

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- **Identity in Christ**  
"I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God."
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

### Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

### Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

**A**s we continue in our series on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, I pray that you are being sharpened, deepened and encouraged in your understanding. It's all too easy to read over words that are packed with meaning and miss the depth of the message that they contain. Some of the words are those we'll encounter this week—sealing, guaranteeing and the like. My encouragement to you is to let these words sink in deeply as you encounter them in Scripture. For example, what does it mean to you that your eternity is guaranteed by God? How does that impact the way you think, act and feel today? I trust that as God opens His Word to you (through the same Holy Spirit) that you'll simply grow to love Him that much more.

Because of Him,

**Richard Gotthardt**, Pastor of Spiritual Formation

### Monday

Begin your time in God's Word with prayer. Ask God to give you an increasing love for His Word and a deeper understanding of the meaning and application for your life.

Read John 16:7-11.

Flip back a couple pages and scan chapters 13 & 14. Who is Jesus speaking to and what is the context?

Reread John 16:7-11.

What role does the Counselor fulfill in our lives?

Think back to the time that you came to faith in Christ. How was the Spirit at work in your life at that time?

The Spirit was sent to convict them of sin in order to draw unbelievers to the truth of their need for Jesus. He also has an ongoing role of conviction in the believer's life, so that the believer will continue to surrender and repent of sin.

Think back over the last week. Describe a time you saw the spirit convict you of sin in your life. Thank Him for His work of conviction.

Ask God to show you any areas of unconfessed sin in your life, ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of your resistance to change and then ask for the strength to take steps towards holiness.

### Tuesday

Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-22.

Context: Paul has changed his plans to visit Corinth twice on his journey. He desires that the church understand that his word can be trusted although his plans had to change. He is also concerned that the church might mistrust him and then reflect this onto the character of Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

What do these verses tell us about what God has done and will do in our lives?

Verse 21 says he anointed us, the Greek word and meaning for anointed is:

Xriōw (pronounced kree-o) - endowed Christians with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Verse 22 says that God set his seal of ownership on the believer.

Sit in silence for a few moments. Think about what it means to have your life "owned" by the God of the Universe. Write down some of these thoughts in the space below.

How did this affect the faith of the Corinthian believers?

How is your life, lived through the power of the Holy Spirit, causing those around you to believe in God's power in their own lives?

### **Wednesday**

Begin your time in prayer, asking God to help you understand His Word and apply it to your life today.

Read Ephesians 1:11-14

To better understand this passage, write it out in your own words.

Reread verses 13-14. Now read these verses in your own words.

When we came to belief in God and accepted Jesus as our Savior, we were given the Holy Spirit. What does this verse say about the Holy Spirit and His role in our life?

Thank God for His Spirit and the redemption that the Holy Spirit guarantees to us as children of God.

### **Thursday**

Begin your time asking God to focus your mind on His Word today.

Read Galatians 4:6-7.

Read these insights from the Intersociety New Testament commentary on these verses:

"To know at the deepest level of our being that God is our Father and we are his sons and daughters is not the result of theological research or moral achievement, but the result of God's **sending the Spirit of his Son to speak to us and to convince us that despite all our guilt, fears and doubts, the Father of Jesus is our Father too.** To know God as our Father in this way is not merely intellectual apprehension of a doctrine, not merely warm feelings about God, but a life-transforming conscious awareness of the reality of our intimate relationship with God our Father."

"We should always be amazed that when we pray we are included in the conversation of the Triune God. When we call God 'Abba, Father,' we are reminded by the very word *Abba* that Jesus used this name for God the Father in his prayers. We can address God as Father only because his Son gives us the right to do so. And **we can exercise our right to call God Abba only by the activity of his Spirit within us who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'** We call God *Abba* through the Son and in the power of the Spirit." (*Intersociety Press – www.biblegateway.net*)

Reread Galatians 4:6-7, meditating on these truths.

Respond to this passage through prayer, thanking God for His Work through the Spirit.

### **Friday**

Take a few moments to reflect on what you have been learning about the Holy Spirit. Jot down your observations in the space below.

Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of who the Holy Spirit is and His work in your life again today.

Read Romans 8:15-17.

Describe an area of your life in which you are enslaved to fear.

From these verses, what answer does God offer to us in regard to our fear?

The Holy Spirit is constantly communicating to us that we are dearly loved, protected children of God. How might a deeper understanding of this truth affect your area of fear? (Be specific.)

Spend some time in prayer, telling God about this area of fear. Ask the Spirit of God within you to reaffirm God's nearness, love and care in your life.