

The Holy Spirit Teaches

Opener: What have you learned lately that surprised you?

Scripture: “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” John 16:12-15

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. I Corinthians 2:10-16

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus has just said something intriguing to His disciples—He said He had a lot to tell them, but they couldn’t bear to hear it at that time. He does tell them He has a plan. He will send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, and He will eventually tell them all they need to know. Why couldn’t they bear to hear what He wanted them to know? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of having instruction from the Holy Spirit rather than from Jesus? John 16:12-13
2. In I Corinthians 2 Paul explains more about how the Holy Spirit communicates truth to us. Central to that happening is that we have already received the Holy Spirit. How does that happen? I Cor. 2:10-12
3. Explain the interaction between Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Father, and us as truth is communicated. How have you seen this play out? I Corinthians 2:10-12
4. He goes on to make the point that our speech is informed by the Spirit, and non-believers probably won’t or can’t accept what we say. Has that ever happened to you? Does this apply only to teaching or to other things we say as well? What’s an example? I Corinthians 2:13-14
5. How does the Spirit within us make “judgments about all things” while not being “subject to merely human judgments?” I Corinthians 2:15
6. “We have the mind of Christ” is such an incredible statement. Does it mean we’re always right? If not, what does it mean and how is it possible? How can we know if we have the mind of Christ? I Cor. 2:16
7. What’s something the Holy Spirit has revealed to you that has been contrary to what you previously believed to be true?

Wrap Up: The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and He provides us with insight that those without Him cannot be expected to have. However, this insight doesn’t impart instant wisdom or spiritual perfection. Nor does the Spirit totally replace our own thoughts or opinions. What He does do is speak, guide, and declare truth. If we learn to recognize His voice while reading God’s word and hearing from others, we’ll experience what Jesus meant when He said the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.