

Chapter 3: The Holy Spirit and Us Based on Paragraph 2; Lines 1-4

“Paul wrote, ‘the Holy Spirit is the power that brings the soul to life. It is the energy that drives every one of us.’”

The Holy Spirit is the element of the Godhead that interacts with us in the most direct and mystical way. It feeds our desire to worship, praise, and rely upon God. It gives us the ability to love and be loved. It makes all of the goodness that became flesh in Jesus seem close; even though he walked 2,000 years ago it feels like he is walking beside us when we are attuned to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit connects us to the feeling of God, but does it bring life? Both Paul and John suggest it does. John 6: 63 tells us that “the Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing” (NIV). Many who know nothing of God and the Spirit are alive, but what is the nature of their souls. I can think of two possibilities.

What if the Spirit gives us the capacity to LIVE in a way that is beyond understanding for those who do not know the Spirit? Love is experienced differently for those who know the Spirit. Maybe the indwelling of the Spirit allows us to take off the blinders that keep us from experiencing the love of God.

What if the Spirit lives in all of us? Some of us recognize the Spirit and give God the credit for its influence in our lives. Others either never recognize the influence of the Spirit or worse, give themselves the credit for the Spirit’s influence in our lives.

God gave Adam the breath of life, literally bringing his body into existence. Directly connected with God, perhaps Adam never interacted with the Spirit the way we do today. The greatest guide Jesus left his followers with was the gift of the Spirit. The result included spiritual gifts but also a connection to the love that is God. I believe this love never left the world after Adam’s mistake but the source of the love was highlighted through Jesus and the Spirit.

There is a distinction between existing and living. When we exist, we survive at the very surface of our potential, barely understanding or experience God. We are like mere ghosts of God’s vision for us. When we live we experience life through the sometimes subtle pokes and influences of the Holy Spirit. We are maneuvered into relationship and love. We are no longer wandering ghosts, but students, guided by the Holy Ghosts. This is life!

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