The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

- One greatest blessings / Christian life = not left to walk alone
- Everlasting gospel not merely=<u>God loves us /Jesus died for us</u>
  - <u>God gives us fellowship of indwelling Holy Spirit</u>
  - Resulting = partnership of eternal life
  - Live in real / transforming relationship = w/God of love

Philippians 2:1, 2 "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

- Jesus reveals / love of God = result of that love = fellowship
  - Both w/ God = w/ one another
- Role of Holy Spirit /essential = when He is welcomed
  - **Romans 5:5 =** love of God is poured into heart by Spirit
  - fellowship becomes real
  - living / warm / Christ-centered / life-giving / unifying
- Some say= Spirit = only force / an influence / or divine energy
  - But Scripture presents Him = as far more than that
- Jesus describes Spirit = as Divine Person = w/ divine actions
  - Divine Person = who knows / loves / leads / speaks
- **John 14:16, 17** Jesus calls Holy Spirit "another Helper"
  - allos Paracletos = Advocate/comforter/helper
    - Person exactly like Him in nature/character
  - GK "another" allos (exactly same)
    - vs. heteros = one of same kind
- **John 14:26** says He **teaches** /=/ **John 15:26** says He **testifies**
- Paul teaches Personhood of Spirit powerfully
  - 40+ references to Spirit in his letters to Corinthians

1 Corinthians 2:10, 11 Spirit searches all things, yes, deep things of God = only God can know depths of God in this way
1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"
1 Corinthians 12:11 Spirit distributes gifts to each one individually as He wills.

- Reveals divine personhood = chooses / gives / equips
    - He orders the church / according to = wisdom of God

2 Corinthians 3:6 "the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

- That's difference between legalism / gospel
    - Legalism tries to / change behavior / from outside
    - Holy Spirit / changes heart / from inside
        - He does not = merely force compliance
- He creates surrender / He writes God's law upon our hearts
    - as = joyful expression of love / awakened by grace

2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

- Holy Spirit brings = **life** / where there was death
    - **freedom** /where there was bondage
    - **victory** /where there was defeat
- Paul teaches = Holy Spirit reveals / deep things of God
    - teaches us truth /empowers mission / builds up church
    - gives gifts / **seals us for salvation** / writes law on hearts
    - gives new life in Christ / sets us free from power of sin

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- Paul would **never** place Spirit alongside Father/Son
    - in language of Christian blessing / fellowship

- if Spirit were merely an impersonal power

- Spirit is not / lesser power = He is God present w/ His people

Romans 8:15, 16 Spirit bears witness w/ our spirit that we are the children of God

- Believer / not abandoned to weakness
  - God Himself / thru Spirit
    - takes up residence = in life surrendered to Christ

Ephesians 3:16, 17, "be strengthened w/might thru His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts thru faith."

Ephesians 3:18, 19 continues / explains purpose – that we may be rooted/grounded in love = knowing His immeasurable love / that we may be filled w/ fullness of God

- Cannot understand love of God fully = W/O Holy Spirit
- Spirit dwells within us / transforms us / teaches us
  - Strengthens us / makes Christ real in us
- This / not surface religion = this / inward transformation
  - **experiencing Spirit's power that leads to obedience**
    - motivated by love / covenant loyalty

Colossians 1:27 "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

- Hope of glory = not merely that we will someday see Him
  - be like Him
- It is that even now = by Spirit = **Christ living His life in us**
  - developing His character in us
- How desperately we need = Holy Spirit each day
- Because He /divine = know this fellowship / not mere feeling
  - Life of God shared w/His people
  - Holy Spirit comforts / brokenhearted
    - Convicts / wandering soul

        - Strengthens / weary believer
        - Unites / church in love/truth
- **Let us not =** resist Him / neglect Him
    - **Let us not =** reduce Him to an abstract influence
- Welcome Holy Spirit = as divine Person He is
- Pray daily for His filling / yield to His leading
    - cherish His presence / FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship of Holy Spirit = one of heaven's greatest gifts to us

- Where Spirit is = **Christ is made known**
- Where Spirit is = **love becomes real**
- Where Spirit is = **fellowship becomes holy**
- Where Spirit is =**there is life /liberty / blessed assurance**
    - God who loves us is also living in us