

Can You Blame It On The Holy Spirit?

How Peter got out of a jam:

Acts 11:1-18

“It wasn’t my idea... blame it on the **HOLY SPIRIT.**”

How the church got into the game:

Acts 11:19-30

Christ-ian = “the **PARTY OF**”

So what’s the deal with the Holy Spirit?

Romans 5:6-10, Romans 7, 8 & 12, John 14-17, 16:7-15, Galatians 2:20, 2 Timothy 1:7, John 10:10
Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:1-2

- The Holy Spirit is a **WHO**, not a **WHAT**.
- The Holy Spirit’s role is to **CHANGE US**.
- The Holy Spirit’s role is to change the world **THROUGH US**.
- Our choice is to either **WALK IN** the Spirit, or **SILENCE** the Spirit in our lives.
 - The Spirit’s primary language is **CONVICTION** and **GUIDANCE**.

A simple reminder:

John 14-17

- The Holy Spirit is not an **EXPERIENCE**, He is a **NEW LIFE**.

Food for Thought

For the week of July 26, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adjusted the Food for Thought format so the questions can be used for group discussion as well as personal study and reflection.

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We have all had different experiences and influences that affect our view of how God's Spirit works. As you look back on your life, has your understanding of the Holy Spirit changed over the years? If so, in what ways has it changed?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we learned how the Holy Spirit wants to change us and also change the world through us. Sometimes we may think the Holy Spirit isn't doing much because we aren't aware of the variety of ways He works. How do the following verses describe what the Holy Spirit does for us and through us?

Romans 5:3-5 New International Version (NIV)

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 8:12-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Acts 1:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

John 14:16-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will beⁱⁿ in you.

John 16:12-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

¹⁶ Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

¹⁷ At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"

Luke 10:21 New International Version (NIV)

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

Acts 9:31 New International Version (NIV)

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

2 Corinthians 3:18 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

How do these verses add to or confirm your understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in your life and in the world?

Which one of these verses is the most important for you to remember and why?

In terms of how you live and how you allow the Holy Spirit to work through you, is there anything you need to start doing or do more of in order to be more in sync with the Holy Spirit?

2. We heard this weekend how difficult it is to live the Christian life on our own strength rather than relying on the Holy Spirit and the power He provides. What do the following verses teach us about relying on the Holy Spirit's power rather than our own?

2 Corinthians 12:6-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Zechariah 4:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

Galatians 2:20 New International Version (NIV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What challenges do you face trying to tap into God's power to live the Christian life?

Where could you go to find help in order to more consistently tap into God's power?

Relying on God's power does not mean we give up personal responsibility in making good choices to live the Christian life. God is calling us to live a life of "active dependency." How could you balance relying on God's power while still maintaining personal responsibility to actively obey?



NORTH COAST SUMMER SERIES & CLASSES

Check out our website for more details! northcoastchurch.com/classes

Summer Study Series

Our three teaching pastors are offering incredible classes this summer! You can watch these free classes online.

- **Is God Evil?** with Pastor Christopher Hilken, Friday, August 14 at 7pm (Streaming online on our Facebook page and YouTube channel on Friday, August 14 at 7pm.)
- **An Open Conversation About RACE, Part 1** with Pastor Chris Brown, now available to watch at northcoastchurch.com/conversations
- **The Only Legacy That Really Matters: Parenting for the Long-Haul** with Dr. Larry Osborne, now available to watch at northcoastchurch.com/legacy

Summer Classes – Register for these classes online at northcoastchurch.com/classes

We are putting together a great collection of virtual classes and webinars on a variety of topics that will be offered throughout the summer. Here are some of the classes we have planned:

- **A Conversation About Healthy Communication in Marriage:** Friday, July 31
- **Self-Leadership:** Thursday, August 6

Check our website for more details on upcoming classes as well as recordings of past classes.