

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 03.12.2023

The Gifts of the Father – JOHN 14:15-31

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “We are continuing to look at Jesus’ interactions with His disciples on the last night that He spent with them prior to His crucifixion. At this point in the evening, He has already shared His final meal with them, served them, sought to comfort them, and invited them to pray and ask Him for anything. Now we’re going to hear Him talk about several gifts that He wants to give them. Notice how Jesus begins this section by telling His disciples that one of the ways they can prove their love for Him is by their obedience. In today’s culture, we tend to associate love more with feelings. The problem with that is feelings tend to be fickle. Some days I feel in love and others I don’t. Real love is more than a feeling. It is demonstrated through actions.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:15-18.

1. When Jesus told the disciples that He would send “another,” He used the word that meant another of the same kind. The counselor will be like Jesus Himself. In what ways is the Holy Spirit like Jesus?
2. How is the Holy Spirit our “helper” (v. 16)? In what ways does the spirit help us in our walk with Christ?

The Greek word for “helper” in verse 16 is “paracletos,” and it is used to describe an advocate or a counselor (c.f. John 14:25, 15:25, and 16:7). The original thrust of the word contains the meaning of “working on someone’s behalf” or “coming alongside someone.” The Counselor picked up where Jesus left off after His ascension. While Jesus physically walked the earth for a very short time, the “another” Counselor will be with us forever. He will remain our Advocate for eternity.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:23-25.

1. If you love Jesus, what can you expect from God? What will happen to you if you love Jesus?
2. Who sends the Holy Spirit to us?

We have seen that if we love Christ, the Lord Jesus “will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor.” Here, Jesus promises that not only will the Holy Spirit abide with us, but also the “Father will love him, and We [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] will come to him and make Our home with him” (John 14:23). In 1 John 2:23, John teaches that “no one who denies the Son can have the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father also.” If we love Jesus, we are in fellowship with the entire Trinity of God.

The Lord Jesus asks the Father, and the Father sends to us the Holy Spirit on behalf of Jesus Christ. This gracious action of our Lord ensures that will receive “the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’” (Romans 8:15). The Holy

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Spirit confirms to us that we are God’s children, and because of this, we have the ability and boldness to live as Christ calls us to live.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:26-31

1. What does Jesus say about His true followers? What does the Holy Spirit have to do with that?
2. How does the Holy Spirit teach us and bring things back to our remembrance? (vs 26) Read Matthew 10:19-20 and consider how this passage relates to John 14:26.
3. How does bible study and scripture memorization relate to John 14:26?

We demonstrate our love for God and belief in Him by obeying His Word, and, as we obey, we receive His peace through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. He is the only way, the only truth, and the only life. What we believe about God drives our lives, and peace comes through believing.

HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What’s the difference between being indwelt with the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. Have a volunteer read Ephesians 5:18, what does this passage tell you about the need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. How is one filled with the Holy Spirit? Is being filled with the Spirit based on feelings or faith?

According to Pastor Daniel - If you are a believer in Jesus, then the Spirit of God already dwells in you. But I believe the Scriptures support the idea of another encounter with the Holy Spirit that allows us to experience the power of the Spirit in greater measure. There is only one baptism of the Spirit, but there are many fillings. That’s why in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians he encourages them to ‘Keep being filled with the Spirit.’ {Ephesians 5:18} The tense of that verb describes a continuous and ongoing action. How do you know if the Spirit has come upon you? You’ll know because there will be a greater degree of power in your life. Power to defeat sin. Power to live a godly life. Power to overcome the enemy. Power to share and proclaim the gospel. Power to be a witness. How many of you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Me too! So how do you get Him? By giving Him more of you! Jesus said ‘if we being evil, know how to give good gifts, then how much more would our heavenly Father send the Holy Spirit to those who ask.’

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus gathered His disciples and said, ‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ {Acts 1:8} The Greek word translated as on in that sentence is epi. It speaks of an overflowing. The three different experiences can be illustrated using a pitcher of water and an empty glass. The pitcher is with the glass. When you pour it in now it is in the glass. If you keep on pouring the glass begins to overflow. That’s the ideas with being filled or empowered by the Holy Spirit. We must be willing to submit our will to His will moment by moment.

1. How can you be mindful of the need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you believe Jesus could come back today? How does that question impact the way you live?
3. How does the Holy Spirit influence us to bear fruit for Christ?

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PRAYER – Father we recognize that we need to be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit in order to live a fruitful Christian life. Lord, we desire to be filled and empowered by your Spirit. We willingly submit our lives to you, please fill us now with your Holy Spirit. We believe by faith that you have filled us now. We don't base our faith on feelings but on the trustworthiness of your word. We ask it in Jesus' name!

"Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 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 11:11-13)