

**Growing in Friendship with the Spirit**

*And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may remain with you forever, the Spirit of truth – whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him, or know Him – but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and shall be in you. (John 14:16-17)*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)*

Over the next few weeks we want to help you come out into deeper waters in the Spirit. In several weeks we are going to teach about the baptism in the Holy Spirit and we'll pray for you to receive it.

**1. Recognize that the Spirit wants to have fellowship with you.**

Many of us never start to develop friendship with the Spirit because we don't even know He wants to have fellowship with us.

We experience the grace of Christ and that leads us to know God's love, and once we know that we begin to walk with the Spirit as a friend. The Spirit is with you all the time, and will remain with you forever. That's good news.

But some people would say, I'm still not convinced of His love for me. Read: John 14:21-23.

## **2. Develop a heart that is ready to seek His**

*When you said, “Seek ye my face,” my heart said to thee, “Thy face, LORD, will I seek.” (Psalm 27:8)*

David had a different spirit from most people. God gave a public invitation to seek Him, but David roused his spirit to pursue God in response to this general invitation. David stirred himself up and made personal what God said to the public. He laid hold of that invitation from God.

*How can we develop a heart that is ready to seek Him?*

Respond like David: be greedy in faith and seize the invitation of the Lord. We don't always do this – we have many invitations from the Lord but we fail to stir ourselves up in response to what God has said.

## **3. Invite Him to speak to you**

This may be awkward to you, since we are accustomed in our culture to only speak to Jesus and to the Father. It sounds odd to us to speak to the Holy Spirit, maybe because so few people do it. But there is no reason why we can't. I encourage you to do this throughout your day. The Spirit is the Helper, so when you need help, reach out to Him.

#### **4. Talk with Him as a friend**

Learn to speak to the Holy Spirit conversationally, just as you speak to the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the best friend you have on this Earth.

*A. Make the Spirit your prayer partner.*

*B. Make the Spirit your Counselor in the Word*

*C. Converse with Him throughout the day*

#### **5. Learn to recognize His Voice better**

The only way to get to know His Voice better, ultimately, is to hear it more than you are now. When you pick up the phone no one needs to tell you it's your parents, your child, or your boss. You just know that Voice. And the voice of God is the same. Jesus said, *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...* (John 10:27)

*A. He will not contradict the Word*

*B. Be sensitive to the Witness of the Spirit*

*C. Let God make you more sensitive to His Voice*