



Holy Spirit: Enjoying and Receiving the Holy Spirit

Engage Page

There is a massive difference between what religion offers and what Jesus offers. Religion invites you to agree with a set of doctrinal propositions about God, sign on the dotted line and you're good to go. Doctrine matters - absolutely. But Christ invites us into the truth of who He is and into a relationship.

For Reflection and Discussion:

1. For how many of you, would you say that you grew up knowing about God more than knowing God? What was that like?

Read aloud John 5:39-40 (Christian Basics Bible p.1207) and John 17:3 (p.1225). What do these passages reveal about what Christ came to offer? Why do we settle for less?

Read John 15:26-27 (p.1224) to see God's plan. The Holy Spirit, 1) comes alongside to help us to know the Lord better; and in the joy of knowing Him better we can, 2) make Christ known.

Like any other relationship, there are things that we can do to cultivate a close relationship with the Lord through the Holy Spirit. There are many, but here are three simple ways:

1. Stop striving and start trusting. Read Psalm 46, verses 1 and 10, written in a time of great international turmoil. What makes this hard and what is the remedy to our fear? Per John 15:26-27 the Spirit comes alongside and "testifies," reminding and teaching us of the what Christ has done and what He will come back to do to put our hearts at rest/ But we have to stop and listen.
2. Enjoy Jesus! According to Psalm 89:15-17 (p.658), something happens for you when you fix your gaze of adoration upon the Lord. What do you get to enjoy? How does the Lord respond? How is that reflected in Jesus' promise in John 7:37-39?
3. Invite the Lord into everything you do. This safeguards us from falling into doing this *doing for God* instead of *doing with God*. Read John 15:5. Why does "doing with God" lead to fruitfulness but "doing for God" accomplish nothing? So whether serving and using your gifts, solving problems at work or school, or even doing the laundry, invite the Lord into everything you do and the Holy Spirit will continue to help you see God at work in every area of your life.

Additional Resources:

Practicing the Presence of God, book by Brother Lawrence

Hosting the Presence, book by Bill Johnson

Memory verse:

“Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”

³⁹ (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.) **John 7:37-39**