

## **LESSON 57 - FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **The Holy Spirit Has A Gift For Jesus's Disciples: Fellowship**

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Excerpted from: Holmes, Brian. "[Driveway Discipleship](#)" [The Empowered Christian Series] Clearwater, FL: MPowered Christian Publishing, 2021.

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**H**ave you received all the gifts God has for you? Paul's prayer in 2 Corinthians 13:14 was, "*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*" The first gift here is *the grace of Jesus the Son of God*. His gift includes dying for our sins, forgiveness of sin, salvation, and imputation of His righteousness. Then there's the gift of *the love of God the Father*. His gift includes sending His Son to redeem us, adopting us into His family, and giving us a new identity and eternal life with Him. A demonic religious spirit causes many to stop there but there's more in this verse. There's also the gift of *the fellowship of the Holy Spirit*. John 16:7 Jesus said, "*It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you.*" Jesus said He's with us always (Matthew 28:20). Fellowship with the Holy Spirit is Jesus with us 24/7! This lesson covers: 1) The Holy Spirit's primary gift to us is fellowship, 2) How to increase in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, 3) How to pursue this fellowship.

**1. The Holy Spirit's Primary Gift To Us Is Fellowship.** Fellowship, *koinónia* in the Greek, means to share and have partnership, participation, communion, and contribution with. You're in fellowship with everyone you're sharing yourself and doing life with and caring, helping, encouraging, and supporting. The Holy Spirit seeks that with all of us. You don't need more of Him, as though you only received a piece of Him when you were saved. You already have all of Him. He lives inside every born again Christian. You don't need more of Him—He needs more of you. He's not a *force, something* to get more of from far away in Heaven, and call down like fire, wind, or rain. He's a *person, someone* to develop a better relationship with and give more of yourself to. The Holy Spirit's attributes include love, joy, peace, goodness, and self control. The Bible calls them the *fruit* of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit supernaturally empowers His people to advance His Kingdom on earth. The Bible calls these empowerments the *gifts* of the Spirit. You may have other miraculous, supernatural, exciting, or feel-good *experiences* with Him. The closer we are with Him the more likely we're to experience and walk in the fullness of all these things. Listen up, this is important. You should bear all the fruit of the Spirit, pursue all the gifts of the Spirit, and pursue all of the experiences of the Spirit, but none of these will ever be His *primary* gift to you, nor should they be the things you desire most. The Holy Spirit's primary gift to us is Himself. His fellowship. Likewise, your primary desire should be fellowship. It's called idolatry to put anything above God, the creation over the Creator, the gifts over the Giver. The greatest gift God can give you is Himself. There's nothing greater, more fulfilling, or more satisfying than Him. The fruit, gifts, experiences, presence, and feelings given by the Holy Spirit are all good, but what matters most is being in relational fellowship with Him.

**2. How To Increase In Fellowship With The Holy Spirit.** Relationship with God is a gift. 1 Corinthians 13:14 doesn't say, "*the fellowship WITH*" it says, "*the fellowship OF the Holy Spirit.*" Fellowship is *His* gift to us, just as the grace of Jesus, and the love of the Father are their gifts to us. We don't deserve them, we can't

earn them through religious works, and we don't receive them if our hearts aren't right. If you try to summon the Holy Spirit by being super religious, ritualistic, and legalistic—or super mystical and more concerned with emotionalism or supernatural experiences—He won't respond. Your beliefs about Him, your motives, and your outward behavior all need to be right. God says in Isaiah 29:13, *“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”* Want real relationship with God? Then: 1) humble yourself, 2) repent of your sin, 3) purify your motives, 4) and seek Him in both spirit and truth, 5) with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength (Luke 18:14, James 4:8, John 4:24, Mark 12:30). Pursue intimacy in *knowing Him personally*, not just His gifts or the “feelings” He gives. Be a person after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Fellowship is available because He loves you and created you for relationship. It's available to all with genuine love for the Father and trust in Jesus. It's available for you to receive and increase in right now. Romans 5:8 says, *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: WHILE we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* It's not *after* we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus that God's love was demonstrated for us, it was before. Holy Spirit's fellowship is the same. He's *already* offering it right now. As the Father and Son offered salvation while you're still a sinner, the Holy Spirit is offering fellowship while you're still distant. He wants to give you His gift more than you want to receive it. Jesus said to the Laodicean church in Revelation 3:20, *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”* Likewise, the Holy Spirit stands knocking at the door of every part of your heart and life. He's waiting for you to fully surrender it to Jesus, open the door from the inside, and welcome Him in.

**3. How To Pursue Fellowship With The Holy Spirit.** God is holy and you're the temple of the living God so He wants you to be holy. Repent of every sinful behavior and wholeheartedly pursue total godliness. Separate all partnerships with unbelievers and any ties to sinfulness (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Ask Him to reveal which parts of your life to crucify, to expose false beliefs you have, and any people or situations to distance yourself from. Ask Him to reveal where demons are oppressing you and where you need deliverance or healing in. Read, study, meditate on, pray, and journal about His Word (the Bible). Learn what He cares about; ask Him to help you care about it too. Become active in a church and a part of what He's doing there. Seek His calling for your life and be mindful of, and faithful with, all the opportunities He gives you to serve Him. Pray daily and ask Him to speak to you every way imaginable to confirm that it's guidance from Him. Ask Him to speak through dreams, visions, divine appointments, words of knowledge, and the prophecies of spiritually reliable and trustworthy people that know you. Ask Him to illuminate your mind with insight, spiritual wisdom, guidance, and conviction while praying, reading the Bible, worshipping, ministering to others, and listening to sermons. Spend time with Him daily. Get up early before work or set aside quiet time away from distractions. Practice hearing from Him; He's usually gentle and quiet. Write in a journal your dreams, prophetic words you've received, meaningful truths and revelations He's showing you, and any thoughts, feelings, or memories that come to your mind during prayer. Do not be carnal, impulsive, and reactive. Rather, be intentional, Spirit-led, self-controlled, proactive, and disciplined. Pray and ask Him first for insight and direction before you make decisions or speak with others. Remember, He's always with you, He wants to be involved, and you need Him.

Let's pray. Holy Spirit, please fellowship with me. I want You, not just your gifts. I repent of \_\_\_\_\_. I want to know You, in spirit and truth, with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength. I surrender all. In Jesus' name. Amen.