

The welcome verse for this week is Romans 15:13, “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.”



Spirit-led

John 6:63; John 14-16
1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 5:16-26

The Bottom Line: We submit to the direction and deeper formation of the Holy Spirit in prayer, rest, and practice.

Introduction:

In these days, it seems it is becoming much more difficult to be a disciple and follower of Jesus. Many of us do not even really understand how we can follow Jesus while he is away.

The original disciples of Jesus found themselves with that same question. How will we continue without him?

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: *It is to your advantage that I go away...*” (John 16:7)

Tension:

How could it ever be to their advantage that Jesus Christ, their Rabbi and Lord, go away?

The disciples probably felt like they were being left behind to fend for themselves in a world with increasing persecution, much like we do today. Wouldn't it help if Jesus were here with us?

Truth

If Jesus did not go to the Father, the Helper (Holy Spirit) would not come.

- Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or a feeling.

- Where the presence of Holy Spirit resides, there resides the presence of Jesus with us.
- Holy Spirit was with the disciples, but He would be in them.

The same Holy Spirit that Jesus promised to the disciples in the gospel of John is the same Holy Spirit that disciples of Jesus have today.

It is not enough that we have a proper theology concerning the Holy Spirit. We must live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit today.

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
~ Romans 8:14

Paul gives a beautiful description of what the Spirit does in us as we submit to Him. **Read Galatians 5:16-26.**

How do we walk by the Spirit? ***By prayer, rest, and practice.***

Application & Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit wants to communicate and shepherd you as you follow Jesus in 2022. Create space for listening and receiving His shepherding. Spend time in prayer. Make time to rest. Give time for practice.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?

4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....