

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11 & GALATIANS 5:16-26

31 JULY 2022

ICE BREAKER: Who is someone you trust wholeheartedly?

GROUP QUESTIONS:

The Bible teaches the **Holy Spirit** is the **Third Person in the Trinity**. He is fully God. He is **Co-Creator** with the Father and the Son (Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1-3). He is **eternal** (Hebrews 9:14). He is **all-knowing** (1 Corinthians 2:10-12). He **gives life** to our physical bodies and **eternal life** to believers (Job 33:4; John 3:5-6; Titus 3:4-7). He is **called "God"** (Acts 5:3-4) and **"Lord"** (2 Corinthians 3:18), and is referred to with the Father and the Son as the triune God (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Yet, despite these clear teachings, other religions consistently **change** or **misunderstand** the person of the Holy Spirit. Islam believes the Holy Spirit is the angel Gabriel. Mormonism teaches the Holy Spirit is a 3rd and separate god. Jehovah Witness teaches the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force. Every other religion or worldview differs from the Christian faith in this regard—the Holy Spirit.

1. Why do you think **other religions** always **change** or **misunderstand** the **Holy Spirit**?

In 1 Corinthians, Paul warns Christians **not "to be ignorant"** about knowing and using the various **spiritual gifts** which the Holy Spirit gives to every believer, some of which are word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

In Galatians, Paul states the **evidence of Spirit-filled believers** are displayed in the **fruit of the Holy Spirit**—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

If the clear teaching of the Holy Spirit is misunderstood outside the Church, it is often **ignored** or **sensationalized** within the Church. Some churches ignore the role of spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit gives to every believer. Other churches **sensationalize the spiritual gifts** to the point of excluding other Christians. Such churches seem to focus more on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, rather than the Holy Spirit Himself.

2. How have you seen **churches** either **ignore** or **sensationalize** the work of the **Holy Spirit**?

(Read Galatians 5:16-18) Apostle Paul calls all Christians to **"live by the Spirit"** and be **"led by the Spirit"**. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would **guide us** and **speak to us**, from **within us** (John 16:13). Yet, in reality, the voices or impressions we sense in our spirit or the advice we receive from others may or may not be from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, John warned us saying, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God." (1 John 4:1)

3. Describe a time when you **experienced the Holy Spirit**, or felt you **heard** from Him **correctly**.

(Read Galatians 6:19-26) Apostle Paul calls believers to avoid the pitfalls of sin common to others. How? If we choose to **"live by the Spirit"**, to **"keep in step with the Spirit."** Paul's challenge to **keep in step** with the Spirit gives us the picture of walking step by step with the Holy Spirit.

The image is of an **close relationship** of **moving forward** with the Spirit throughout our life. We are never alone. The decisions we make and habits we form determine how well we can keep in step with the Spirit.

4. Today, what is **one decision** or **habit** you must make **to better keep in step** with the **Holy Spirit**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
