

# ***INTIMACY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT***

***BY ANTONIO BALDOVINOS***

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*"Spell this out in capital letters: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON. He is not enthusiasm. He is not courage. He is not energy. He is not the personification of all good qualities, like Jack Frost is the personification of cold weather. Actually, the Holy Spirit is not the personification of anything...He has individuality. He is one being and not another. He has will and intelligence. He has hearing. He has knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think. He can hear, speak, desire, grieve and rejoice. He is a Person."*

A. W. TOZER

Some time ago Christelle and I called our two older boys, Michael and Gabriel into the living room one summer day. We gave them a little teaching from the Bible, of the person of the Holy Spirit; who He was, that He speaks to us and that we can hear from Him. We went further and told them that we can speak to Him and that He hears us. We shared with them that He is God and what He says is true. Anytime He comes into the room, He brings joy and peace. He may bring to light sin in our lives. But He brings forgiveness and removes shame. We told Him about His presence. There is nothing like being in His manifest presence.

After about a 20-minute discussion, I told them that we are going to talk to Him right now and we are going to listen to Him. He was going to speak to us and we were going to share what He says. I turned on some worship music in the background. I said to my boys, *"we will be still in His presence and then when you want to, I want you to ask the Holy Spirit one question. "God, what do you think about me? I don't want you to say anything else, just wait on Him. Wait until He says something."* I then invited the Holy Spirit to increase His presence among us. We all closed our eyes and just sat still in His presence. I would open my eyes once in awhile, just to see if they were following my instructions. I noticed their postures became soft and relaxed. Our second son, Gabriel began to cry with his eyes closed in God's presence. I could sense His sweet presence all over us. It was such a tender time in His presence. After about 15 minutes, I asked Michael if God said anything to him, He said, *"Yes, God told me that He loves me."* I enjoyed listening to Michael say this, because we can't get enough of hearing how much God likes us and even loves us. I then turned to Gabriel and asked Him what God said to Him. His response really surprised me, *"God said, I was cool on the inside and cool on the outside."* The Holy Spirit is a person and knows what to say just to us, awesome.

That day we introduced the person Holy Spirit to our kids. Or a better way to put it, we gave language to what they have probably already felt, heard and saw. Since that day we have continued to give God room to speak to us as a family and to each of our family members. The Holy Spirit brings life, comfort, joy, peace, freedom, direction, and so many other things that we need, but more than that, we have communion with God through the person Holy Spirit.

Having an understanding of who the Holy Spirit is, and who He is not, is critical in order to experience His presence and power. The Holy Spirit is not a feeling or an emotion. Although His presence can stir up emotions within you, He is the third person of the Trinity. When you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in your life; you become His dwelling place. As you learn to yield to Him, you will find yourself walking out God's plan for your life in greater and greater ways. In addition, you will experience supernatural power and breakthrough like never before.

Jesus explains the function of the Holy Spirit in John 16:7, *"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."*

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Jesus knew He would have to leave in order for the Holy Spirit to come to the earth. Now that the Holy Spirit is here, and dwelling in us, the power of God can flow to an even greater extent than when Jesus walked the earth!

Since we are living in the Last Days, it is going to be imperative that you know how to distinguish the Holy Spirit's voice. That feeling that so many describe as "*intuition*" or a "*hunch*" is the Holy Spirit. You can develop a discernment of His voice through studying and meditating on the Word of God. He will never say anything to you that doesn't line up with the written Word, so studying the Bible is essential to your recognizing His voice.

## **THE PERSON- HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is known with certain characteristics and roles. Here are some biblical examples of who the Holy Spirit is:

### **HE SPEAKS:**

*"He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God." (Revelations 2:7)*

*"And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." "*

*(Acts 13:2)*

### **HE INTERCEDES:**

*"And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words." (Romans 8:26)*

### **HE LEADS:**

*"And the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join this chariot'". (Acts 8:29)*

*"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God". (Romans 8:14)*

### **HE COMMANDS:**

*"And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them". (Acts 16:6-7)*

### **HE GUIDES:**

*"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (John 16:13)*

### **HE CAN BE INSULTED:**

*"How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:29)*

### **HE CAN BE GRIEVED:**

*"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30)*

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## **COMMUNION**

When you acknowledge the Holy Spirit and commune with Him on a daily basis, He will show you mysteries and the secret plans of God for your life. Jeremiah 33:3 says, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* He will guide you into your destiny when you allow Him to direct your decisions. When you call on the Holy Spirit, you may say, *"Holy Spirit, I don't know what to do in this situation, but I know you know the answer. Show me what to do."*

You can cultivate your relationship with the Holy Spirit by praising God, praying and singing spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19). Doing these things helps to build your spirit and makes you more sensitive to His presence. Invite Him into every situation and atmosphere in which you find yourself. When you acknowledge Him this way, He will be able to move in your life.

Since the Holy Spirit was sent to help guide and direct your life, it is important that you set aside time every day to fellowship with Him. Talk with Him as you would a close friend or family member. Let Him know your concerns and confess the bible. He will give you the revelation, insight and enlightenment you need to lead you into the good life God has prepared for you.

Developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit is going to cost you something. It will mean getting up to pray when you don't feel like it and letting go of old habits and mindsets that oppose God's Word. But when you create an environment in which the Holy Spirit can dwell, you will reap the rich rewards of your relationship with Him that far outweigh anything.

## **GUARDING OUR LIPS**

Some keys to intimacy are offensive in nature, things that we must be proactive and move forward in. Then there are other things that we play a defensive role. These are things that we resist, watch over and keep a guard on. We take measures of defense to those things that are important to us.

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helping for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* (Ephesians 4:29)

God wants to burn in and through us, but He simply cannot do that if our lips are not in line with Him and His Word. To stop speaking negativity is very important, but there are greater levels of being alert in our speech.

We need to also allow the Holy Spirit to be comfortable in our presence. Imagine that. I get a giggle anytime certain people watch what they say around me or if they slip with a certain cuss word. They want to make sure I am comfortable in their presence. We must also be constantly watchful and alert of the words that are coming out of our mouths so that the Holy Spirit can be comfortable with us and move in great power. I would suggest that we begin to honor the Holy Spirit by really being attentive to our words.

## **QUENCHING HOLY SPIRIT**

We steward the presence of God by learning to obey the commands of God *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit"* (Ephesians 4:30) and *"Do not quench the Spirit"* (1 Thessalonians 5:19). We grieve Him when we do

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something wrong; we quench Him when we fail to do what is right, stopping the flow of His love and power that comes from the Father.

This means we don't ignore and cast away the commands of God. With the intention to obey Him fully, you set your heart to say yes. Deliberate disobedience quenches the Holy Spirit. Remember, He is the only One who can reveal Jesus to you, if the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved; you will not receive revelation of Jesus. You can't offend the Holy Spirit and drive Him away, and still expect Him to make Jesus known to your heart in a greater way.

## **ENJOY**

As we conclude this, there is so much more in learning about the person Holy Spirit. The best way to know someone is to go and introduce yourself and begin dialogue. I would encourage you to go and spend time with Him. Begin to speak to Him, wait on Him, and tell Him how much you love Him and His presence. Knowing the person Holy Spirit has been the greatest blessing to my life!