

## Not A Force, But A Friend (John 14:15-26) The Ultimate Ghost Story sermon series By Pastor David Hillis, 10.08.17

### **BIG IDEA:** The Holy Spirit isn't just someone you can know about, but someone you can know personally.

Whereas Scripture reveals the general will of God, the Holy Spirit reveals the specific will of God in our lives.

- 1. The Holy Spirit is a person with a personality.** (John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26, 16:13; Acts 5:3, 13:2, 16:6, 20:28; Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 10:29)
- 2. Having a relationship with the Holy Spirit benefits us so much....**
  - as a counselor and guide.** (Psalm 143:10; John 14:15-17, 26, 16:7-8)
  - by helping us pray and speak about God.** (Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11-12; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26)
  - by helping us to know God and His Word.** (John 16:12-14; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Ephesians 1:17-18, 3:16-19)
  - by giving us life and freedom.** (Romans 8:10-11; 2 Corinthians 3:8, 17)
  - by making us more like Jesus, as we yield to the Spirit.** (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23)

**WHY DO SOME CHRISTIANS LIVE A SPIRITLESS LIFE?** (Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Some people, even some believers, haven't taken the time to get to know who the Holy Spirit is. Others simply resist the Holy Spirit; push Him away.

There are those who live a somewhat spiritless life because all they are looking for in the relationship are emotional experiences. They want to feel God without wanting to really know God or be in a relationship with Him.

**HOW DO I BUILD A FRIENDSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

- 1. Put your faith and trust in Jesus.** (John 14:1-17)
- 2. Avoid putting barriers between you and the Holy Spirit.** (Romans 6:12-13, 12:1; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)
- 3. Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life, with hunger and expectation for a closer relationship.** (Jeremiah 29:13-14; Matthew 22:37; Luke 11:5-13; Romans 6:12-13)

**MY NEXT STEP:** Do you want a relationship, a friendship with the Holy Spirit? If so, what steps are you willing to take to get what you want? If not, why not?

## QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

- If you haven't already, pick up or download a copy of the book *The God I Never Knew* (copies are available each weekend at Grace's Guest Services Center). Read chapters 5-7 this week, seeking to understand who the Holy Spirit really is.
- Read John 14-16, paying careful attention to the words Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit. Ask God to help you fully consider what it says and how it might relate in some way to your life. Consider a word, phrase or sentence that is especially meaningful to you or that God is calling you to pay attention to, and how God would have you apply that idea or concept to your life today.
- Notice John 14:16-17 and John 16:7. These verses describe why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be among us and to interact in our lives. The Holy Spirit is not a thing or an "it"; He is part of the person of God. Why is having the Holy Spirit active in our lives such an important part of our walk with Christ? Do you think having the Holy Spirit being in you better than having Jesus on earth with you? If so, how, why?
- Notice John 16:9-13, and read Isaiah 30:31. These verses show how the Holy Spirit is the voice of God we need to guide us. When you think back, can you see a time when the Holy Spirit was leading you? Did He comfort, counsel, or convict you? Describe how you need His presence in your life. What steps are you willing to make to live a Spirit-filled life on a regular basis?
- Make some extended time with God to describe the need you feel for His presence in your life. Think and discuss with God what steps you are willing to take to live a Spirit-filled life.
- Review all the Scriptures listed next to the main points in the sermon notes, to seek to have a better understanding of who the Holy Spirit is, why some people live a relatively Spiritless life, and how to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Next week we will continue this series by exploring in depth what it means to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. Read ahead what the Bible teaches about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Have you ever experienced any of these gifts of the Holy Spirit? Share your thoughts and experiences with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Hello" card at [www.myGrace.church!](http://www.myGrace.church!)

## PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Pastors

Pray for Pastor Dave, all pastors and church leaders to be filled with wisdom, that they will be honored by those they serve, and that God will pour His Spirit upon them in power and humility, giving them fresh intimacy with Jesus. May they be protected from evil against their families, encouraged as they seek to draw nearer to God and that deep friendships with other pastors will grow. Amen.