

So What About the Holy Spirit?

Part 10: How can I actually experience the Holy Spirit?

Ezekiel 37:1-14 - [watch online](#)

Summary

Okay, we just spent the last nine weeks studying the Holy Spirit. But how can we *actually* experience the Holy Spirit in our real, daily, regular lives? In this final episode of our series, we think the answer to that question is simpler and more powerful than we can imagine.

Message Points

[00:50] The Holy Spirit is the most important and most misunderstood part of following Jesus.

[03:37] When we relegate the Holy Spirit to a theological point with which to agree, or a feeling to experience, we miss out on the full life Jesus offers now.

[06:08] When we are genuinely willing to KNOW and EXPERIENCE the Holy Spirit in every part of our lives, we will discover the life Jesus offers... together.

[10:27] The only way for us to live the new life of God is for God to breathe his Spirit into us and recreate us.

[11:30] The question isn't "What should we do?" The question is "Who does God want us to be?" When we become who God wants us to become we can't help but do what God wants us to do.

[13:15] God doesn't just want us to have better lives... he longs to give us new life.

[14:38] If the Holy Spirit is truly the presence of God himself, Jesus Followers should have remarkably different lives.

[15:06] Our goal is not that we become a big church... our goal is to become a filled church.

[20:05] When we are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into us, our lives become more than we can imagine.

Discussion Questions

1. What have you discovered about the Holy Spirit? What still seems hazy or fuzzy?
2. Jon said, "When we relegate the Holy Spirit to a theological point with which to agree, or a feeling to experience, we miss out on the full life Jesus offers now." Describe a time when you have seen this to be true, in yourself or others.
3. In what areas of your life are you asking the Holy Spirit to make a "remarkable difference?" (see notes) What are some practical ways you can work with him in that transformation?
4. Read Psalm 63:1 and Exodus 33:15-16. How would praying these as a community possibly transform us as a church body? List out some characteristics together.
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

Transcript:

IN: How do we and how can we actually experience the Holy Spirit of God in our lives now?

How good do we have to be? What do we have to know? What do we have to do?

There's a better question... so let's talk about it... together.

WE: According to Jesus, the key to truly knowing him and following him, the source of the life he gives is the HS... said it was better for him to leave so that the HS could come.

but for many the HS is a fuzzy/vague concept

The Holy Spirit is the most important and most misunderstood part of following Jesus.

Why we have spent 10 weeks talking about the HS

This is the final episode... coming in right before the credits of the movie... go back and watch the rest of the film.

Throughout this series we have tried to strip off our preconceived ideas/what we've always been told or whatever thoughts have grown in us and go back to what the HS has actually revealed about himself through the experiences and writings of the BW's.

Our goal has been not to just understand or know more about the HS but to actually know him and experience him in our lives now... individually and especially as the Church together.

And through this we have discovered...

- The Holy Spirit is the source/epicenter/sustainer of the life Jesus offers.
- God has fulfilled his promises by giving JF's his personal presence to live in and through them.
- The HS is creating a new people for himself to bring the life and love of God to the world through their lives.
- He does this by transforming individuals and bringing them together in a transformed community.

Now... that's great and all but there's a very present/common danger w/ a series like this... something that has been continually happening for more than 1500 yrs...

For much of the Church's history JF's have taken this knowledge of the HS and done 1 of 2 things with it...

- Keep it all intellectual
- Keep it all emotional

So for some... Instead of the HS being seen/experienced as the very presence of God in every moment of our lives, he has been relegated to simply another creed we need to intellectually agree with in order to be able to wear the Xian label...

"Father, Son, HS... Trinity got it. Yep I think that so I'm good."

- You THINK differently than me, so we need to divide and argue

Others have focused so much on experiencing the HS that they haven't actually taken the time to know who he really is and why he is really with us.

- And things get extremely weird and fractured and only what we personally experience and feel matters.

When we relegate the HS to a theological point with which to agree or a feeling to experience we miss out on the full life Jesus offers now

Both of these extremes lead to the same sad end...

At best... Xianity becomes a once a week routine focused either on simply learning... or experiencing an emotional high for about an hour... with a spatter of trying to be nice in our "regular/secular" lives

It becomes more of a personal belief than experiencing the actual presence of God.

Nothing actually changes about who they are at their core... lives look no different than anyone else's.

It's honestly why people claiming the name of Jesus were totally ok with Crusades/Colonizing/Conquering in the name of Jesus

Why Xians can care more about their group having power than actually looking like Jesus

Why Xians can disown family members who think differently

Why churches split over points of minor theology...

It really explains all the junk people reject xianity over.

And when those who claim to be Xian themselves don't see a difference between their lives and the rest of humanity... they start to think... kids definitely think... what's the point?

- Then when a crisis comes or we go to college and are presented with real life... everything falls apart.

Maybe this has been your experience... you've tried the Church thing and not really seen a difference

You either have collected a lot of knowledge but it hasn't really changed your life or you've had some experiences but they don't last

Sure you'd like to know and experience God... but everything just seems dry... dusty...

Maybe your life is dry, your relationships are dry, your relationship with God is dry...

Maybe you find yourself easily frustrated, upset, angered, discouraged

If you sense little to no power to change the things you know need changing in your life... what can we do?

We've had 9 weeks of discussion about the HS... How do we experience the HS in our lives now...

We have to want it...

When we are genuinely willing to To KNOW and EXPERIENCE the HS in every part of our lives we will discover the life Jesus offers... together.

To see how this happens we have to go back into the story of God...

GOD: Around 600 BC

People of Israel were wondering why they weren't experiencing God like their ancestors... seemed like God had abandoned them...

Babylon conquered Jerusalem spared the city but took many of the people captive and back to Babylon... including a man named Ezekiel

5 yrs later... While sitting by river in refugee camp, On his 30th bday sees vision of God riding his royal chariot

God chooses him to be a prophet (speaks for God) tell Israel why this happened... rebelled against God (Idols/Social injustice)... b/c of this God will allow Babylon to attack Jerusalem again and destroy the city and temple... which happens.

But God tells Ezekiel there is hope. God will restore his people back to the land...

God will come like a good shepherd and bring his people back to himself... he will bring a new king like David.

- And he will create a new Israel... a new people of God
- A transformed people...

And he will transform them by removing their hard/rebellious hearts and sending his Spirit into them to give them new soft hearts so they can truly love and follow their God

Then he has a strange vision... **Ezekiel 37:1-6**

Recalls the story of Gen 2... Breathes the breath of life... Ruachs the ruach of life into them

V. 7-14 God will do a new act of creation... create a new type of human so they can truly live in a relationship of love w/ God and each other...

The only way for us to live the new life of God is for God to breathe his Spirit into us and recreate us.

This transformation... new breath and life is available to everyone.

As we saw in NT writings... it happens the moment someone chooses to stop figuring out life for themselves... stops trusting what they can do to get through life and put their faith/trust/allegiance in Jesus.

At that moment they are marked/sealed/baptized by the HS.

But we also saw that this immediate new identity doesn't always mean an immediate transformation in how we think/live... we have to allow the HS to work on our stony hearts... we can either work with the HS or resist him.

Every JF has the HS Spirit but not every JF is walking w/ the HS.

This isn't about trying really hard to be nice and good and friendly... or having a new philosophy to live by...

The question isn't "What should we do?" The question is "Who does God want us to be?"

When we become who God wants us to become we can't help but do what God wants us to do.

So my question is... Do you want to be transformed?

Maybe you feel like dry bones... life is dry... relationships are dry... relationship w/ God is dry?

God wants us to experience new life... through his Ruach/Spirit.

But we have to actually want it... we have to seek it.

We have to ask him... Israel was ready for God to blow new breath into them... are we?

It's not a change of what we do... it's a willingness to allow the HS to change who we are.

We can't work really hard for it... but we can seek it... we can work w/ the HS

We can't make it happen but we can ask for it and allow it to happen.

It requires an openness to allowing the HS to take who we are and make us who Jesus would be if he were living our lives... b/c if the HS is living in you that's what is happening.

G. FEE-

We need to less often tell God what we want and more often have a stance of openness so that we can continually be surprised by what he does. Openness means seeking earnestly after the Spirit, with readiness for whatever the Spirit may want to do, not for the sake of the individual walk alone, but for what it will mean for the sake of the body.

YOU: We so often think of God and HS as simply helping us to have better lives and making things not as bad as they could be w/o him.

God doesn't just want us to have better lives... he longs to give us new life.

He longs to fill, guide, empower us. He wants to transform us... together.

This is what keeps me up at night when I think about Crosscreek.

If we want to see God transform our lives and the lives of our city... We as individuals and as a community have to be filled with and transformed by the HS... instead of simply letting our own wants and ideas guide us.

We have to focus on the greatest gift of the HS... love.

By submitting to his leadership and his presence in us. God is love. Let him fill you with it as you give it to others.

And not be a people who resist him... **Eph. 4:30-32**

If the HS is in us there should be a difference in how we interact, grieve, celebrate, deal w/ challenges, and how we deal with conflict.

If the HS is truly the presence of God himself, JF's should have remarkably different lives.

But we have to ask him to do it, to put the fruit of the HS in our lives...

We have to spend time with him alone on the quiet.

We also have to be together... consistently... and invite others into our lives/community.

Our goal is not that we become a big church... our goal is to become a filled church.

But I have a feeling if we would allow ourselves to be a church together filled w/ the HS in our individual lives and our life together we would have to find more chairs.

I want people to be amazed at our love, our peace, our joy no matter what is going on.

I want people amazed at our unity w/in our diversity.

I want people to be amazed at the life God has breathed on these dry bones...

So my invitation is this...

For the next two weeks as we lead into Easter let's have **Psalm 63:1** be our prayer

- Search for him, and ask him to fill our lives.
- Maybe for first time
- This life is something everyone is invited into.
- Maybe been on the fence... might be time to join the party.
- Here's how... try this **Prayer**
 - *"Jesus, come into my life. I am done relying on myself. I put my trust and my allegiance in YOU. Come into me, fill me with your Holy Spirit, baptize me as yours. Mark me. Seal me. Make my life yours. Transform me from the inside out."*

- Maybe you'd done this bit you still feel dry... ASK him to fill you

Opportunity next week at In-Person... worship prayer night.

- Thank God for who he is what he has done and to seek him and who he wants us to be... together
- Seek the HS, and for us to allow him to transform us.

WE: A life filled w/ and transformed by the HS is not about what we should do... it's about who God wants us to become... together

Francis Chan: I don't want my life to be explainable without the HS

We are invited to a life of more than just going to church.

More than being good and nice

More than just going to heaven when we die.

We are invited to live in and experience the KoG NOW

We are invited to play a key role in inviting our neighbors to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

You are invited to make You and Me into an inexplicable WE.

You are invited to experience the personal presence of God every day... in your good and your bad.

Imagine what could happen if we really got this. If we really allowed the HS to breathe new life into us, to direct us and guide us and empower us...

- What would this mean for you? Family? Neighbors? Our city?

What if it wasn't just a few us, but JF's all over Salem, Keizer, Oregon, US, World...

What if we saw each other as fellow temples of the HS and allowed the HS to transform us and our communities...

What if we all saw and accepted our role in bringing the KoG to earth now?

It's possible... it's why Jesus created the Church.

Every aspect will look as unique as God himself... God does all sorts of odd things.

Might not happen in our lifetime... but we can make some waves.

We are privileged to play a part in God's ultimate plan for the entire universe.

We need to be open to what he wants to do in us and through us...

As we move forward and see where God takes us as his people our cry should be the same as Moses'... **Exodus**

33:15-16

We need the HS. So seek him... ask him to transform you... to breath new life into you, guide you, control, and empower you... FILL YOU... work with him.

It is time to let the HS breath wherever and however he wants answer need to be willing to follow wherever he leads

When we are willing to allow the HS to breathe new life into us our lives become more than we can imagine.