

What is a Christian, Anyway?

Part 5: The Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life

For many Christians, the Holy Spirit is considered important and yet functionally forgotten when it comes to our day to day lives. The Nicene Creed brings the Spirit to the center of Christian faith and life, not as an impersonal force or a lesser divine being, but the Lord and the giver of life. This big vision of the Spirit, if we will see it, invites us to respond in worship and surrender.

Consider / Contemplate

“Every act of every Person of the Trinity is always a triune act.” Fred Sanders

“Scripture is not simply an answer book but a doorway into the mystery of God.” Eugene Peterson

“Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives.” Book of Common Prayer

“Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind.” Charles Spurgeon

Thinking It Through

1. What has most shaped your understanding or experience of the Holy Spirit? Has your tendency been to emphasize Him, overlook Him, or keep Him at a “safe distance?”
2. Why does it matter that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person rather than simply a force, power, or feeling?
3. Romans 8 moves between the “Spirit of God,” the “Spirit of Christ,” and “Christ in you.” What does that tell us about what it means to have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us?
4. The sermon describes the Trinity as a mystery to embrace rather than a problem to solve. Where do you find that freeing? Where do you find it difficult?
5. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture presents the Spirit as the giver of life. Which part of that biblical picture most expanded your understanding of the Spirit?

6. How might your everyday experience change if you became more conscious that every breath and moment of life is dependent upon the life-giving presence of God's Spirit?

7. The New Testament says we can resist, grieve, and quench the Spirit. What are some ways we unintentionally fight against what the Spirit is doing?

8. The sermon emphasized two attitudes toward the Spirit: awareness and dependence. Which one do you most need to cultivate right now? What would that look like practically this week?

9. What might it mean for you personally to pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, have Your way"?

Prayer Points

- Pray for deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit as God's personal, life-giving presence with us.
 - Pray for wisdom and discernment to recognize and respond faithfully to what the Spirit is doing.
 - Pray for greater dependence on and surrender to the Spirit.
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