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Week 7 – The Holy Spirit

Introduction:

Article 6 – The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

Galatians 3:1-3; Genesis 1:2; Revelation 22:17; John 1:11-12
John 14:15-18

The Presence of the Holy Spirit...

1. ...is a _____ from the Father to His children

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you...”

2. ...is our permanent Source of _____

“...another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”

Titus 2:11; Romans 10:4

3. ...is the _____ of our salvation

“...for He lives with you and will be in you.”

4. ...is _____ than the physical presence of Jesus

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

Galatians 5:22-23

The Big Idea:

We have nothing to fear by living with great expectations for the Holy Spirit's movement in our midst. God is not the author of confusion, but of order. Yet He is also a God of great surprises who at the same time never violates His own character...

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. With over 800 references to the Holy Spirit in the Bible, why do you think the topic is often such a controversial issue among Christians of various denominations?

Ponderings:

2. How have you grown personally in your understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit's presence and ministry in your life? Discuss...
3. How would you answer a friend who asks you, "How does the Holy Spirit function in your life?" Discuss...
4. If you have a background in church, did you come from a tribe that was more charismatic (emphasizing demonstrative gifts of the Spirit) or more conservative (less about demonstrative gifts of the Spirit)?
 - How did this background shape your understanding of the Spirit?
 - What do you think more charismatic tribes can learn from more conservative tribes, and vice versa, about the Holy Spirit? Discuss...
5. In the NT, the Holy Spirit is given various titles such as *Counselor*, *Helper*, *Teacher and Comforter*. Choose at least one of those four titles and share something specific about how He (the Spirit) functions in that role...

Promptings:

6. Read John 14:16-18 together.
 - How would your day tomorrow look different if you consciously lived in the awareness of Jesus' promises in this passage?
 - What are you trusting the Spirit to accomplish in your life right now, and why is it something you're relying on Him for?