

Prayers of the Holy Spirit

Communicator

Romans 8:12-18, 26-27

Participant's Guide

Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we have a very personal and direct way of communicating with God. God also has a very unique way of communicating with us and through us. Let's explore how we have become a conduit for God's messages thanks to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Throughout the book of Acts the disciples partnered with the Holy Spirit. Their connection to the Holy Spirit was often through prayer. They would pray to receive the Holy Spirit, or for help from the Holy Spirit, or to be used as a conduit for others to receive the Holy Spirit.



Read Acts 8:14-17 (Peter and John) and Acts 19:5-6 (Paul).

- Discuss the significance of laying hands on others when you pray for them.
- How is prayer a method of communication between you and the Holy Spirit?

Indebted

Once we receive the Holy Spirit we begin to understand the debt we owe to God for his gifts of mercy and grace. Prayer is one way we can show our thankfulness. The word used in Romans 8:12 for obligation/ debt is ***opheiletēs*** in Greek. It means a person indebted, a transgressor against God.

Read Romans 8:12-13.

- Why do believers feel indebted to God?
- How does Paul tell us to react to this indebtedness? What does the Holy Spirit have to do with our behavior?

Inheritance

Because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are given a new identity, an inheritance and a revelation that will change our lives.

Read Romans 8:14-18.

- From the verses, how would you define a Child of God?
- The Greek word translated as adoption is **huiothesia**. It means giving a person full legal standing as a son and heir. What does that imply about our relationship with God?
- What is the connection between the Holy Spirit being named as our paraclete (family attorney—see last week’s lesson) and our adoption as children of God?
- If your life was on trial, who would stand on your side of the courtroom? How does that make you feel?
- How does being a child of God help put earthly suffering into perspective?
- Read Ephesians 4:30-32 and 5:18-20. How did Paul describe the actions of believers who lean on the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Intercessory Prayer

The Holy Spirit (paraclete) not only advises us and defends us, he also intercedes for us.

Read Romans 8:26-27 and 15:30-32.

The word translated as intercedes or prays in Greek is actually two different but related words. In verse 8:27, Paul uses the word **entugchano**, which means confer with, deal with, and intercede for. In verse 8:26, he uses **huperentugchano**. Notice that it is the same base word with a prefix added. It means to intercede or plead the case, but the added prefix is related to a word that means overcome implying that the intercession would

overcome any objections. The word translated as urge/beg in 15:30 is ***parakaleo***, and means to call near, to exhort, pray, or entreat and as you can see comes from the same root word as paraclete.

- How is praying a form of intercession and a way of pleading our case to God?
- To what lengths will the Holy Spirit go in prayers and help for us?
- Read Ephesians 6:18. How did Paul describe the Holy Spirit's role in our prayers? How do you ask the Holy Spirit to come alongside you in prayer?
- What might it feel like to have the Holy Spirit as a partner in prayer? If you have witnessed this, share your experience with your group.

Personal Epistle

An *epistle* is a long and formal letter. It can be personal or official correspondence. It is similar to a research paper because it takes time and thought to write. It is usually addressed to a person or an organization.

Many of the books in the New Testament are epistles written by Paul, Peter, James, John and other followers of Jesus. Although they are also called letters, they are not what we typically tend to think of when we hear the word letter. An epistle is important, complicated, instructive, and thought-provoking.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:2-3.

- Paul stated that believers in Corinth were an epistle/letter from Christ. What did he say was the role of the Holy Spirit in their epistle?
- Read Hebrews 10:15-16 and John 14:26. How do these verses support what Paul said in 2 Corinthians?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7. Why was Paul praying for the people of Thessalonica? How are they a letter from Christ to the people around them?
- Imagine yourself as a letter from Jesus to everyone in your life. What message is in your letter? Who is reading your letter? What do you want your letter to tell the world about Christ?
- Write down the name of someone who has been a letter from Christ to you. Say a silent prayer of thanksgiving for that person's influence in your walk of faith.

Resources

Books

- Brand, Draper, England, ed., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)
- Gregory, S.W and Gregory, D. *Getting to Know the Holy Spirit: Study Guide* (Evansville: Vortex Publishing, 2017)
- Ryrie, Charles C. *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Publishing, 1997)
- Strong, James, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996)
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame* (Dallas: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993)

Online

- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/browse/search?query=Holy%20Spirit>
- <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com> (search on "Holy Spirit + prayer")
- www.enduringword.com
- www.bible-history.com