**DAY 5**

**THE ADVANTAGE**

Today I want you to consider the privilege and power that is available to all of us through the person of the Holy Spirit! There is a clear and sequential promise that was given to the Church when Peter preached the inaugural sermon on Opening Day (see Acts Ch. 2). Within this simple and powerful verse, we find the starting blocks of the life of a disciple, and the invitation to live with a continual source of power and guidance.

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

The gift of the Holy Spirit is both a baptism of power and a continual invitation to walk in the Holy Spirit as our friend and companion in life. It’s not uncommon for people to view the Holy Spirit as something other than a part of the Trinity, that is, fully God as a person. We easily recognize God the Father, with our mental images of what “Our Father who art in heaven” could look like upon His throne. And of course, we know Jesus walked the earth in a body, spending time with friends and living life as one of us. The Holy Spirit has been described as a power, wind, fire, river, feeling, force, presence, and many other things other than the third person of the Godhead.

He has personality, will, and the ability to be our closest friend. When Jesus was saying His final goodbyes and commissioning His disciples to go into all the world, He told them that He would “send **Him**” and that “**He** will be with you forever” (John 14:17.)

*“I’m about to leave you and go back to join the One who sent me yet, not one of you are asking me where I’m going. Instead your hearts are filled with sadness because I’ve told you these things. But here’s the truth:* ***It’s to your advantage that I go away****, for if I don’t go away the Divine Encourager will not be released to you. But after I depart, I will send Him to you.”* John 16:5-7 (TPT)

The advantage that Jesus was referring to is the ability of the Holy Spirit to be with all believers at the same time, releasing “the very same spirit that raised Christ from the dead” (Romans 8:11.) He promises to be at work and walking alongside us every day of our lives. What a promise!

As we walk with the Holy Spirit, we will discover that:

1. ***He is our closest friend.***
2. ***He is our guide.***
3. ***He is the voice of God.***

For our time together today, let’s consider the Holy Spirit’s ability to guide our lives, leading us into everything that God has planned for us. This is not an unreachable state of spiritual maturity or a rare gift for a select few but is our inheritance and God’s desire for every believer, if we will simply walk closely with the Holy Spirit and prioritize His friendship.

“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes (*one of the names of the Holy Spirit*), He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.”
John 16:12-23

Each member of the Godhead has a job description and attributes that are unique to them.

**Let’s think about what would be on the Holy Spirit’s résumé:**

* He was there at creation with Jesus and took part in creating the planet.
* He spoke to all of the prophets and performed all of the miracles in the Old Testament.
* He raised Jesus from the dead.
* He wrote the BIBLE.
* He brings us to salvation, as Jesus stated, “No man comes to the Father, unless the Spirit draws them” (John 14:6).
* He releases all of the gifts because they are His.

One of the Holy Spirit’s attributes or responsibilities is to give guidance and insight to those who know Jesus and long to follow him.

When we walk with the Holy Spirit, we can be sure that He will guide us into all truth, and if we are being guided into all truth, it means that we are being steered away from deception. You cannot be led to truth and deceit at the same time. You can’t travel in

God’s direction and be lost or confused at the same time. You may not know everything that’s going on, or where you will end up, but you will have a deep peace and confidence that it’s going to be all good. Just keep following Him! The Holy Spirit guides us **into** God’s promises and **away** from disillusionment and broken promises. He reveals God’s plan for our future, thus giving us continual hope, vision, and passion as we move forward.

*In light of these realities, it would be to our advantage to pursue a nearness and friendship with God the Holy Spirit.*

*The Holy Spirit is our guide!*

**“JESUS TAKING THE WHEEL”** IS THE KEY TO CLEAR AND CONSISTENT GUIDANCE

Determine in advance to follow where He leads. Don’t try to get God to endorse and bless a path or direction that you’ve developed apart from His clear leading and confirmation through His Word. Be completely vulnerable and humble before Him. This is a place of safety, blessing, and ultimate victory, even if it requires the temporary pain of laying down something or someone on the altar.

When God guides our steps, it will eventually and inevitably include a journey up a mountain of sacrifice and moments of letting go of the currently “valuable things” in our lives, only to discover the greater things of God on the other side of the test (see Genesis 22.)

A PERSONAL NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Consider the areas of your life that need clear direction. Is there a decision up ahead that you are uncertain about which way to go? Is there a relationship that you are not quite sure how to navigate? Whatever you are going through today, the Holy Spirit is available and willing to give you direction. Simply wait on him and ask in faith. I encourage you to write down your top three decisions that you need clarity on. Lay them before the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to “lead you into all truth,” and ask Him to “tell you about the future.”

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”*John 16:13

**PRAYER DIRECTIVE**

As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to walk with you in nearness and with a friendship that you have never known. If you have unknowingly neglected conversation and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, that can change today! First, repent of anything that might have quenched the Holy Spirit in your life (I Thessalonians 5:19) and second, invite Him to speak to you today. Pray for clarity in your hearing and clear direction for every future decision. Know that the Holy Spirit guides you into all truth. Pray for a greater awareness of His presence and a greater activation of His gifts in your life. Today, may you be filled with the Spirit.

**THOUGHTS & NOTES**