



5 ways to develop intimacy with the Holy Spirit – Bible Study

Objective

To get a clear understanding of how to develop a more intimate relationship with the person of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

In the beginning when God created Adam and Eve, the bible says that they were naked and unashamed. Now I don't think it was merely a physical nakedness, I believe that there was an unrivalled level of oneness between the two of them which came because of their intimacy with God. They both felt the need to cover up and hide parts of themselves from the other because of a loss of intimacy with God.

Disconnectedness from God is at the root of everything that is dysfunctional in our world. The lack of intimacy with God, set things up for so much dysfunction that even the created world which we have dominion over, began to rebel against us!

Things begin to work in the way that God intended, when we reconnect intimately with Him. He is our life and the source of all things good.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Love is intimacy! Loving God is being intimate with Him, when we fix our intimacy with Him, everything starts to work together for your good! The genius of who we are, the fullness of what we are capable of was meant to be a product of our intimacy, our oneness with God!

This is the reason why every human being needs to be intimately acquainted with the Holy Spirit. The best of who you are will only be unveiled through your intimacy with Him

What does intimacy with the Holy Spirit look like?

A life of intimacy with the Holy Spirit is a life lived in the Holy Spirit and a life filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Atmosphere of God. That's why Paul says in **Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

The beauty of intimacy is in knowing and being known. We develop intimacy when we know Him. What's also great is that He already knows us even more than we know ourselves. Intimacy for

us begins when we believe that the Holy Spirit knows us deeply and loves us completely. That knowledge releases us to get to know Him.

5 ways to develop intimacy with the Holy Spirit

Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit

In **Luke 10:17**, the disciples of Jesus had just returned from a mission with joy because they were reporting that even the demons were subject to them in the name of Jesus.

And in verse 21 the bible says that Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit. The Spirit was obviously instrumental making the mission of the disciples a success and Jesus recognizes that and rejoices in the Spirit.

The person you rejoice with in your days of victory tells us who you are truly intimate with. When you rejoice, rejoice in the Holy Spirit! That's what intimacy looks like. It is recognizing that He was responsible for the win...and rejoicing in Him.

Decide in the Spirit

Acts 19:21 (NKJV)

21 When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

You can't get intimate with the Holy Spirit if you keep excluding Him from your decisions. If those closest to you, like your spouse, friends or children are consistently left out of the loop in the decisions you make, you will never get intimate with them.

Paul purposed in the Spirit! He made a decision on which direction to go in the Spirit. When you make a decision in the Spirit, it doesn't mean you are in this weird place, it means you make a decision that is based on the Word of God. It means you make a decision prayerfully. It means you make a decision conscious of the will of God and not driven by your desire or your ambition alone. It means submitting your desire and ambition to the scrutiny of the Word of God. It means you ask Him, with a genuine desire to listen out for His thoughts.

The apostles also made decisions in the Spirit. They said in **Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things...**sometimes making a decision in the Spirit involves checking in to how he feels about the direction you're going. As you consciously involve the Holy Spirit in your decisions, you will get to know what feels good to Him, How He thinks, what He is doing in a particular season.

Make decisions in the Spirit. You will make more genius decisions that will stun the world and glorify our Lord Jesus!

Pray in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Sometimes do you know that a lot of people pray in their flesh! A prayer in the flesh is packed full of unbelief. Praying in the Spirit is praying with a consciousness of the Spirit's ability. It is praying in faith! Praying in the flesh is calling a prayer meeting out of fear and praying out of fear.

Praying in the Spirit is also praying in tongues.

Jude 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. Maintain Your Life with God 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Jude says there are some among you who do things according to their senses, that's why they cause divisions among you...but you, build yourself up by praying in the Spirit. When you pray in tongues you build yourself up! When you are faced with a situation that challenges your faith, that's the best time to pray in tongues, because when you do, you will not pray fleshly prayers. As you pray in the Spirit you build yourself up!

Prayer is communication, it is talking and listening. The one with whom you communicate with the most is the one with whom build the deepest level of intimacy. Intimacy with the Holy Ghost is not going to happen without constant communication with Him! Pray with Him by yourself.

Talk to him in your known language. Talk to him in tongues. Talk to Him in private. Talk to Him alongside other believers. The more you speak to Him, the more intimate you get! The more intimate you get the more you can do what the Holy Spirit can do.

Ask Elijah!

Love in the Spirit

Colossians 1:8 - as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Love is a part of our everyday life. It is very possible to love in the Spirit, and love in the flesh. The former brings you into a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, who is the author of true love. The other hinders your ability to be intimate with the Holy Spirit.

God is love. The more you walk in Love, the more you know God. Loving in the Spirit is loving according to the Word! Loving in the Spirit is walking in love. It is being patient, being kind, not being self-seeking. All those things listed in 1 Corinthians 13.

Love in the flesh at best, is having a strong affection for someone. However, loving in the flesh is very self-oriented. Every time we are impatient, unkind, unforgiving, offended with people we love, we are loving in the flesh.

Intimacy is what happens when you love someone as they need to be loved, not as you want to love them. When you love in the Holy Spirit, you love as He wants us to love and not as we want to love. That builds intimacy.

John says that the one does not love, does not know God. Every time you get the opportunity to love, that is an opportunity to get to know God. It's an opportunity to develop real intimacy with the Holy Ghost!

Live filled with the Spirit

Living in the Spirit in the ways we have described in previous sections, is an invitation for the Spirit to Live in you. There are two accounts in Acts 2:4 and in Acts 4:31 where the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. But in both accounts, they were filled with the Holy Spirit because they were living in the Holy Spirit. They were in a place of prayer...constant communion with God.

In acts 4 they had just come out of a situation with the authorities and they involved the Holy Spirit in their deliberations on what to do next in their time of prayer and the bible says that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Intimacy is a flow; intimacy happens when you know, and you are known. You speak and you are spoken to. You give and you are given to. Intimacy with the Spirit is what happens when we give ourselves to Him and He gives Himself to us over and over again! As you choose to live in the Spirit, He fills you with Himself, because He desires to live in and through you.

Conclusion

Jesus and His disciples walked the earth like you and I are walking the earth today. The Supernatural experiences they had was a product of their intimacy with the Holy Spirit. The legacy that they have left us was also birthed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is an open invitation from the Holy Spirit, the helper promised by Jesus as a better alternative to Jesus' physical presence here on earth. He is calling you to a deep, intimate relationship. The establishment of the kingdom of God will be dependent on this intimacy, oneness with the Spirit. Intimacy does not happen without effort. The grace of God has paved the way for us to be intimate with a Holy God! Let's do it! Let's change our world! Let's establish the kingdom on earth!

