
ENJOYING HOLY FELLOWSHIP WITH THE INDWELLING SPIRIT – COREY STARK

I. ENCOUNTERING THE INDWELLING SPIRIT WITHIN

A. All believers are invited to *enjoy fellowship* or “communion” with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1). We can all develop a *deep friendship* with Him over time, as we talk often to Him and share our heart with Him. We ask the Holy Spirit: “*Let me see what You see and feel what You feel.*” We can ask this about many subjects, including our friends, family, spouse, neighbors, school, ministry, marketplace, finances and ourselves (emotions, body, thought life, desires, even future)! The Spirit knows everything about everything!

2 Cor. 13:14 *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion [fellowship NIV] of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

1. In the Tabernacle of Moses, the “holy of holies” was the *only place* on earth where God’s manifest glory dwelt between the cherubim above the Ark of the Covenant (1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; 2 Kgs. 19:15; 1 Chr. 13:6; Ps. 80:1; 99:1; Isa. 37:16). The holy of holies was a 10 x 10 cubit room where only one man could enter one time per year and was required to fill it with the smoke of incense, so that he would *not see* the manifest glory of God and die (Lev. 16:2, 12-13).

Ps. 80:1 *You who dwelt between the cherubim, shine forth! (Ps. 50:2; 90:1)*

2. Today that same glory dwells within us, allowing anyone who is “born again” to fellowship with Him anywhere at any time forever (Jn. 14:16-18)! Now, we who were once spiritually dead in our sins, have been made alive (Eph. 2:1-10) and joined to the Holy Spirit who took up residence in the temple of our bodies (1 Cor. 3:9, 16-17; 6:17, 19). Unfortunately, many believers go decades without ever developing, even an introductory friendship with Him by talking to the One who dwells within them. In the early days I had to write, “Talk to God” on my hand to help remind me to do it! Remember, we aren’t speaking to a distant God that’s disconnected from us, but He’s always dwelling on the inside!

Jn. 14:16 *I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive... but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

1 Cor. 3:16 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

B. Two ways that we can focus our minds on seeking God: *God on His throne* (Rev. 4) and *God in our spirit* (Jn. 14:17). We turn our attention to the throne of God *upwardly* or the Holy Spirit (who dwells in our spirit) *inwardly* to grow in the deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:9-11). We don’t merely turn our attention inwardly to ourselves like some false religions of the world that imagine they are gods themselves, but to a real Person.

1. God wants us to have a biblical framework to focus our minds upon as we approach Him in worship and prayer (Heb. 4:16). We don’t speak into the air, but to “*Our Father in Heaven*” (Mt. 6:9-13).

2. The Holy Spirit like a divine “search engine” longs to reveal the deep things of God to us!

1 Cor. 2:9 *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 Now we have received... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

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II. FIVE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S ACTIVITY IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

A. The Scripture describes five different facets of the Holy Spirit’s activity in us as a light, wind, fire, wine or as a river. Since God is spirit (Jn. 4:24), His activity within us is spiritual not physical. In other words, the “fire” that He imparts is very real, but nevertheless spiritual fire that does not burn us (Ex. 3:2-3; Acts 2:3).

B. The Holy Spirit manifests in us as a *bright light* that gives life (Jn. 1:4; 8:12), that purifies, unifies and empowers the saints (1 Jn. 1:5-7), illuminating our minds with revelation, truth and direction (Ps. 43:3; Lk. 12:35-36, 46; Jn. 8:32; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6) and overcoming the works of darkness by driving out the confusion, deception and accusations of the enemy (Jn. 1:4-5; 3:19-21; Acts 26:18; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Jas. 1:17).

Jn. 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (RSV)

C. The Holy Spirit is a rushing *mighty wind* that fills the saints with divine strength, stirs hunger and imparts desire (Phil. 2:13), releasing fresh creative expressions and manifestations (Jn. 3:8), while inspiring, directing and empowering the Church to operate under His powerful unction (Acts 2:2-4; 8:26-40).

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

D. The Holy Spirit is a *consuming fire* that energizes the saints (Acts 2:4), imparts God’s jealous affection for us (Deut. 4:24; Ps. 79:5; Song 8:6; Ezek. 23:25; 38:19; Zeph. 1:18; 3:8) and tenderizes our hearts, while devouring everything that hinders love (Heb. 12:29), including strongholds of wrong thinking, negative emotions and addictions (Lk. 24:32; Jn. 5:35). St. John of the Cross called Him a “*Living Flame of Love.*”

Deut. 4:24 For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Song 8:6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement [Jehovah’s] flame.

E. The Holy Spirit flows like *new wine* that awakens the sleeping and revives the Church (Song 7:9), as He imparts the Father’s love (Song 2:4-5), strengthening the heart and refreshing the soul of man (Isa. 28:12), releasing joy and thanksgiving that inspires us to move freely in the gifts and spontaneous expressions of worship without fear of failure or insecurity (Mt. 9:17; Mk. 2:22; Lk. 5:37-38; Acts 2:13, 15; Eph. 5:18-19).

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

F. The Holy Spirit moves like a mighty *flowing river* of pure life that invigorates, rejuvenates and restores, while satisfying the soul and ushering us into the spontaneous activity of God (Jn. 7:37-39).

Jn. 7:37 “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 This He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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III. PRACTICALLY LEARNING TO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. *What is fellowship? How do you fellowship with friends?* True fellowship includes a *two-way dialogue* as we *freely share* our hearts *over time*. The Spirit honors our part in the relationship by not *forcing Himself* upon us if we're not interested or *forcing the dialogue* with Him if we do not want to. Though love requires a voluntary response, He's always beckoning us to a deeper and more continual conversation. Generally, the Spirit won't usually begin speaking until we do, but if we start the conversation, He will keep talking, as long as we stay engaged. *If He does start the conversation, it's usually not good news, but a warning* ☺

Song 2:14 ***"O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely."*** (Isa. 1:18; 30:18-19)

B. Our greatest inheritance and most prized possession is our *heart connection* with the Holy Spirit and His ongoing activity in our inner man (Eph. 3:16-19). Our relationship with God and maturity into His image is what we will take with us forever (2 Cor. 3:18)! Like a sacred garden, we must guard our heart with all diligence (distractions, defilement, dullness) for out of this abiding connection with the Holy Spirit (or lack of it) will flow all the issues of life (love, joy, etc.) or death (Pr. 4:23; Song 4:12, 16; 5:1; 6:2; Jn. 7:38).

Pr. 4:23 *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

C. We are commanded to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25). However, *we will never walk in the Spirit any more than we talk to the Spirit*. If we begin to talk to the Holy Spirit we will walk under His inspiration far more. The primary component to walking in the spirit is so simple that anyone can do it, but so few do.

Gal. 5:16 *I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

D. David calmed and quieted his soul. As a King, he chose this "*one thing*" (Ps. 27:4). We too must decide to quiet our soul and listen to connect with the Spirit's *whisper* in our heart. God *will not* do our part and we *cannot* do His part. We need to shut some things off, dial down emotionally by taking our foot off the gas pedal and slowing the engine down on the inside, because an "over-active soul" keeps us out of sync with the subtle movements and whispers of the Spirit. It takes *time* to quiet the turbulent activity of our soul.

Ps. 131:2 *Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother is my soul...*

E. Elijah encountered the LORD in the prophetic whisper (still small voice).

1 Kings 19:11-13 *The LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains... and after the wind an earthquake... 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire [wind or earthquake]; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

F. As we *linger* in His presence (not rushed), speak *affectionately* (intermittently saying, "I love You"), *slowly* (not rapid fire), *softly* (not shouting at the indwelling Spirit), *briefly* (short phrases, not paragraphs), and *minimally* (dialogue not monologue, listening more than you talk), with many *pauses*, along with gently *sighing* (Rom. 8:26), and *gazing in silence* (a few seconds or minutes, sometimes longer). "Less is more" in terms of amount and volume of speaking. Capture divine truths by *journaling* your thoughts and prayers.

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IV. FIVE PRACTICAL PHRASES TO USE IN FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE SPIRIT: T-R-U-S-T

T - *Thank you*: Recognize the Spirit's indwelling presence in you by simply thanking Him for it. God really cares about this (Lk. 17:12-17) and is the way He prescribed in approaching Him (Ps. 100:1-5). Pray, *"Thank you Holy Spirit for Your bright presence in me. I love Your leadership, Your will and Your ways."*

Ps. 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

R - *Release Revelation*: Ask the Spirit to release revelation of the realm of God's glory and heart to you. Moses prayed, *"Please, show me your glory"* (Ex. 33:18). Pray, *"Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see the realm of God's glory and to encounter His heart."* This isn't insight into the Scriptures, but actually opening up the glory of God in the spiritual realm that is all around us (2 Kgs. 6:17; Eph. 1:17-19).

Eph. 1:17 the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know...

U - *Use me*: Ask the Spirit to use you more and more in the spiritual gifts to minister to others. Many don't operate in the gifts because they don't ask for them and when impressions come they seem so subtle that they're ignored because they're not use to them. However, when we put our "sails up" being open and willing to be used by God, it doesn't take much wind to move a mighty ship. We pray, *"Thank you Holy Spirit for releasing the manifestation of Your gifts and power through me to help others."*

1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...

S - *Strengthen me*: Ask the Spirit to strengthen your mind, will and emotions with His divine might that you might increase your capacities to contain more of the indwelling Spirit's wisdom, fruit and gifts. Pray, *"Thank you for the presence of Your love, patience, self-control, etc. Strengthen me to agree with You and increase my capacity to contain more of Your activity."* Paul describes edifying ourselves (1 Cor. 14:2).

Eph. 3:16 that He would grant you... to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man [mind, will, emotions], 17 that Christ may dwell [continual abiding] in your hearts... 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ...

T - *Teach me*: Ask Him to teach you about God's Word, will, and ways, and to manifest His leadership in every area of your life, including finances, schedule, circumstances, emotions, physical body (nutrition, exercise, rest), relationships, and alignment of those you're responsible for (home, marketplace, ministry).

Jn. 14:26 The Holy Spirit... will teach you all things... 16:13 He will guide you into all truth; He will tell you things to come... (1 Jn. 2:27)

Ask the Holy Spirit to talk to you about your future and new opportunities, as well as giving you insight into your fears, failure or addictions. He will give us new and creative ideas, witty inventions and insights, as He orders our steps and open doors of opportunity for strategic alliances in each area of our life, as we ask Him! Pray, *"Holy Spirit let me see what You see and feel what you feel, then release it through me with power!"*

Lk. 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit [wisdom, fruit, gifts] to those who ask Him!