

# THE INVITATION

His Presence

January 22, 2017

Introduction: I believe with all my heart that most of us want a much deeper relationship with the Spirit. A yearning deep inside hints, “There is something I have yet to understand about the work of the Spirit.” Yet, we continually keep the Spirit at arm’s length, scared of what we don’t know or comprehend. It is my hope that over the next few weeks we will discover the transformational power of God the Spirit in each of our lives.

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:16-23

## I. An Open Invitation

<sup>13</sup> *until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...*** <sup>24</sup> *and to put on the new self, **created after the likeness of God** in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:13, 24).*

## II. ONE Spirit

<sup>4</sup> *There is one body and **one Spirit**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—* <sup>5</sup> *one Lord, one faith, one baptism,* <sup>6</sup> *one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4–6).*

Everything we know about God the Father and God the Son is personified in God the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> *“But when **the Helper comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness about me.*** <sup>27</sup> *And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning (John 15:26–27).*

## III. Three Experiences of the Spirit

### IV. From the Pages of the New Testament

<sup>7</sup> *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* <sup>8</sup> *For to one is given through the Spirit the **utterance of wisdom**, and to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> **to another faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues.** <sup>11</sup> *All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills (1 Corinthians 12:7–11).**

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

*For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to **set the mind on the Spirit** is life and peace (Romans 8:6).*

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone **who does not have the Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him (Romans 8:9).

Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26).

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit** (Romans 14:17).

May the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace** in believing, so that by the **power of the Holy Spirit** you may abound in **hope** (Romans 15:13).

<sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: **if prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> **if service**, in our serving; **the one who teaches**, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> **the one who exhorts**, in his exhortation; **the one who contributes**, in generosity; **the one who leads**, with zeal; **the one who does acts of mercy**, with cheerfulness (Romans 12:6–8).

## V. An Invitation

I invite you to...

- A. Discover the One Spirit by the ONE who knows him the best.

Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever hears my word and believes him** who sent me has eternal life (John 5:24).

- B. Understand who the Spirit is and not just what the Spirit does.

<sup>13</sup> When **the Spirit of truth** comes, he will **guide you into all the 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. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for **he will take what is mine and declare it to you**. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that **he will take what is mine and declare it to you** (John 16:13–15).

- C. An approach that emphasizes the Spirit's most valuable work – making us spiritual.

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, **he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment**: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged (John 16:7–11).

- D. Walk into the Spirit's realm and pursue the possibility of his presence without being forced to enter through the door of the supernatural.

<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for **all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.** <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that **you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,** so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another (John 15:15–17).

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- II. ONE Spirit (*Ephesians 4:4-6*)

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is personified in God the Spirit. (*John 15:26-27*)

- III. Three Experiences of the Spirit
- IV. From the Pages of the New Testament  
(*1 Corinthians 12:7-11*) (*Romans 8:14, 8:6, 9, 26, 14:17, 15:13, 12:6-8*)

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- A. Discover the One Spirit by the \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ him the  
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- B. Understand \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ and not just \_\_\_\_\_ the  
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