

THIS is the LIFE

REC
GOSPEL

HONOR
JESUS AS KING

FOLLOW
THE HOLY SPIRIT

LIV
DEEPLY

INVEST
IN THE CHURCH

PURSUE
FUTURE DISCIPLES

RESTORE
THE BROKEN

JOURNAL – FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER 18-OCTOBER 16, 2022

SERIES INTRODUCTION

‘with’ → ‘in’ - *With* is the central experience of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Before creation, the Father was *with* the Son and the Son was *with* the Father by the Holy Spirit. And then, in the First Century, God the Son—Jesus, was *with* the disciples for three years in Palestine; he ate *with* them, laughed *with* them, taught *with* them, and lived on mission...*with* them. Until His Cross and Resurrection. He had forewarned them of His departure, but it didn’t really sink in until He was gone. Thankfully, Jesus had also promised that their experience of Him would surprisingly improve after He left. Which seemed counter intuitive, until the arrival of the Holy Spirit. King Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to not only be *with* His disciples, but to be *in* them. The original 12 and all of Jesus’ disciples down to our day have testified to the indwelling presence of God Himself—the Holy Spirit. He communicates God’s love directly to our hearts. He is the power of God to transform us. He is the wisdom of God to guide and direct us. Let’s learn to together what it means to follow the Holy Spirit.

HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

What’s new in this journal: Daily Prayer Prompt – One of the keys to following the Holy Spirit is remembering to listen, to stop and ask the Spirit to lead us. Since our memory verse is Galatians 5:25, we encourage you to set a daily reminder for 5:25 PM to stop and ask the Spirit to lead you. (You early morning people could also set it for 5:25 AM!) Let’s all stop together at the same time of the day, ask the Spirit to lead, and see what He does! We continue in this journal:

1. Group Discussion Questions – If you’re not already in a Community Group that is discussing the weekly themes and sermons, we encourage you to join one or form your own. (Reach out to Pastor Bill at bcraig@hopemason.org for ideas.) Questions with an asterisk are recommended discussion questions, along with the “For Further Reflection” questions at the end of each week.

2. “For Further Reflection” Questions – For those of you who like to do a deeper dive, we’ve provided questions to take you a little further into the passage and theme for the week.

3. Scripture Memory – We continue to “hide God’s Word in your heart” by memorizing Matthew 28:18-20.

4. Worship Song - In the Tuesday e-mail, we’ll be including a “Song of the Week” that relates to the Scripture theme for the week. We recommend listening to that song on Wednesday as part of your time with God.

YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit, for many Christians, is the least talked about and understood Person of the Godhead. Francis Chan calls Him, “The Forgotten God.” Before we begin this series, take some time to write out your thoughts about the Holy Spirit. Feel free to use the Notes pages in the back if needed.

- What were you taught in your younger years about the Holy Spirit?
- What Scripture passages come to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit, if any?
- What do you understand to be the primary activities of the Holy Spirit?
- Have you had any special or unique experiences in your life that you believe were from the Holy Spirit? What about those experiences lead you to believe it was the Holy Spirit?
- What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

DAILY PRAYER FOR “FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Below is a prayer we’d like to encourage you to pray **daily** for the next 35 days, over the course of this sermon series.

Holy Spirit, thank you for your constant presence within me.

Guide me today in the way I should go, as I follow your lead.

Make me wise and responsive to your promptings.

Strengthen me and bear the fruit of Jesus’ character in me today.

MONDAY

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family.

Read: We're going to spend the first three days this week reading about the Holy Spirit's activity in the Old Testament. Read the following verses (21 verses total):

- Genesis 1:1-2
- Exodus 31:1-5
- Numbers 11:24-30
- Judges 3:7-11
- 1 Samuel 16:13-14

Reflect: *What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses? What was the Spirit doing? To whom was the Holy Spirit given, and why?

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Our memory verse for this series is Galatians 5:25. Read it slowly multiple times and reflect on it as you read.

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25*

Pray and Read: We continue to walk through Old Testament passages about the Holy Spirit. Pray the daily prayer, then read the following (17 verses total):

- 2 Samuel 23:1-4
- Psalm 143:9-10
- Zechariah 7:12-14
- 1 Peter 1:10-12
- 2 Peter 1:16-20

Reflect: *What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses? What questions do you have?

WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 12-16

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray and Read: We continue to walk through Old Testament passages about the Holy Spirit. Pray the daily prayer, then read the following (24 verses total):

- Psalm 139:7-10
- Isaiah 11:1-5
- Isaiah 61:1-3
- Ezekiel 36:22-29
- Joel 2:26-29

Reflect: *What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses? What questions do you have?

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



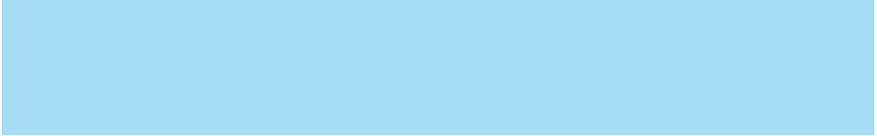
Pray and Read: Today we look at some passages about the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus. Pray the daily prayer, then read the following (19 verses total):

- Matthew 1:18-22
- Matthew 3:11 and 16-17
- Matthew 4:1
- John 14:15-17 and 25-26
- John 16:7-11

Reflect: *What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses? What questions do you have?

FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer, then read Acts 2:1-21.

Reflect: What sign accompanied the initial giving of the Spirit? Why might God have chosen that as a sign?"

Read: Read Pastor Stephen's reflections on this week's theme in his book *Multiply*, pages 150-158. (Reach out to the church office if you'd like to purchase a copy of the book for \$10.)

Shapes: *How do you see all four of our "shapes" in these passages?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace in these teachings about the Holy Spirit this week?



***Love God:** What are some main things we learn about God?



***Love One Another:** What do we learn about the Church, our brothers and sisters in Christ?



***Love the World:** How would you summarize what you learned about the Holy Spirit this week to someone who doesn't know God?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Acts 2 begins with “When the day of Pentecost arrived...” What was Pentecost celebrating originally? Do a little research, if necessary.
- Read other passages about the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament:
 - 2 Chronicles 15:1-8
 - 2 Chronicles 24:20
 - Isaiah 42:1-4
 - Isaiah 44:1-5
 - Micah 3:8-12

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Opening question: What, if anything, did you hear about the Holy Spirit in your early years?
- What did you learn about the Holy Spirit from the readings this week and the sermon?
- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).
- See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

SERMON NOTES

SEPTEMBER 18

YOUR NOTES

WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 19-23

MONDAY

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family.

Read: *Our primary passage for this week is Romans 8:1-11. Check the context before and after this passage, then read it slowly (we encourage you to read it out loud).

Reflect: *First of all, let the truth of verse 1 soak in. Read it again, and thank God for amazing grace!

*List everything Paul says in these verses about life “in the flesh” (following our sinful inclinations).

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family, then read Romans 8:1-11.

Reflect: *In verses 3-4, Paul talks about how God dealt with our inability to obey the law. Write these verses out in your own words.

*How have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in you, enabling you to live differently? In what ways would you like to see Him work more in you?

WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 19-23

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family, then read Romans 8:1-11.

Reflect: *Paul talks in verse 5 about where we set our minds. Are there ways that you have been setting your minds on things of the flesh lately? How? Ask God to help you set your mind on things of the Spirit instead.

*Read Galatians 5:16-18. How do these verses reflect what Paul says in Romans 8:1-11? What is added?

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family.

Reflect: *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Romans 8:1-11 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

Think through one of the “For Further Reflection” questions.

FRIDAY

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family, then read Romans 8:1-11.

Shapes: *How are all four of our “shapes” reflected in this passage?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God’s grace, His undeserved kindness, in this passage?



***Love God:** What do we learn about God?



***Love One Another:** What truth from this passage might you share with a brother or sister in Christ at Hope to encourage them?



***Love the World:** Look again at the list you made on Monday about those who live “in the flesh.” Pray for people you know who are “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that they would know life and peace in the Spirit!

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- What is the result of setting the mind on things of the Spirit (verse 6)? How have you seen this in your own life?
- In light of 8:8, how would you respond to someone who asked you, “Is it pleasing to God when people who aren’t Christians do good things, like helping the poor?” Explain.
- What is the role of each member of the Trinity in this passage? (Note what the Holy Spirit is called “The Spirit of…” in these verses.)
- Continue reading in Romans 8 (especially verses 12-17). What does Paul say about the Spirit in these verses?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Opening question: How did it go this week with the daily reminders to ask the Spirit to lead? Did any of you sense the (possible) leading of the Spirit and respond?
- What did you learn about the Holy Spirit from the readings this week and the sermon?
- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps…we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).
- See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

SERMON NOTES

SEPTEMBER 25

YOUR NOTES

WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 26-30

MONDAY

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family.

Read: *Our primary passage for this week is John 16:12-15. Check the context before and after this passage, with particular attention to chapters 14-16. What is Jesus talking about in context? Then read the passage aloud (if possible), slowly.

Reflect: *List the things in these verses that Jesus says the Holy Spirit will do.

*Just before our passage, in verse 7, Jesus says it is to the disciples' advantage that He go away. Why is that?

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Pray and Read: Again, pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope family, then read John 16:12-15.

Reflect: *What does Jesus teach in these verses about how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relate with each other?

*What is helpful or meaningful to you about that? What questions do you have?

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray and Read: For the rest of this week, we’re going to look at examples of how the Holy Spirit led the apostles in the book of Acts. Pray the daily prayer, then read Acts 8:26-40.

Reflect: *How did the Holy Spirit lead Philip? Have you ever sensed God leading you in a very clear way? Explain.

*What questions do you have about the Spirit’s leading in your life? What is one step you could take to seek answers to the most important of those questions? Consider taking a step this week!

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Pray and Read: Today we continue to read how the Holy Spirit led the apostles in the book of Acts. Pray the daily prayer, then read Acts 13:1-5 and Acts 16:6-10.

Reflect: * How did the Holy Spirit lead in these passages? What questions do you have about that?

*Imagine someone said to you, “God told me to…” and then related some very specific word they believe they received from the Holy Spirit that isn’t directly in Scripture. Based on passages we’ve read this week, is that possible? What cautions would you offer?

FRIDAY

Read: Look back through the passages we read this week.

Read: Read Pastor Stephen's reflections on Generosity on pages 211-215 of his book, *Multiply*.

Shapes: *How do all four of our "shapes" show up in the passages for this week?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace, His undeserved kindness?



***Love God:** What do we learn about God?



***Love One Another:** What brother or sister in Christ at Hope do you know is seeking the Lord's leading in some way? Pray for them, asking the Spirit to lead them in clear ways. Consider letting them know that you're praying for them.



***Love the World:** People who are "outside the faith but inside our reach" don't know or experience the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Pray for them, that they would know this amazing grace!

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

Read other passages about the Holy Spirit in Acts. What do these verses teach us about the Holy Spirit?

- Acts 4:5-13
- Acts 4:23-31
- Acts 7:51-60
- Acts 9:31
- Acts 10:9-20
- Acts 10:44-48
- Acts 11:27-30
- Acts 20:17-38
- Acts 21:10-14
- Acts 28:23-30

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Opening question: Has there been a time in your life when you sensed the Holy Spirit leading you? How did you know it was the Spirit?
- Refer to this week's questions that have an "*" by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we're all learning the same translation).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

SERMON NOTES

OCTOBER 2

YOUR NOTES

WEEK 4: OCTOBER 3-7

MONDAY

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family.

Read: *Our primary passage for this week is Galatians 5:19-26, but first, check the context before and after this passage, with particular attention to 5:1-18 (verses 16-18 should look familiar from week 2). What is Paul talking about in context? Then read the passage aloud slowly.

Reflect: *In this passage, Paul contrasts the flesh (our “natural” desires and life before we knew Christ) and the Spirit. What does he say about the flesh in this passage? What does it look like? What is its end?

*On the Notes page, write out each “work of the flesh” Paul lists in verses 19-21. By each, write why it is a “work of the flesh.” (For example, what is it about jealousy that makes it a work of the flesh? Why is it “against the Spirit”? What about divisions?)

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer, then read Galatians 5:19-26.

Reflect: What does it mean to “walk by the Spirit”? How do we do that?

*How does Paul describe the life of the Spirit (what it looks like, its result)? How do you see these things in your life? Thank God for them!

WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer, then read Galatians 5:19-26.

Reflect: Look again at the context of this passage. What is Paul addressing in 5:1-15 (especially 13-15), and how does he close this section in verse 25? How does our passage relate to that context?

*Read Acts 1:8. As we’ve been reading in Galatians, the Holy Spirit empowers a different kind of life. What does the Spirit enable the disciples (and us) to do? How do you see that in your life? How would you like to see it?

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Pray: Pray the daily prayer for this series.

Reflect: *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Galatians 5:19-26 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

*Share your “1” thing with a brother or sister in Christ. Pray for them, and ask them to pray for you.

FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.

Read: Read Pastor Stephen's reflections on this week's theme on pages 216-220 of his book, *Multiply*.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer, then read Galatians 5:19-26, then reflect. How do all four of our "shapes" show up in our passage this week?



***Receive Gospel Grace:** Where do we see God's grace?



***Love God:** What do we learn about God, and how we love Him?



***Love One Another:** How does the Spirit impact how we love our brothers and sisters in Christ? What is one area you want to ask the Spirit to develop more deeply in you, so that you might love your brothers and sisters in Christ as He does?



***Love the World:** Read again the description of life in the flesh vs. life in the Spirit. Pray for those who are "outside the faith but inside your reach," that they would know the joy of repentance, and life in the Spirit.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Try to put the list of the “works of the flesh” into larger categories. Certainly, sexual sin would be one category that a number of them would fit. What are others?
- Compare and contrast the “works of the flesh” with the “fruit of the Spirit.” How do they relate?
- In verse 24, Paul says that “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Why, then, do we still experience sinful passions and desires, do you think?
- Read 6:1-9. How are we supposed to treat brothers and sisters in Christ who fall into these “works of the flesh”?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Opening question: What are some ways you have seen the fruit of the Spirit evidenced by others in your group? Spend some time affirming each other.
- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps...we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).
- See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

SERMON NOTES

OCTOBER 9

YOUR NOTES

WEEK 5: OCTOBER 10-14

MONDAY

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for yourself and your Hope Church family.

Context: Our primary passage for this week is 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, but first, check the context before and after this passage. Read through chapter 1 through 2:5. What does Paul say about wisdom?

Read and Reflect: *Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 aloud slowly. What does Paul say about wisdom in these verses?

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer, then read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

Reflect: *What does Paul say about the Holy Spirit in this passage?

*What does Paul say about the “natural person” and the “spiritual person” in verses 14-16? Which are the Corinthians? (see 3:1-4) How do we reconcile this with 1:2?

WEDNESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Worship in Song: Listen to the “Song of the Week” in Hope’s Tuesday e-mail.

Reflect: *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you. Write your notes below.

*Share your “1” thing with a brother or sister in Christ (maybe a different one than last week?). Pray for them, and ask them to pray for you.

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 5:25. Reflect on it as you write.



Pray: Today and tomorrow, we look back over the whole series to prayerfully reflect on the theme, “Follow the Holy Spirit.” Pray the daily prayer, then review your thoughts and questions about the Holy Spirit from week 1. Were any of your questions addressed?

Barriers: *What makes it hard for me to “Follow the Holy Spirit”? Some examples might be:

- Mystery – “How can I relate to Someone I don’t understand?”
- Fear – “If I follow the Spirit, where will He lead me?”
- Uncertainty – “How do I know that the prompting is from the Spirit and not just me?”
- Other –

Share that barrier with a trusted friend. Ask them to pray with and for you, that God would help you overcome that barrier and live a life of following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

FRIDAY

Consider gathering some people from Hope to discuss these with you in the coming week.

Review – *Look back over the last five weeks. What have you learned about the Holy Spirit? What has God been saying to you? Write down some key thoughts and ideas.

Question – *What is your biggest question right now about “Following the Holy Spirit”?

Next Step – *What is ONE next step God might have you take to grow in “Following the Holy Spirit”? You can also see “Possible Next Steps” for further ideas. Write some possibilities below and put a star by the one you sense God leading you to take. Then share it with a friend!

Benefits – *What benefits will come to you as you grow to “Follow the Holy Spirit” more faithfully? What benefits might come to God’s people at Hope from your following His leading? What benefits might come to people outside Hope?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- We suggest using the summary questions on Thursday (“Barriers”) and Friday as your group discussion this week, wrapping up the series.
- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS FOR “FOLLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT”:

- Often, we look for the leading of the Spirit in areas the Bible doesn't speak specifically to (which job to take, if and where to move, etc.), but the far more important question is, “Are you following the Holy Spirit in ways you know He's leading...the clear teachings of Scripture?” Spend some time asking God to show you if there are ways you are resisting or ignoring His clear leading in His Word.
- When you do sense that the Spirit may be prompting you to do something, run it through several tests:
 - Check to see if it's consistent with what Scripture says. The Spirit will never lead you to act in a way contrary to what He has revealed in the Bible.
 - Admit to God and yourself what you really want. It's easy to keep wrestling with hearing God because we don't like the answer we're getting. We can find good spiritual reasons to do just about anything short of sin that we want to do so be honest with yourself and God.
 - Seek counsel from trusted, mature followers of Jesus to see if there's something missing in your thinking. Ask them to pray with and for you.
 - Trust that God will lead you. He doesn't play “Hide and Seek” with His will. He wants you to know His will more than you want to know it. So, after committing your way to the Lord, walk forward joyfully, confident that He'll lead!
- If you're in an ongoing group that meets for spiritual growth, continue to pray for each other over the next number of weeks, that you will sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and respond. Share how it's going each time you meet. Text each other reminders through the week.
- Read a book about the Holy Spirit:
 - *The Forgotten God* by Francis Chan
 - *The Holy Spirit* by Billy Graham
 - *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* by R.C. Sproul
 - *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* by Michael Green
 - *The Holy Spirit* by Sinclair Ferguson
 - *Keep In Step with the Spirit* by J.I. Packer
 - *God the Holy Spirit* by Martyn Lloyd Jones
- Brainstorm other steps you could take:

SERMON NOTES

OCTOBER 16

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