

## **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

**Objective:** To train you on how to live in relationship with Your Maker, giving you lasting satisfaction and purpose in this life and for eternity.

#### **Defining Fellowship with the Holy Spirit**

What are your desired outcomes of fellowship with a person (friends, spouse, parent, coworker, etc)?

I. Fellowship is *cultivating relationship* with God and *learning to walk* with Him. See David Benner Quotes at end of notes.

*2 Corinthians 13:14 - May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

II. Through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit abides with you forever and guides you into all truth. **No one wants to fellowship with you more than Your Maker.**

III. The Holy Spirit brings us to salvation, lets us know our justification, sanctifies us, reveals our adoption as sons, gives us revelation, pours out His love in us, makes intercession for us, earnestly counsels us, unites us to each other. (Ephesians 2:22; 4:3).

IV. The Holy Spirit consistently tells us of the eternal relationship we have with the Father and Son. This relationship is the place of our greatest joy (1 John 1:3-4). This is why we exist.

V. Think of the person you most enjoy spending time with. You know they love you, and you feel safe with them. Their relationship makes your heart glad and it's like perfume filling the room. Even in correction there is sweetness, because you know it's for your good. The Holy Spirit knows everything about you and is more committed to your destiny than your closest human companion (Proverbs 27:9; 18:24; 1 Corinthians 6:17).

We see a shadow of this friendship/commitment in a movie clip from Bagger Vance. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWhPLnu4Wg4&t=43s>

In what ways do you see a shadow of the Holy Spirit's commitment to you through Bagger Vance (the caddy)?

"Its time for you to choose, but you ain't alone, I am right here with you, I've been here all along. Now play the game, your game, the one that only you was meant to play, the one that was given to you when you come into this world." What about this phrase stands out to you? How do you want to respond?

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#### **Why do we fellowship with the Holy Spirit?**

I. The goal of fellowship is to abide in Jesus and to know we are not alone, with a Father who accepts and delight in us. Fellowship with the Holy Spirit gets our focus on Jesus and the Father (1 John 2:27; Galatians 4:6). The Holy Spirit teaches us to abide in Jesus (1 John 2:27).

II. We were made for dependency. Jesus told us we can do nothing without Him (John 15:5). He always wants us with Him and depending on Him. This happens through fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

III. As our friend who sticks closer than a brother, the Holy Spirit is fully focused on our full transformation from glory to glory and conformation to Jesus Christ. This is why He teaches us abide in Jesus.

#### **How Did Jesus Fellowship with the Holy Spirit and how do we?**

I. The reason Jesus came to the earth was to invite us back into communion with the Father. How did He do this as He walked the earth? He fellowshiped with the Spirit (John 6:63; Hebrews 9:14).

II. Moment by moment He abided in the Father's love as He depended on the Spirit within Him. **Jesus found his success in being loved by the Father, not by what He accomplished** (John 5:19-20).

III. **Abiding: Consistent Dialogue and Continual Dependency.** Dialogue is not always talking. It is about communion at heart level. Example: a long car ride with a friend.

IV. We walk the earth as Jesus did in the same way He did—by fellowship with the Spirit. Jesus gave us the pattern He modeled (John 15:5, 9, 15).

V. Growing in fellowship with the Holy Spirit requires death to self in exchange for the the grace (divine power) of Jesus living in and through you (Luke 9:23-24; Galatians 5:16-17; Romans 8:12-13; 2 Peter 1:3). See Rees Howells quotes at end of notes.

VI. A tool to grow in fellowship with the Spirit using Ephesians 3:16-19.

**A**cknowledge the Spirit within you (Ephesians 3:16; John 14:16-17; 1 John 2:27; 3:24; 4:4, 13).

*Ephesians 3:16 - That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*

**F**ocus on the Spirit's desire rather than your own abilities (Ephesians 3:16; Romans 8:26-27; James 4:5-8).

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**R**eceive God's power to abide in His love (Ephesians 3:16-18; John 15:9; Romans 5:5; 1 John 3:1).

*Ephesians 3:17-19 - that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— (19) to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Transformation takes time. The book *The Oak Inside the Acorn* by Max Lucado gives us a picture of this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4Y2XwgRUAA&t=14s>

What stood out to you about this story? What feelings are you experiencing?

“Now it's time for me to let go and become the person God wants me to be.”  
Where is God calling you to let go and trust Him to direct you and grow you into all He wants you to be?

#### **Practice**

I. Pray using the AFR tool. Read through a point and the corresponding Biblical phrases. Turn what you read into prayer.

II. Go back through notes, look up verse references, and turn them into prayer. Take your time. Do not seek for only rational information but to be transformed by the truths being declared. You cannot earn revelation but will receive as you seek by faith.

#### **Debrief**

I. How did you experience God (or not) during this time?

II. What questions has this practice raised in you about God and/or about yourself?

III. How can you begin to incorporate fellowship with the Holy Spirit into the rhythms of your daily journey?

#### **Quotes**

David Benner: “The single most important thing I have learned in over thirty years of study of how love produces healing is that love is transformational only when it is received in vulnerability. Suppose that with God's help I am able to love my son unconditionally. But if he is desperately trying to please me, the unconditional

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nature of my love will not be noticed. And there will be no deep experience of knowing himself deeply and unconditionally loved. Receiving love while he is trying to earn it will only reinforce his efforts to be lovable. Far from being transformational, this will only increase his efforts to earn love. And any love he receives will only be experienced as the fruit of these efforts. Genuine transformation requires vulnerability. It is not the fact of being loved unconditionally that is life-changing. It is the risky experience of allowing myself to be loved unconditionally.”<sup>1</sup>

Rees Howells: “While listening to Evan Hopkins speak on being raised up with Christ to sit with Him in heavenly places, Rees received revelation and heard, “Would you like to sit there with Him? There is a place for you.” The next morning, Mr. Hopkins spoke on the Holy Spirit and how He desire full possession of those He indwells. “As he spoke,” Rees said, “the Holy Ghost appeared to me and I knew him to be the One who had spoken to me that day before and shown me that place of splendor and glory into which natural eyes can never look. It never dawned on me before that the Holy Ghost was a Person exactly like the Savior, and He must come and dwell in flesh and blood. In fact, the Church knows more about the Savior, who was only on the earth thirty-three years, than about the Holy Ghost who has been here two thousand years. I had only thought of Him as an Influence coming on meetings, and that was what most of us in the Revival thought. I had never seen that He must live in bodies, as the Savior lived in His on the earth.”<sup>2</sup>

This meeting with the Holy Spirit was just as real to Rees as His experience with the love of the Savior three or so years earlier. This is Rees recount of meeting the Holy Spirit who said, “As the Savior had a body, so I dwell in the cleansed temple of the believer. I am a Person. I am God, and I am come to ask you to give your body to Me that may work through it. I need a body for My temple (1 Corinthians 6:19), but it must belong to Me without reserve, for two persons with different wills can never live in the same body. Will you give me yours? (Romans 12:1). But if I come in, I come as God, and you must go out (Colossians 3:2-3). I shall not mix Myself with your self. He made it very plain that He would never share my life. I saw the honor He gave me in offering to indwell me, but there were many things very dear to me, and I knew He wouldn’t keep one of them. The change He would make was very clear. It meant every bit of my fallen nature was to go to the cross, and He would bring in His own life and His own nature. It was unconditional surrender.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Benner, David G.. Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality (p. 76). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Grubb, Norman P. . Rees Howells, Intercessor (p. 24). CLC Publications. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Grubb, Norman P. . Rees Howells, Intercessor (p. 25). CLC Publications. Kindle Edition.

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Rees Howells book when the Spirit came in January 1937: “It was the ‘Pentecost’ of the College, from which they emerged, not a loosely-linked company of consecrated individuals, but a body in the full sense of the term—a living, integrated organism, infused with one life and one purpose.” “He did not come like a rushing mighty wind. But gradually the person of the Holy Ghost filled all our thoughts, His presence filled all the place, and His light seemed to penetrate all the hidden recesses of our hearts.” “We felt the Holy Spirit had been a real Person to us before; as far as we knew we had received Him; and some of us had known much of His operations in and through our lives. But now the revelation of His Person was so tremendous that all our previous experiences seems as nothing.” “In the light of His purity, it was not so much sin we saw as self.” “In His nature He was just like Jesus—He would never live for self, but always for others. We were people who had left all to follow the Savior, and had forsaken all we had of this world’s good to enter a life of faith, and as far as we knew we had surrendered our lives entirely to the One who died for us. But He showed us, ‘There is all the difference in the world between your surrendered life in My hands, and Me living My life in your body.’” “And all that the Holy Spirit asked of us was our wills and our bodies.” “Many of us on the previous March 29 had put our all on the alter for the sake of giving the gospel to every creature. We had become willing to be any cog in the machinery that God needed to put that through in our generation. But now the Holy Ghost said, as Jehovah had said to Moses, ‘I am come down to do it.’ And we knew that He was as almighty as He was holy.” “One by one our wills were broken; we yielded on His own unconditional terms.” The personal experience as great. We were new people. His Word became new. So often we had had to water down the Word to the level of our experience. But now the Person in us would insist on brining our experience up to the level of His Word. We understood that crucifixion was a slow death and that He would have much to deal with in us before He would really be free to do His work through us.” “Through this falling of the fire upon the sacrifice the Spirit had sealed to Himself a company of intercessors for every creature... There are times in God’s dealings with His servants when He sets apart for Himself not just individuals but companies—baptized, as it were, by one Spirit into one body for one God-appointed purpose—and this was now one of them.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Grubb, Norman P. . Rees Howells, *Intercessor* (pp. 156-159). CLC Publications. Kindle Edition.