

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

When We're Together
2: We Gather in the
Holy Spirit

Speaker:

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Date:

October 10, 2021

Scriptures:

Theme: God the Spirit is among us so let us be filled with him and live in his grace.

Introduction: Few things are more fearful to a child than the thought of being separated from her parents in a public place. The fear of abandonment is a common one, and we might imagine that the disciples felt the same when Jesus told them: a) suffering is coming, and b) I am leaving. But he also promised them that his absence would be to their advantage, because he would send the Helper.

Here are 3 aspects of the Holy Spirit's work among his people:

1. We need the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 13:14; John 16:7)

All Christian life and maturity comes through the Spirit. He is the animating force in saving and sanctifying us.

Our fellowship with God is carried along by the Spirit. So also, our fellowship as brothers and sisters is in the Holy Spirit.

In the Spirit we have a veritable banquet hall of blessing and provision. That is part of why it is to our advantage that Jesus departed (John 16:7).

2. The Spirit brings fruits and gifts (Gal 5:22-26; John 15:16; Rom 12:3-8)

We need to be equipped for the Christian life, and the Spirit does the equipping. He equips his people through fruits and gifts.

The fruits of the Spirit are the evidence of the Spirit's transforming power within us, conforming us into the image of the Son. These qualities are to be ours and increasing (2 Pet 1:8).

Our aim in fellowship is to stir up one another in these qualities as well. Personal growth is not an end to itself: we are to help one another to progress.

The gifts of the Spirit are also others-oriented. They are the work of the Spirit to help us to be more effective in loving one another.

The gifts are not for boasting or bemoaning. Rather, we are to "use them" (Rom 12:6) in our daily lives, and especially in our fellowship together.

3. Let us walk together in the Spirit (Eph 5:15-21)

Walking in the Spirit include prioritizing fellowship, because the days are evil. It also includes the pursuit of holiness, as we turn from idolatry (like drunkenness).

As we seek the Spirit's work in our lives, we are transformed and equipped to love one another well and to share the love of Christ with others.

Questions:

1. What is mature, Christian spirituality?
2. How do we grow as Christians? How do we help one another to grow?
3. Are you pursuing growth in the Christian life? Are you seeking to help others to grow?