

Mystery 5

Mysterious Ways The Holy Spirit Works In Our Lives

...He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 NLT

ICEBREAKER: Has anyone ever shown you a significant amount of mercy (for example, maybe they forgave you of a debt or a major offense)? How did that make you feel? What did that do for you?

This New Life Brings...

DISCUSSION: Do you struggle accepting the fact that you are clean due to Christ's sacrifice on the cross? Do you ever find yourself consciously or unconsciously trying to earn your salvation? How? Why? How do you live your life as a reflection of what Christ has done for you?

New Direction -

*Who has directed the **Spirit** of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him? Isaiah 40:13 NASB*

DISCUSSION: How does the Holy Spirit move and direct your life? What are some of the new directions the Holy Spirit has taken you besides just abstaining from certain negative behaviors? What kinds of things are you more willing to do now that the Holy Spirit is in your life? How is this direction made evident to those around you?

New Power -

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere— in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 NLT

DISCUSSION: What habit have you tried, but have been unable, to overcome? How have you tried to open your life to the Holy Spirit in order to allow Him to work in you to overcome that habit?

DISCUSSION: Real change comes from your heart not just a change of habit. Why do you think that you have the power to affect real heart change without the Holy Spirit? If you did have that power, then for what reason would you need the Holy Spirit?

DISCUSSION: Have you ever had moments of spiritual power where you felt particularly in touch with what God was doing? What was that like? Did you feel like you were able to do things beyond your own ability or knowledge?

New Love -

...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5 ESV

DISCUSSION: Have you ever found yourself out of love for another person? Would you open yourself to viewing that as an opportunity for you to depend on God to love that person? What would it be like, if the next time you found yourself not wanting to love someone, you called out to God and asked Him to love them through you?

New Convictions -

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17 ESV

New Joy -

*...because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit...
1 Thessalonians 1:5-6 ESV*

DISCUSSION: What ultimately happens when you try to find joy in something other than God? If you believe that true joy comes from God, then why do you look to other things for joy?

New Priorities –

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. Acts 20:28
ESV*

DISCUSSION: How do your priorities reflect a life changed by the power of the Holy Spirit? What are some things in your life that you need to put a higher priority on? (Be specific; “your relationship with God” is not a specific or helpful answer)

PRAYER PROJECT: Spend a few minutes reading Gal 5:25 a few times through, slowly and aloud. Then spend 5-7 minutes alone with God and quietly ask Him to show you how He would like you to apply this to your life. Ask Him to show you any changes that you need to make.