

The Fire of the Lord

an introduction to the Person and work of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes spoken of as 'the forgotten Person' of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit exercises a hugely important ministry in the outworking of the purpose of God.

This series of 7 introductory studies is intended to deepen your understanding of what that ministry is, and transform your experience through the enjoyment of that ministry in your life.

You can find the background to this short series [here](#).

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2. The 'person'-hood of the Spirit

(Jn.14.15-27)

[w/b Sunday 5th May 2019]

".. we will come ... and make our home with them .."

This short passage sees Jesus, as the Son of God, speaking about God the Father and referring to the Holy Spirit. They provide as clear an indication as any other passage in Scripture that we are to think of the Holy Spirit not as some impersonal 'force' but as one of the 'persons' of the Godhead.

To recognize that the Holy Spirit is 'personal' can be a key to our appreciating more fully, and enjoying more abundantly, the ministry He exercises.

[Despite your best intentions, there may not be time for all the questions to be addressed in your Community Group! It may be helpful to try and ensure that in this study you cover questions 2, 3 and 7. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer!]

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1. **Read John 14.1-27.** Reading in from the start of the chapter sets Jesus' teaching here in context: His concern is to comfort and re-assure His followers in the face of His coming death.

In what ways do you often find yourself being 'troubled'?

What do you think Jesus means in v.12?

2. **Read John 14.15-17a.** The gift of the Spirit (as Peter will explain - see Acts 2.33) will be in response to the request which Jesus here assures them He will make to the Father

What do you learn about the Spirit from vv.16-17a?

How will the gift of the Spirit impact our experience according to what Jesus says here?

Why do you think Jesus designates the Spirit particularly as '*the Spirit of truth*'?

3. **Read John 14.17.** For a world which is heavily 'visual', the fact that the Spirit of God cannot be seen means that the 'world' will tend to be baffled or dismissive at all talk of the Spirit.

In what respects have you been/are you confused and baffled when reference is made to the Spirit of God?

In explaining why the disciples *do* know the Spirit, what truths about the Spirit does Jesus underline?

How (if at all) has your knowledge and experience of the Spirit grown over the years?

4. **Read John 14.18-21.** Jesus is concerned to re-assure His disciples: He's aware that His coming death and resurrection are going to change the situation very significantly for them.

What is the encouragement Jesus gives to His disciples?

To what do you think Jesus is referring when He says that "*you will see Me*" (v.19) and "*I. will show Myself to them*" (v.21)?

5. **Read John 14.22-24.** Jesus' death and resurrection will usher in an entirely new world for His followers: He seeks, therefore, to clarify further for them what that world will be like.

Do you love Jesus? That will be the question with which John's gospel ends (see chapter 21): how is your love for Jesus evidenced?

What does Jesus mean by saying "*We will come .. and make our home with them*"?

6. Read John 14.25-26. All that Jesus has been speaking about is in relation to the gift (see v.16) of the Holy Spirit: He continues to teach His disciples about the Holy Spirit.

What important lessons about the Holy Spirit do you learn in these verses?

Is what Jesus says here applicable only to the original band of disciples (the apostles), or does it have an application more widely to all followers of Jesus?

7. Read John 14.27. Jesus rounds off this teaching by repeating the exhortation with which He had started - *'Do not let your hearts be troubled ..'*

How do the truths which Jesus has been teaching help to ease our troubled hearts?

The Holy Spirit gives His people a boldness (see Acts 4.31): how have you been conscious of the Holy Spirit giving you that sort of boldness?