



# *Apostles' Creed, part FIVE*

March 7-10

## *I believe in the Holy Spirit*

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

**Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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### ***Apostles' Creed:***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the spirits in hell. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**OBJECTIVE: for people to walk away committed to know and live in step with the Holy Spirit.**

*I believe in the Holy Spirit*

INTRODUCTION:

**Homework assignment from Sunday we will cover later:** what are the Biblical instructions that we consciously or subconsciously believe are impossible? Herb's examples: forgiving a person who hurt us profoundly, rejoicing in suffering, going the second mile for a person who hates us...

At the core of Jesus' last words to His closest followers was that it is better for Him to leave so that they (and we) can receive the Holy Spirit to rule within and thus live with His Presence and power. His climactic statement is

**John 16:7 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless, 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 go, I will send him to you.**

The disciples responded with disbelief that this could be true. It is tempting for us to do so as well.

REALITY: Living with Spirit in control from within is BETTER than Jesus in the flesh.

### ***Knowing and living in step with the Holy Spirit***

#### **1. The Person of the Holy Spirit.**

✓ God, a Person in the Trinity with all the attributes of God

**All 3** present at Creation, at Jesus' baptism, in the Great Commission's baptism instructions

**John 14:16 (ESV)** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

**14:26a** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,

**15:26 (ESV)** "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

✓ The active, invisible Presence of God in ER (earthly realm).

**John 3:8 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

✓ The Presence of God within believers – "Christ in us"

This is His role as a Person of God ... Jesus' Spirit IS the Holy Spirit

**Colossians 1:27 (ESV)** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

## 2. The Work of the Holy Spirit.

With the greatness of Jesus it is easy to miss the essential and integral work of the Holy Spirit from the beginning, in Jesus' incarnation and ministry, and in our lives. Jesus and the Spirit are all about the Father's work and will, not bringing more attention to themselves than the Father desires

An enemy strategy is to keep us focused on ourselves, to convince us that we can do what we need to do and we miss the incredible offer of Jesus and live without the depth and breadth of God's Presence and power that He wants us to have

✓ At creation

**Genesis 1:2 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

✓ God's anointing power in prophets, kings, etc in Old Testament

Filling prophets, kings, other servants of God at God's choosing – selective

✓ The means of Jesus' conception

**Matthew 1:18 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

✓ Active in Jesus' incarnation and preparation

John the Baptist will be filled with the Spirit from the womb, Luke 1:15

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as Messiah because he saw the Spirit come down on Jesus, John 1:32

✓ Present at Jesus' baptism, temptation, ministry

**Luke 3:22 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**Luke 4:1 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

**Luke 4:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup>And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

**Luke 4:18 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

✓ God's Presence and power in Jesus' disciples

**Luke 10:17–21 (ESV)** (pew Bible page 868)

✓ Promised and sent by Jesus from the Father for all believers

**Acts 2:1–4 (ESV)** (pew Bible page 910)

Peter mentions the Holy Spirit several times in the sermon and concludes with the promise of the Spirit

**Acts 2:37–39 (ESV)**

The book of Acts mentions the Holy Spirit over 50 times

## 3. The Experience of living in step with the Holy Spirit.

**Homework assignment time:** what are the Biblical instructions that we consciously or subconsciously believe are impossible?

HERB: watching Acts of the Apostles last night, listening to the words and watching actions of Peter and John

**LIGHT BULB:** they were not that smart to be quoting OT and applying it in articulate ways – *the Spirit was bringing to remembrance...*

**John 14:26 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup>But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

But there is a higher level that most Christ-followers don't experience b/c we don't SLO at the deepest level

✓ Beyond this world

**Ephesians 3:14–21 (ESV)** (pew Bible page 977)

✓ The lifestyle of Christ-followers

**Galatians 5:25 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

It is power beyond the ER to the supernatural – the Unseen real life

NOTE: It's possible to know ABOUT someone and not really know who they are or what they do. That is the case with so many with the Holy Spirit. We have learned about the Spirit, read the Bible, talked about.

→ Leads people to salvation

**John 6:44 (ESV)** <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

**John 16:8 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

→ Intercedes with the Father for us

**Romans 8:26–27 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

→ Transforms to Christlikeness

**Galatians 5:16–26 (ESV)** (pew Bible page 975)

→ Is the organizer and power in Jesus' Body, His church

**1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

→ Power to work in and through us

***It is impossible to live for Christ without the rule of the Spirit***

***Enemy strategy:*** get us to think we can live for Christ on our own, thus we remain USD and powerless

ill. We've all said, "I could never do \_\_\_\_\_" Probably true unless filled and surrendered to living in step with Spirit

**2 Corinthians 12:9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**Philippians 4:13 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

→ All we need - guides, provides, strengthens

**John 16:13 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

**Acts 13:2 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup>While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

**2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**Romans 8:37 (ESV)** <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

**2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

**Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

## APPLICATION OF HOMEWORK

If we believe that the Spirit offers the power to obey every instruction, how do we obey? What are the real-life actions we take to lean into the impossible?

IMPORTANT: b/c we are not experiencing this does not mean it is not true. When we are not exp what the Bible says, we must guard against the enemy's strategy to make us think that it is not true... or not true for me... or no longer applies. Instead, we must go to the Throne Room for God to reveal what is going on and what we need to do to experience what God promises

We experience the Presence and power of the Spirit as we SLO

God will not override our free will, but when we surrender it He will take charge to be the power in our lives

## Takeaways...



### ➔ Know and Obey God's essential Truth

But be *doers of the word*, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22

➔ **Radical Managers of God's stuff**

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so ***that they may take hold of that which is truly life.***

1 Timothy 6:17–19

➔ **Bright Lights of Christ to others**

In the same way, ***let your light shine before others***, so that ***they may see your good works and give glory to your Father*** who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



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