



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL GOD - Week 6.

God the Holy Spirit; who He is (His being)

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus anew upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. They can be read through reasonably quickly or form the basis of deeper consideration and meditation.

Readings

Genesis 1:2; Psalm 51: 10-17; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-16; and John 14: 15-21

Prayer, Praise and Meditation. Begin with Psalm 51 as a prayer then meditate upon the role of the Holy Spirit in our relationship with God

The Spirit of God (Read Gen 1:2; John 14:16 & 20; 1Cor 2: 10-13)

On Sunday we considered how the Holy Spirit is both God and a person: He is omnipotent (all powerful); He is omnipresent (everywhere); and omniscient (all knowing). How do these scriptures lead us to these conclusions and what do they tell us about His character (think back to Isaiah 11: 2-3, are there connections today with your previous reflections)? As God the Holy Spirit relates to the Father and Son as an equal person (Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13: 14) and with the apostles He displays His own distinct personality (Acts 15: 28). He is God and Person and we can receive Him (1 Cor 2: 12); how do we do this, how do we relate to Him (have a relationship with Him)?

The Spirit of Life

In our Creed we affirm that the Holy Spirit is the 'Lord and Giver of Life.' Consider how He gives life physically (Gen 2: 7), spiritually (John 3:3 & 5-6) to individuals and to the Church (John 20: 22 &

Acts 2); do we believe He does this? We can receive the Holy Spirit within us (Roms 8:9 & 1 Cor 3: 16) which is a gift from God to all believers (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:16-17; and Rom 5:5). What does this indwelling of the Holy Spirit really mean; how can His presence help us as Christians in our lives and in the Church?

The Spirit of Truth (Read 1 Cor 2: 6-16)

In our readings from John and 1 Corinthians we see the Holy Spirit described as the Spirit of Truth who knows God's mind and communicates certain truths to us. These truths refer to the message of the cross (1 Cor 1:18) and other spiritual truths (1 Cor 2:10-13). Look at 1 Cor 1: 18-31 then recall how we considered Jesus to be full of grace and truth as the Light and Life of the world. What is the Spirit's role in conveying these truths and helping us to understand them in light of the worldly messages in our culture today which considers the message of the cross, foolish?

For further thought and study:

We've considered how the Holy Spirit gives life and indwells. What therefore might His role be within evangelism and the growing of the Church (consider Acts 2 and the result, Acts 5:14, of the disciples being filled with the Spirit, Acts 4:31)? How might we at St Aidan's respond to such examples and truth?

Pause and Reflect

Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 12:2 are key passages in our focus upon God and linking to the Vision we believe He has given St Aidan's. If we are to reflect God and allow Him to change our being and therefore our doing we need to know Him. How might 1 Cor 2: 16 assist? If the Spirit gives life, indwells within us and teaches us the truth what part can we play in receiving these blessings and in developing the mind of Christ within us?

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