

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## Plugged In - Part 3

HEATHER PACKETT

### Introduction

Every disciple of Jesus has a different perception of the Holy Spirit and His role. This perspective will be influenced by our upbringing and by church denominations we have attended. How we see the Holy Spirit will greatly impact the way we live our Christian lives and our effectiveness for Jesus. While different churches place a greater or lesser emphasis on the Holy Spirit, as part of the triune God, He is a gift given for our benefit. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can grow to become more Christlike and serve our glorious God through the gifts He gives us.

### Read

Ephesians 5:15-21, 2 Corinthians 3:3-18

### Discuss

1. What has been your experience of engaging with the Holy Spirit? Is this different today to what it has been in your past?
2. Has God given you a spiritual gift or gifts that you and others recognise in your life? How could you best use this gift?
3. Read Ephesians 5:16. What are the opportunities you can see today? How can you be wise in this?
4. Read Ephesians 5:17. How do you discern the Lord's will? Why can this seem difficult? What can we do to better understand His will?
5. Read Ephesians 5:18. What is your understanding of being filled with the Spirit? How can we do this continually? What can prevent this? Why do you think this is a controversial topic in some circles?
6. Read Ephesians 5:19-21. How can we do this? What might this look like in our engagement with those around us?

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7. How do you believe we can best grow in the Spirit?

Pastor Heather suggested some practical options:

- Journal - Ask God, what question would you like me to ask you today?
- Intercede - Ask Him to guide your prayer for someone else (practice!).
- Ask for a new gift and begin practising it in a safe place.
- Lay down apathy, find your passion.
- Hang up timidity, put on ferociousness (courage).

Which of these suggestions is the easiest for you to implement? Which could be the most difficult for you?

### **Respond**

To grow spiritually and continually be filled with the Holy Spirit we need to allow Him to play a significant part in what we do and how we live our lives. This is not a passive ride, but an active and continual journey that we need to be willing to pursue and engage in if we are serious about being effective for Jesus.

What is one step from the list above that you can apply this week to take a new step in being continually filled with the Holy Spirit and to grow further in your Spiritual walk? Commit to doing this one step for the next seven days.