

# COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT- TAMICE HASTY

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. The Holy Spirit is the most important Person in our lives. There is much to say about Him in scripture and about His role in our lives as believers. My goal for this workshop is to (1) cast vision for an authentic and vibrant inner life and (2) give practical ways to engage in communion with the Spirit. I believe this is the only thing that will enable us to love God long term and through every season.
- B. When we said “yes” to Jesus, the third Person of the Trinity came and dwelt within our spirit. I like to think of the Holy Spirit as the invisible member of the Trinity who is the essence and personification of everything that is felt and experienced between the Father and His Son.
- C. The Holy Spirit is absolutely everything to us, in fact Jesus said that it was actually better for us that He leave so that He could send the Holy Spirit to live with us and dwell in us.
- D. The person and the work of the Holy Spirit is such an extravagant and exhilarating topic that Jesus couches the introduction to Him in the most devastating of statements: ***“I’m leaving, but don’t worry...”***
- E. Imagine what the disciples must have been feeling when they heard Jesus say that. How could it be better for them if Jesus was gone? They had grown to love Him so deeply and the idea of His absence would have probably been unbearable. Yet, Jesus makes the staggering statement that it is in fact better for them if He leaves.
- F. Jesus wanted to draw His disciples out; He wanted to bring all of their longing and perplexity to the surface before He explained to them the benefit of His physical absence.

While all they can think of is what they are losing He is keenly aware of what and WHO they are gaining. He says: *“trust me, you will like where this is going.”*

***Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)***

- G. The New Testament passages concerning the Holy Spirit are given to us so that we have an on ramp into how to develop a relationship with Him. It is in these passages that we find out why it was better for Jesus to go away and send the Helper.

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- H. Often in the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit is relegated to some sort of abstract influence or nebulous force that makes people do weird things in charismatic meetings. This is tragic. He infinitely more than that. The Holy Spirit is fully God<sup>1</sup>. He is a *real person*. He has a *personality*, He *thinks*, He *wills*, He *yearns*, He *loves*, He *desires*, He *grieves*, He has a *mind* and a *will*, He *speaks*, He *testifies* and He *intercedes*<sup>2</sup>.
- I. Apart from the Holy Spirit you and I have nothing. He is absolutely everything to believers and having this understanding will revolutionize our life in Christ. We must intentionally grow in the understanding of who He is. Our very spiritual well being depends upon our relationship to the Spirit of God. The common phrase around here is that: *you will never walk in the Spirit more than you talk to the Spirit*.

## II. COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT

- A. We can grow in relationship with the Holy Spirit the same way that we grow in relationship with any other person- conversation and quality time. We can talk directly to the Holy Spirit. This is actually how we will grow in intimacy with God. I have come to talk to the Holy Spirit more as I grow in the knowledge of who He is and His function within the Godhead. Part of the way we begin talking to Him is by using the scriptures.
- B. Knowing someone's title helps you to know how to relate to them correctly. You would not approach a coach the same way you would approach a diplomat. Titles are important for us because they teach us how to relate to the person and they also help us to know what to expect from them. It is the same with the Holy Spirit; He has these titles because they describe who He is and what He does.

- 1. The Titles of the Holy Spirit:

- a. The Helper, Comforter, Counselor, Advocate (John 16:7)

- (1) We can talk to the Holy Spirit as the one who comes alongside to help us in our time of need. In this way you can talk to Him when you need help. He is in our corner and is fighting for us. He is the One who brings us forth in love and maturity. He is the one who provides strength for us to keep steady.

- b. The Teacher (1 John 2:27)

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<sup>1</sup> (1) *Divine names are given to Him*, Ex. 17:7 (comp. Heb. 3:7-9); Acts 5:3,4; I Cor. 3:16; II Tim 3:16 (comp. II Pet. 1:21). (2) *Divine perfections are ascribed to Him*, such as omnipresence, Ps. 139:7-10, omniscience, Isa. 40:13,14 (comp. Rom. 11:34); I Cor. 2:10,11, omnipotence, I Cor. 12:11; Rom. 15:19, and eternity, Heb. 9:14. (3) *Divine works are performed by Him*, such as creation, Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; 33:4, providential renovation, Ps. 104:30, regeneration, John 3:5,6; Tit. 3:5, and the resurrection of the dead, Rom. 8:11. (4) *Divine honor is also paid to Him*, Matt. 28:19; Rom. 9:1; II Cor. 13:13. (Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, (Edinburgh, England: Banner of Truth Trust, 2003), p 97-98)

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:27; Acts 15:28, 16:7; I Corinthians 12:11; Acts 8:29, 13:2; Revelation 2:7, John 15:26 Isaiah 63:10 & Ephesians 4:30, James 4:5, Romans 15:30

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(1) We can talk to the Holy Spirit as the one who opens up the Scriptures and helps us to understand them. He is also the one who teaches us how to live life in Christ and relate to others. He tells us what Jesus is like, He tells us what the word of God means. He is the one who gives us understanding. He teaches us the way of God and helps us to follow.

c. The Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)

(1) The Holy Spirit is the one who loves truth and loves to reveal it. We don't have to be confused about anything. He will tell us the truth in every situation if we ask Him to. He will help us sort through our emotions and even help us to discern what is right in every situation. We can talk to Him as the very Spirit of truth who guides us into all truth.

d. The Guarantee of our Inheritance (Ephesians 1:14)

(1) We can thank the Holy Spirit, who is the proof that we are going to dwell with the Father in the Holy City, and be the eternal companion of His Son. The indwelling Spirit is the seal of God that we are His prized possession.

2. His Actions

a. Anointed and Resurrected Jesus (John 1:32; Rom. 8:11)

b. Testifies of Jesus/ reminds us of what He has said (John 14:26)

c. Gives us peace (John 14:27)

d. Sanctifies us (Titus 3:5)

e. Searches the deep things of God and declares them (1 Cor. 2:10)

f. Inspired Scripture and Prophecy (2 Tim. 3:16)

3. Divine Third Person

a. The Spirit of Yahweh

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(1) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Godhead. He is referred to in scripture as the one who is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Jesus<sup>3</sup>. This means that He is the one who communicates the thoughts, emotions and plans of the Trinity. This is a massive point because it is this One who is dwelling within us.

## III. THE MYSTICAL UNION

- A. Before we talk about practical ways to engage the Spirit within, it helps to understand the implications of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is called a *mystical* union because in terms of how it works, it's a bit of a mystery.
- B. However, we can know a few things about this mysterious union. The first thing we must know is that this is an authentic organic union with Jesus. It is not to separate objects fixed together, it is far more dynamic than that. We are in Christ and He is in us. The One who facilitates this union is the Holy Spirit.
- C. Our union with Jesus by and through the Spirit means that we have access to His inner-most desires, thoughts, intentions, and emotions and He has access to ours. This is the closest two humans could ever get to one another.
- D. This is why it was better for Jesus to go and send the Spirit. He knew that His disciples would miss Him terribly but He also knew that they were going to receive something far better than His physical presence.
- E. When Jesus was in their physical presence the only way for them to know what He was thinking and feeling was if He opened His mouth and spoke and they were close enough to hear it. Now by the Spirit and because of our union with Him we can access His inner most thoughts any time we want to.
- F. The reality of this union with Jesus beckons us to grow in intimacy with the Spirit and participate in what is called communion. The Holy Spirit facilitates both union and the experience of it. My working definition of Communion is *an enjoyable two-way dialogue between two interested parties*.
- G. Communion with the Holy Spirit is how we get in touch with the reality that we have been brought by grace into the Fellowship of Trinity! Not only can we talk to the Father about His Son and vice versa, we can actually *feel* what they feel for each other!

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<sup>3</sup> *The Spirit of God* (Gen. 1:2); the *Spirit of the Lord* (Luke 4:18; Acts 5:9); the *Spirit of our God* (1 Cor. 6:11); *Spirit of the Lord God* (Isaiah 61:1); the *Spirit of your Father* (Matt 10:20); the *Spirit of the living God* (2 Cor. 3:3). The *Spirit of Christ* (Rom. 8:9); the *Spirit of Jesus Christ* (Phil.1:19); the *Spirit of his Son* (Gal. 4:6).

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*The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:22-26)*

*Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (John 14:10-11)*

*Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23)*

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." (John 14:20)*

*But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him." (1 Cor. 6:17)*

*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16)*

*Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."" (Gal. 4:6)*

*Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us." (1 John 3:24)*

## IV. F.E.L.L.O.W.S.H.I.P AND T.R.U.S.T

- A. Oh the beauty of the mysterious union we have with the Godhead! The Father, the Son and the Spirit have actually taken up residence within us as His redeemed. We can talk to God about God whenever we desire. For most, this is a new concept and because of this fact we will talk now about practical ways to begin engaging in dialogue with the Spirit.

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- B. It is important to understand that the reality of God within can not be added to or increased, all of God's Spirit came to live within us at rebirth. However, our ability to access and partake of the Spirit can be improved upon and our relationship can grow.
  
- C. Talking to the Holy Spirit
  - 1. Dial Down
    - a. The first thing to do is to quiet our hearts by speaking short phrases directly to the Lord.
    - b. Another good thing to do is have get focal point in our minds eye. I personally will picture either the throne of God, the Spirit within or the smiling face of Jesus and the Father.
  - 2. Talk Directly to the Spirit
    - a. **T**- *Thank You*
      - (1) We can thank the Holy Spirit for the reality of who He is and what He does even when we are unaware.
    - b. **R**- *Release Revelation*
      - (1) We can ask Holy Spirit to give us understanding and revelation in the word. His favorite thing to do is reveal Jesus and produce love in our hearts for Him.
    - c. **U**- *Use Me*
      - (1) We can ask the Holy Spirit to show us ways that we can serve those around us and use our spiritual gifts to bless others.
    - d. **S**- *Strengthen Me*
      - (1) We can ask the Holy Spirit to give us power over sin and to help us to persevere in the midst of the temptation to compromise or to quit.
    - e. **T**- *Teach*

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(1) We can ask the Holy Spirit to teach the ways of God and guide us into His will and purposes.

## 3. Prayer for our Inner Man

- a. **F**- Fear of the Lord: *the revelation of the attention and opinion of God*
- b. **E**- Endurance: *perseverance in trial/ difficulty*
- c. **L**- Love: *the power to receive love from God, feel love for God and show love to others*
- d. **L**- Light of Glory: *God's emotions and countenance touching ours; revelation and wisdom as we read the word.*
- e. **O**- One Thing: *that Jesus would have first place in our time, speech, thoughts etc. We can ask to be alerted when this is not the case.*
- f. **W**-Walk Worthy: *that we could walk in full obedience and free from compromise.*
- g. **S**- Speech: *that our speech would be pleasing to the Lord. That we'd be free of complaining, coarse joking, biting sarcasm and defiling speech.*
- h. **H**-Humility: *that we'd walk in humility considering others before ourselves. Refusing self-promotion, self-preservation and self-pity.*
- i. **I**-Insight: *that we would grow in understanding of the word of God unto growing in wisdom and intimacy with Him.*
- j. **P**-Peace: *that we would have a vibrant inner life that is free from traffic.*

## V. THE IMPORTANCE OF A VIBRANT INNER LIFE

- A. The most important thing about us is our inner life. It isn't what we do with our hands. What we cultivate on the inside is thing that remains and it is all that we will have to present to the Lord when we stand before Him. In fact our inner life will be the basis of the glory displayed in our resurrected body. Not even our works of ministry will matter if we have neglected our inner man (Matt. 7:23). We cannot afford to treat the Holy Spirit and relationship with Him lightly. We must tend to our inner man.

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- B. Often in *Charis-mania* we will hear terms like *radical* or *fiery* or *intense*. What comes to our mind when we hear a phrase like that is of the utmost importance. We have to know that these words have little to do with personality type and outward expression.
- C. God desires that we would have a life of vibrant communion and intimacy with Him by the Spirit. This is what He calls *radical*. When our level of fiery is based upon our level of connectedness with the Holy Spirit, suddenly the term is not reserved for an elite few. From God's perspective, anyone can be included in the category regardless of age, personality, denomination or geography.
- D. The aforementioned practical prayers will help us to engage in dialogue with the Holy Spirit and begin the journey of a developing a vibrant inner life. The more we talk to Him the more we will gain insight into what He desires to do in us and those around us and also how we can cooperate with Him it.
- E. Revival may or may not come in our lifetime. Passion and zeal will ebb and flow. The point of our lives in knowing God by and through His Spirit.

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**Write Your Own Prayers, in your own Words.**

**F**- Fear of the Lord:

**E**- Endurance:

**L**- Love:

**L**- Light of Glory:

**O**- One Thing

**W**- Walk Worthy

**S**- Speech

**H**- Humility

**I**- Insight

**P**- Peace