



Remembering the Forgotten God Leader Guide Session 3: Theology of the Holy Spirit 101

Group Discussion:

Theology always pushes us in a particular direction. The knowledge of God is not neutral – it demands something of us. Every thought and belief in our minds leads us to some sort of action. Unfortunately, we don't always grasp the significance of what we claim to believe. If we stop short of applying a truth to our lives, then we do not actually grasp the truth. Until our lives (and not just our beliefs) are changed, we are not doing theology.

Chapter 3 of *Forgotten God* says it like this:

What you do and how you live are absolutely vital. Without action and fruit, all theology in the world has a little meaning. But theology in the world has little meaning. But theology is still impacted – what you believe absolutely determines how you act. So while good theology at its best can lead us to live godly lives, bad theology will always point us in the wrong direction. When we study the Holy Spirit, bad theology can lead to ineffective lives or, worse yet, lives spent striving after what the Spirit of God opposes.

1. Write down a few of the things that you've learned about the Holy Spirit in the last two sessions.
2. How should those truths start shaping the way you act? Have you seen this happen yet? Place a check mark beside any of the actions you just listed that you've begun to see in your life.

Think about the football-huddle analogy for a minute. Too often the church is like a football team that huddles, calls a play, and then sits on the bench – never to run the play that they got so excited about.

3. Think about your gathering of believers in light of the huddle analogy. Have you been running from the huddle to the bench? If so, in what ways?
4. God gave us the Spirit so the we might change the world through His power. How do you think he church would look if we all began "running the plays"?
5. How do you think the world would respond?

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6. Read the following statements about the Holy Spirit. Take your time. Think about the practical implications of that particular attribute of the Spirit. If you want to spend more time on each point, record your thoughts about how understanding that truth about the Spirit should affect our lives.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is not an impersonal force or thing. Many people refer to the Spirit as an “it,” but the Bible consistently describes the Spirit as a Person. Rather than using the spirit as an energy boost or tapping into Him like an electric current, we actually talk to Him, relate to Him, cooperate with Him, and make ourselves available to Him. Give an example of how this difference between Person and thing should affect the way we live.
 - b. *The Holy Spirit is God.* He is not less than the Father or the Son; He is consistently presented as equal (Matt. 28:19). (Acts 5:3-4). How do you think this ought to change the way we relate to Him?
 - c. *The Holy Spirit has His own mind and will.* He thinks and acts according to His own will and the will of God the Father (Rom. 8:27; 1 Cor. 12:11). How should the thought that the Holy Spirit has His own mind and will affect the way you think and plan?
 - d. *The Holy Spirit has emotions.* (Eph. 4:30) We rarely think about the effect our sin has on God, but He is clearly saddened when we fail to honor him as we ought. How should understanding that the Spirit can be grieved affect our attitude towards sin?
 - e. *The Holy Spirit is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present.* In Zechariah 4:6 God calls His people to rely on the power of the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 2:10, Paul not only says that the Holy Spirit knows everything, but that He reveals truth to us. And in Psalms 139:7-8, David tells us that the Spirit is everywhere, and we cannot escape His presence. How do these three truths affect the way we look to the Spirit?
7. God’s Spirit work in and through us in a variety of ways to glorify Himself. Below is a list of ways that He does this. For each item, ask yourself, “How is the Spirit working in this way in my everyday life? Or how might He do so?”
 - a. Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12
 - b. Ps. 143:10; John 14-16; Acts 9:31; 13:2; 15:28; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; 1 John 5:6-8
 - c. Acts 1:8; Rom.8:26; Eph 3:16-19
 - d. Rom. 8:2

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- e. Rom. 8:15-16
 - f. John 16:7-11; 1 Thess.1:5
 - g. Rom. 8:10-11; 2 Cor. 3:17
 - h. Rom. 15:13
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:7
 - j. Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Cor 3:18
 - k. Rom. 8:26-17
8. Take a minute to ponder the amazing power of the Spirit of God. Looking at the situations God has placed you in, what do you think He might be calling you to do through the power of the Spirit?
9. Spend some time in prayer. After looking through these Scriptures about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does, there are bound to be a number of things that you need to begin applying to your life. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit so that the world around you will see His power.