



Week 23
Discussion Questions

Text: John 14:15-31

Icebreaker: What role does the Holy Spirit have in your daily life?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Jesus promises that "an advocate," who is the Holy Spirit, will come after him. How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit and its work in this passage?
*The word Jesus uses in the Greek is *Paraclete*, which means "helper", "advocate", "counselor", or "intercessor." Jesus says that the Spirit will be with us forever and dwells within those who love God. He calls it "the Spirit of Truth." Jesus says that he is one with God and that God will be in us through the Spirit, revealing that the Spirit is God himself. Jesus says the Spirit will teach and help us remember Jesus truth. The presence of the Spirit should bring peace.*

At Calvary Bible Church we believe that God exists in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and that "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" ([Calvary's Statement of Belief](#)).

3. Which of Jesus claims in John 14 provide evidence for the divinity and equality of the Holy Spirit with God himself and Christ his Son?
John 14:20 describes the relationship between God, Jesus, and the Spirit that dwells in each of us. Throughout the book of John, Jesus has been using language that can only allude to his equality with God as well as explicitly claiming equality with God. The statement in John 14:20 assumes that the "helper" who will come and indwell Jesus followers is God himself fulfilling his purposes since creation to dwell with his people.
4. The Holy Spirit is present in the Old Testament, but appeared for a specific event, reason, or purpose (Examples: Exodus 31:1-11; Numbers 11:25; Numbers 24:2; Judges 3:10; 1 Samuel 10:6; 1 Samuel 16:14; What is the difference between the momentary experiences in the Old Testament and the promise Jesus makes here?
While throughout the Old Testament the Spirit only made short appearances, Jesus reassurance is that the Holy Spirit will be here to stay, present with each one of us until Jesus returns again and we are eternally in God's presence.
5. Why should the promise of the Holy Spirit settle the disciple's troubled hearts?

The disciples are troubled because Jesus has revealed that he is leaving the disciples, but his revealing the Spirit's coming brings reassurance because God will still be present with them, even more so (John 16:6-7).

6. Read: Acts 2:38; Acts 5:32; Acts 10:44-45; Galatians 5:16-26; Titus 3:3-5. According to these verses, what does it mean to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
All those who believe in Jesus' truth are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but we can suppress the Spirit through our actions. Evidence of the Spirit's flourishing in our lives is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5). Looking forward to next week in John 15 we will dive deeper into the metaphor of fruit some more.
7. In what way does this knowledge of the Holy Spirit's identity and character shape or change your awareness of the Spirit's work in your daily life?
Some people are not fully aware of the Spirit's work and role in their lives, often attributing the Spirit's work to God or Jesus in general. Looking closely at the characteristics and functions of the Holy Spirit can make our faith more personal as we recognize God's presence with us individually, specifically convicting, guiding, and helping us move closer to the image of God we were created to be.
8. Jesus is clear that keeping his commandments does not save us but shows our love for him. Why do you think love for Jesus and obedience to Jesus are so intimately connected?
Love for Jesus means recognizing his Identity as God, the same God who created us and longs to be with us. Love for Jesus means being with Jesus as we were originally intended to be. We were originally intended to live out God's image, living in harmony and partnership with him on earth. Following Jesus commandments means surrendering our identity in order to seek God's will and follow after Jesus, who is THE image of God. Keeping Jesus' commandments means seeking to be like him, to be in his image, to be in relationship with him, and to love him.
9. How does the world define peace and how is it different than the peace of Jesus we experience through the presence of the Holy Spirit?
Peace the world brings includes earthly and material comforts that will pass away or eventually fail. They bring comfort for a time, but that peace is not lasting. The things we seek to bring calm in this world distract us from the source of all peace, who is Jesus Christ and his Spirit in us. The peace the Spirit gives is forever and eternal.
10. Where do you need the Spirit's work in your life right now? (Conviction? Peace? Guidance? Empowerment? Equipping? Truth? Wisdom? Fruit?)