

Abide Part 8: Co-operating with the Holy Spirit (10-28-2018)

New Series: Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

3 Parts: Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

Review last 2 weeks: Hearing the Holy Spirit & Growing in the Holy Spirit

Today: Co-operating with the Holy Spirit

Introduction: The Holy Spirit comes into our lives to cultivate a relationship with God, to help us grow in godly character, and with power to impact the lives of others.

Reminders from the Helper sermon (The Holy Spirit's anointing brings Power to impact others):

- You do not have to be **qualified**, He can & will use anyone.
- You have to be **surrendered**. He is looking for people who will entrust Him with their heart.
- With anointing comes the Presence & Power of the Holy Spirit!

1) Peter & John and the lame man healed – Acts chapter 3

Acts 3:1-8 (ESV)

(1) Now Peter and John were going up to the temple **at the hour of prayer**, the ninth hour. (2) And a man **lame from birth** was being carried, whom they **laid daily** at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. (3) Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. (4) And **Peter directed his gaze at him**, as did John, and said, "**Look at us.**" (5) And **he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.** (6) But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" (7) And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. (8) And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Notes:

- Everyone is business as usual – Peter & John's business was worshipping God
- Peter directed his gaze – will we stop and see the need, but more than that the person!
- Peter invited him to look up – notice he asks the man to look at him
 - (the beggar didn't even look up – maybe for shame, or being used to being ignored)
- Peter gave him Jesus, and with that came healing!
- Acts 4:22 let's us know that this man had been there at least 40 years!
- Jesus had passed this gate many times – but today was the day

Acts 3:9-12 (ESV)

(9) And all the people saw him walking and praising God, (10) and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (11) While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. (12) And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, **why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?**

Notes:

- They never claim or take credit – they make it clear it wasn't about them but about Jesus
- **Don't miss this:** Cultivating a relationship with the Holy Spirit means working with him & becoming more like him – He doesn't bring attention to himself either – He points to the Father & The Son!
- Not only do they refuse to take credit, they use the opportunity to share Jesus and call people to repent!

Acts 3:19-20 (ESV)

(19) Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, (20) that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you . . .

Notes:

- There is a growing mentality that says we just need to serve people, we don't need to share Jesus. That couldn't be more wrong.
- Peter and John never stopped sharing the gospel of Jesus in this passage
 - To the man who was healed
 - To the crowds gathered in amazement
 - To the Saducees (priests) who tried to persecute them

Main Idea:

- The Holy Spirit helps us to **see the unseen** - The discarded & forgotten
- The Holy Spirit helps us to **see today's need/opportunity**

2) Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch – Acts chapter 8

Acts 8:26-30 (ESV)

(26) Now an **angel of the Lord said** to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. (27) And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship (28) and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. (29) And **the Spirit said** to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." (30) So Philip ran to him . . .

- Every time the Holy Spirit speaks Philip responds
- Every time the Holy Spirit speaks – He only give the next step
- There is an invitation to the unknown adventure, and to trust the Holy Spirit along the way

Acts 8:30-34 (ESV)

(30) So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (31) And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (32) Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. (33) In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." (34) And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

- Philip hears The Eunuch is reading from Isaiah 53, which speaks (in advance) of the suffering of Jesus.
- Philip starts with a question: He does what the Holy Spirit does, he invites the eunuch
- Going on the adventure with the Holy Spirit involves curiosity: caring about other people and paying attention, asking questions.
- We need to become better listeners . . .
 - Listen to the Holy Spirit & listen to other people.
 - Worry more about what they are saying, then what we are thinking.
 - Don't listen to respond. Listen to understand.

Acts 8:35-40 (ESV)

(35) **Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.** (36) And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (38) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. (39) And when they came up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord carried** Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (40) But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through **he preached the gospel to all the towns** until he came to Caesarea.

Main Idea:

- The Holy Spirit takes us on **the adventure**. Which takes us out of our comfort zone.
- Adventure is about going forth into the unknown – one day of listening & responding at a time!

3) Ananias and Saul – Acts chapter 9

Acts 9:10-14 (ESV)

(10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. **The Lord said to him in a vision**, "Ananias." And he said, "**Here I am, Lord.**" (11) And **the Lord said** to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, (12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." (13) But **Ananias answered**, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. (14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

- Ananias listens & responds to God . . . However, he is afraid of Saul
- Ananias is scared and for good reason . . . because he isn't wrong about Saul

Acts 9:1-2 (ESV)

(1) But **Saul, still breathing threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest (2) and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that **if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.**

- The very reason Saul is in Damascus is to enslave Christians
- But it's not why God has him there!
- How often do we trust what we know & can see; instead of trusting The One who knows & sees all?

Acts 9:15-16 (ESV)

(15) But **the Lord said** to him, "**Go**, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (16) For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

- You have no idea what God has planned for people . . . people you are fearful of, or have written off
- God may want you to participate in their life, but you miss out, because you have decided you'll be better off protecting yourself instead.

Acts 9:17-18 (ESV)

(17) **So Ananias departed and entered the house.** And laying his hands on him he said, "**Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**" (18) And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

- Following Jesus doesn't remove fear, it enables us to face it & overcome!
- Ananias calls Saul a brother before he is one.
- When we choose to love our enemies, we can lose an enemy and gain a brother instead!

Main Idea:

- The Holy Spirit helps us to face our fears – including loving our enemies.
- Our enemy may very well become our brother. That's how Jesus gained us!

Conclusion: We can cultivate a relationship with The Holy Spirit by co-operating with him to share Jesus with others.

The Holy Spirit helps us to . . .

- See the unseen
- Go on the adventure
- Face our fear

So that ultimately we can share Jesus with people in need!