling you this while I am still with you. ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Spirit of Holiness, the one like Me who sets you free, He will teach you all things in My name. He will inspire you to remember every word that I’ve told you.

²⁷ “I leave the gift of peace with you— My peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but My perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts— instead, be courageous! ²⁸ Remember what I’ve told you, that I must go away, but I promise to come back to you. If you truly love Me, you will be glad for Me, because I’m returning to My Father, who is greater than I. ²⁹ When all these things happen, you will still trust and cling to Me. ³⁰ I won’t speak with you much longer, for the ruler of this dark world is coming; but He has no power over Me, for He has nothing to use against Me. ³¹ I am doing exactly what the Father destined for Me to accomplish, so that the world will discover how much I love My Father. Now come with Me.”

Today’s Text: John 14:15-31 *The Passion Translation*

- ¹⁵ “Loving Me empowers you to obey My commands. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Savior, the Holy Spirit of truth, who will be to you a friend just like Me—and He will never leave you. The world won’t receive Him because they can’t see Him or know Him. But you will know Him intimately, because He will make His home in you and will live inside you.

- **The disciples' love for Christ is revealed in their obeying His commands.** Even more than that, as our love for Jesus grows, so does the power the Holy Spirit gives us to obey Him!
 - And **we can be sure** that we know him if we obey his commandments. (1 John 2:3 NLT-SE)
 - Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because **the Spirit he gave us lives in us.** (1 John 3:24 NLT-SE)
- Christ has set the **pattern of love and obedience**; His disciples are expected to follow.
 - **I will do what the Father requires of me**, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going. (John 14:31 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. **Do as I have done to you.** ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. (John 13:15-16 NLT-SE)
- This is, arguably, the most important and **comprehensive biblical teaching** on the person of the Holy Spirit. Up to this point in John's Gospel, little has been said about the Holy Spirit. Let's take a brief look at a **Theology for of the Holy Spirit**:
- **Who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do in our lives?**
 - **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON.** He is not an indistinct "power" or "thing." (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). It is a grievous mistake to reduce the Holy Spirit to a "power source or influence." He is a powerful, dynamic, eternal person. We fellowship with Him by talking with Him, speaking to the God who dwells within us.
 - **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.** He is not a lesser or different kind of Being than God the Father or God the Son. The Spirit is God. In Acts we read of Peter's challenge to Ananias: "3 Then Peter said, 'Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!'" (Acts 5:3-4 NLT-SE). In these verses we see that Peter explicitly refers to the Holy Spirit as God.
 - **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ETERNAL AND HOLY.** We read in the gospel of John about Jesus' promise to His disciples that the Spirit will be with them forever (14:16). And in Hebrews we read that it was through "the eternal Spirit" that Jesus "offered himself unblemished to God" (9:14 NIV). The Spirit is not just a flighty, whimsical spirit who comes and goes like the wind. He is an eternal being.

If you say you want the Holy Spirit, you must first honestly ask yourself if you want to do His will. Because if you do not genuinely want to know and do His will, why should you ask for His presence at all?



Francis Chan

FINAL THOUGHTS ~ WEEK 6: THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

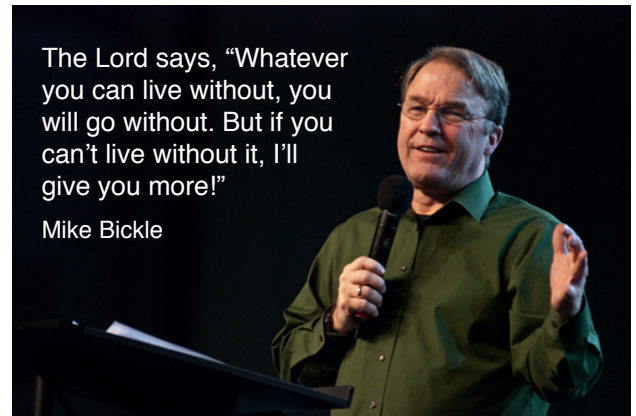
WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WHAT DOES HE DO IN OUR LIVES?

1. The Holy Spirit is a person.
2. The Holy Spirit is God.
3. The Holy Spirit is eternal and holy.
4. The Holy Spirit has His own mind, and He prays for us.
5. The Holy Spirit has emotions.
6. The Holy Spirit has His own desires and will.
7. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS HIS OWN MIND, AND HE PRAYS FOR US.** Romans 8:27 says, “The Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS EMOTIONS.** For a long time, whenever I read that we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30), I thought that was a bit of an exaggeration. It almost seems sacrilegious to say that I could grieve God. Who am I to have such power over the Spirit?
 - You’re probably familiar with God’s command in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, “**Do not quench** (stifle, “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire,” NIV) **the Spirit.**” Are you concerned about breaking this command? Do you know what it means to quench the Spirit? For years I never gave it much thought. I didn’t take the time to explore what this meant and how I could be guilty of this sin. Like most people, I just assumed I wasn’t quenching the Spirit, and I moved on.
 - I look back now and realize I not only quenched the Spirit, but I also violated the next verse: “**Do not scoff at prophecies.**” (1 Th 5:20 NLT-SE).” I had contempt toward anyone who claimed to have “a word from the Lord.” I felt it was a righteous contempt because I’d seen people use the phrase “I have a word from the Lord” to manipulate others for personal gain. Cult leaders use the phrase to secure followers and increase their own authority. How can you disagree or even have a discussion with someone who claims they heard directly from God? So I was against all of it. I was disturbed by any claim of prophetic speech.
 - Looking back, I believe my concerns were valid but my actions were not. The biblical response would have been to “*test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil*” (1 Thess. 5:21-22 NIV). **Rather than rejecting the possibility of God supernaturally speaking through people, I should have tested what I was hearing in the context of faithful community.** ~ Francis Chan in *Forgotten God*
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS HIS OWN DESIRES AND WILL.** In 1 Corinthians we read that the gifts of the Spirit are “*It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*” (12:11). This is an important reminder of who is in control. Just as we don’t get to choose which gifts we are given, so also we don’t get to choose what God intends for us or for the church. The Spirit has a plan for our lives, for each of us. And He has a plan for the church, including your individual church body and the worldwide body of Christ.
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNIPOTENT, OMNIPRESENT, AND OMNISCIENT.** These are theological words that essentially mean that the Spirit is all-powerful (e.g., Zech. 4:6), present everywhere (e.g., Ps. 139:7-8), and all-knowing (e.g., 1 Cor. 2:10b), respectively. These are some of His attributes that we will never fully grasp as finite human beings. In Isaiah we read, “Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him?” (Is 40:13 NLT-SE). Though we will never be able to perfectly articulate or completely understand these attributes, may these aspects of the Spirit lead us to praise, even with imperfect words and incomplete understanding!
- ¹⁸ **“I promise that I will never leave you helpless or abandon you as orphans; I will come back to you! ¹⁹ Soon I will leave this world and they will see Me no longer, but you will see Me, because I will live again, and you will come alive too! ²⁰ When that day comes, you will know that I am living in the Father and that you are one with Me, for I will be living in you. ²¹ Those who truly love Me are those who obey My commandments. Whoever passionately loves Me will be**

passionately loved by My Father. And I will passionately love you in return, and will manifest My life within you."

- **I will come back to you...** What was Jesus talking about? When and how would He come back? Was He referring to, (1) His resurrection, (2) The Rapture, (3) the death of a believer, (4) a mystical experience, or (5) The Spirit's coming at Pentecost?
- **Because I will live again, and you will come alive too...** His resurrection also reveals their coming resurrection and provides a foundation for eternal life with Him.
 - ²⁰ But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. ²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, **now the resurrection from the dead has begun** through another man. (1 Cor 15:20-21 NLT-SE)
- **When that day comes...** He is referring to Pentecost, when the Spirit being poured out became the evidence that Jesus had ascended to the Father.
- **Whoever passionately loves Me...** Christian love is manifested in our love for Jesus and willingness to align of lives with His will. The fruit of this loving God through obedience is huge! We get to experience the Father's love and Jesus' love is revealed to and through us.
- **I will passionately love you in return, and will manifest My life within you...** As we read earlier, the spirit would come into believers (v. 17) and teach them, manifested within, about the implications of their union with Jesus.
- ²² **Then one of the disciples named Judas** (not Judas the locksmith) **said, "Lord, why is it You will only reveal Your identity to us and not to everyone?"** ²³ Jesus replied, **"Loving Me empowers you to obey My word. And My Father will love you so deeply that We will come to you and make you our dwelling place.** ²⁴ But those who don't love Me will not obey My words. The Father did not send Me to speak My own revelation, but the words of My Father.
- ²⁵ **I am telling you this while I am still with you.** ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Spirit of Holiness, the one like Me who sets you free, He will teach you all things in My name. He will inspire you to remember every word that I've told you. ²⁷ **"I leave the gift of peace with you— My peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but My perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts— instead, be courageous!**
- **Loving Me empowers you to obey My word...** Jesus makes it clear that relationship with the Father and with Him will be **empowered by obedience and hindered by disobedience.**
 - Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And **because they love me, my Father will love them.** And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them." (John 14:21 NLT-SE)
 - Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because **the Spirit he gave us lives in us.** (1 John 3:24 NLT-SE)



- God created every human being with three parts: a **spirit**, a **soul**, and a **body**. One man summarized this reality: **“WE ARE A SPIRIT, WE HAVE A SOUL, AND WE LIVE IN A BODY.”** Our soul is our personality, which consists of our mind, emotions, and will—sometimes referred to as our “heart” in Scripture.
- Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. (1 Th 5:23 NLT-SE)
- **Make you our dwelling place** (make our home)... This Hebrew word, *mone*, speaks of an abode, dwelling, or mansion. It is only used here and in John 14:1, where it says, “In my Father’s house are many rooms.”
- **I am telling you this while I am still with you...** What Jesus said in the days of His earthly ministry was only partially understood. Three things were needed for the apostles to understand Jesus’ person and mission: (1) His death had to occur. (2) He had to rise again to vindicate His claim and demonstrate His victory. (3) The Spirit had to come and interpret the meanings of Jesus’ words and deeds.
- **²⁸ Remember what I’ve told you, that I must go away, but I promise to come back to you. If you truly love Me, you will be glad for Me, because I’m returning to My Father, who is greater than I. ²⁹ When all these things happen, you will still trust and cling to Me. ³⁰ I won’t speak with you much longer, for the ruler of this dark world is coming; but He has no power over Me, for He has nothing to use against Me. ³¹ I am doing exactly what the Father destined for Me to accomplish, so that the world will discover how much I love My Father. Now come with Me.”**



- **Larry Randolph** ~ “Continuum of Change” 2015
 - “The **ultimate shift** and **expression** is going to be in the way we perceive the next move of God. We are going to see a shift from Revival to Renaissance.”
 - The difference between **Revival** and **Renaissance**:
 - **Revival**...The word “revive” means to resurrect something that used to live. We’ve lived in a repetition of past glories trying to recapture moves of the past generation.

- **Renaissance**... A French word meaning “womb.” Revival is tomb-focused, Renaissance is womb-focused. Jesus didn't come 2000 years ago to bring revival. He was a Renaissance Man. He came from the womb of a virgin. They said, “Never have we seen anything like this before.” He did not repeat history. He did not repeat anointings. He brought a new paradigm through the womb of Mary.
- **Revival** is a museum mentality—*“Schhh. His anointing is still in here.” There are replica all over the place from the past. Life has left the building.*
- **Renaissance** is a nursery mentality—*Everywhere you look there are babies, dirty diapers, and messes, but the place is full of life!*
- There's just a **memory** in a museum, but **life** in a nursery.