

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Plugged In - Part 1

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Introduction

Jesus became every bit like us so we may become every bit like Him. Jesus was so in synch with the Father that He was able to tell His disciples, “if you know me, then you know the Father” (John 14:7). In the same way, we are called to become more like Jesus. As His followers, we understand that this begins with the redemptive work of Christ and our salvation through repentance and the forgiveness of our sins. This is only possible through the Holy Spirit revealing Christ to us, opening our spiritual eyes and heart to Him and making it possible for us to believe. We can be confident the Holy Spirit will progressively reveal more and more of Christ to us as we remain plugged in to God’s gift of the Holy Spirit (Phil 1:6).

- In John 16:7, Jesus says it is to our advantage that He goes, so that He can send the Holy Spirit (Helper, Advocate, Comforter). Why is this an advantage for us?
- Why then is reliance on the Holy Spirit often the first thing to slip away in the busyness of life?

Read

John 14:15-18; John 14:25-27; John 16:5-15

Discuss

1. Describing life without the Holy Spirit’s leading, Pastor Mark used the analogy of being in the bush on a moonless night without a torch. Explore this idea:
 - List what is likely to happen to the bushwalker if they keep going without a torch.
 - What are the possible effects on the bushwalker’s body, mind and spirit?

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- In contrast, list some of the differences a torch would make. Share how this is similar to being Holy Spirit led.

Read John 16:13 and John 14:26

2. How do these passages tie in with Jesus' teaching, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6)?
3. How can each of us, in our walk today, be confident that we are being guided into all truth?

Read John 16:8

4. In today's Western culture, anything that makes a person feel uncomfortable is viewed unfavourably and even considered to be a bad thing. In contrast, the Holy Spirit comes to convict the world of sin (the word used here can also mean: reprove, rebuke, convince, declare a fault). Why is conviction a good thing, and how should it be embraced?

Read John 14:27

5. How are truth and conviction through the leading of the Holy Spirit consistent with peace?
6. The peace from God, which the Holy Spirit leads us into, is capable of transcending the circumstances of life. How? What steps can we take when we are feeling anxious (Romans 8:15-17)?

Respond

We are body, soul and spirit. God created us to be predominately spiritual, for God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. However, the inclination of man is to drift away from godliness and give in to the desires of the flesh (body). We need a regular daily diet of spiritual food, including meditating on God's Word, declaring the promises of God over our lives, prayer and dialogue with our heavenly Father, and deciding daily to live as joint heirs with Christ. In this way, our fears and anxiety will be displaced by the tangible truth of God's love over us and for us.

What is one step you can take this week to put into practice being led by the Spirit?