

Small Group Discussion – Jesus’ Antidote to Fear

Theme: The Antidote to Fear is Having Jesus Inside you Instead of Beside You!

Bible: John 14:16-27

1. Warmup question: Imagine a frightening scenario—you have to walk into a dark alley at night; or navigate an unfamiliar city’s subway system; or enter a burning building to save someone. In that scenario, what person would you most want with you? (Answer with a human’s name who is not Jesus! We’ll get to the spiritual answers shortly).
2. Before the sermon this past Sunday, what was your understanding of the Holy Spirit? (No wrong answers here.)
3. What do you learn about the person of the Holy Spirit from these verses?
 - a. Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - b. John 14:16-26, And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.... “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
 - c. Hebrews 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
4. What difference does it make in your life that the Holy Spirit is fully God?
5. Randy talked about three roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives: Leading, Loving, Empowering. From the verses below, what do you gather the leading of the Holy Spirit looks like?
 - a. Mark 13:11 And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Acts 11:12 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house.
 - c. Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
6. Randy used the analogy of piloting a sailboat to describe the leading of the Holy Spirit. In terms of this analogy, what is your part and what is the Holy Spirit’s part? What does that look like in real life?

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7. From the verses below, we see the Holy Spirit pours out his love into our hearts. Have you seen this in your life? If so, how?
 - a. Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
 - b. Romans 8:14-16 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.
8. Below, how does the Holy Spirit’s power manifest itself in our lives (each verse represents a different way):
 - a. Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - b. Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
 - c. Ephesians 3:16-17a That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 2:4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
 - e. Titus 3:4-6 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.
9. Have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? If so, how?
10. In which area, the leading, loving, or empowering of the Holy Spirit might you be leaving Jesus beside you instead of inside you... or... might you be “leaving your snow blower in the shed”?
11. Randy gave three S’s to practically invite more of the Holy Spirit into our lives: Solicit or ask God the Father for more of the Holy Spirit; Sense the Holy Spirit via more silence and Sabbath in your life; and Saturate yourself with the Word. Which of these do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to practice more?
12. Prayer: Among or other requests, let us pray for more of the Holy Spirit—his leading, loving, and power in our lives.