

Searching for God's Glory

WEEK FIVE

GALATIANS 5:25

CLEARING UP THE MISUNDERSTANDING



TRINITY

/ˈtrɪnədə/

The Holy Spirit is not less than the Father and the Son. He is their equal.

The Battle of Waterloo was one of the most significant military victories for Europe in the 19th century, even though at first the people in London thought it was a defeat. The people of England depended on a system of semaphore signals to find out how the battle was going. One of these signal stations was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral. Late in the day it flashed the signal: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D-." Just at that moment, one of those sudden English fog clouds made it impossible to read the rest of the message.

The news of defeat quickly spread throughout the city. The whole countryside was broken when they heard the news that their country had lost the war. Suddenly the fog lifted, and the remainder of the message could be read. The message had four words, not two. The complete message was: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D---T-H-E---E-N-E-M-Y!" It took only a few minutes for the good news to spread.

It's astonishing what can happen when truth is partially clouded. In fact, it can mean the difference between sorrow and joy, victory and defeat.

Today, there is much misunderstanding concerning the Holy Spirit and His purpose in the life of the Christian. In many cases, it has meant the difference between sorrow and joy, defeat and victory. The real Christian life is impossible to live apart from a daily dependence upon God's Spirit. We will spend the next four weeks laying a firm foundation for this relationship that will bear the fruit of joy and victory in your life!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



WATCH

Play the video prepared for this lesson by Pastor Derek Neider. Video sessions are available for download at www.cclasvegas.org/GROUPS



PRAY (10 min)

As a Home Group, take a moment and share what you consider to be the most difficult thing to understand about the Holy Spirit.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them together.

1. The Holy Spirit is God. In fact, Pastor Derek mentioned attributes that the Holy Spirit has that are attributes only God can have.

Name two of those attributes and include supporting Scripture.

"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." 1 John 5:7



2. Some Christians live with a truncated Trinity. In other words, a Trinity that is incomplete or that has been pared back. In many cases, people direct their focus to the Father and Son and give little consideration to the Holy Spirit.

What is the danger in this?

What is the danger in emphasizing the Holy Spirit to the detriment of the Father and the Son?

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” Matthew 28:19

3. Christ came so that you could have the Holy Spirit. Faith in His crucifixion and resurrection has redeemed you to the Father and it has also restored you to His intended purpose, that you bear His image and live for His glory.

How does the Holy Spirit enable you to do that?

“Being spiritual means living in and by the Holy Spirit. This is how you experience and express the glory of God.” DEREK NEIDER

“I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

John 16:7

3. While we will be discussing this in greater detail later, explain why you need the Holy Spirit.

Begin the process of growing in your experience of God’s Spirit by asking for more of Him, and for Him to have more of you.

“If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:11



REACH

Considering what God revealed to you this week, take a step and in prayer, invite the Holy Spirit to have your whole heart. Identify any area that you have been withholding from His influence and commit it to Him in repentance and faith.

Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear about how God developed your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

