



Sermon Notes

Term – Summer

Series – **Life in the Spirit**

Gathering & Date – The 5, 26th May 2019

Title – Relationship with the Holy Spirit

Preacher – Chris Brown

Reading – Acts 10:1-23

Main message of this talk in one sentence – We are invited into relationship with the Holy Spirit out of which we participate in the creative work of the Holy Spirit.

Main points –

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit). Jesus gives all who believe in him the right to be children of God. When we choose to follow Jesus, to live our lives in submission to Jesus, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. We are invited to build relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The open invitation from the Holy Spirit could read like this:

“I’d really like to spend time with you, let me know when you’re free.”

To respond to that invitation we need to **be available** to the Holy Spirit. That is to make an intentional physical movement towards the Holy Spirit. In Acts 10:9 Peter demonstrates this by going up on the roof to pray. For each of us, the time and place of this physical movement will look different. The key aspect is that it gives us space to be fully present with the Holy Spirit.

When we are available to the Holy Spirit, we also need to **be attentive** to the Holy Spirit. That is to posture our hearts towards the Holy Spirit, to listen carefully to the Holy Spirit and to engage in conversation. Peter demonstrates this whilst on the roof praying. The Holy Spirit gives Peter a vision and speaks to him (verses 11-13). Peter doesn’t understand the vision so responds to the Holy Spirit and the dialogue continues (verses 14-16), leaving Peter with much to think about (verse 17).

Through relationship with the Holy Spirit we are given gifts by the Spirit and invited to participate in the creative work of the Holy Spirit. As seen in the whole account in Acts 10, the Holy Spirit is doing far more than we are aware of. Peter is only aware of a small part of what the Holy Spirit is doing, but trusts the Holy Spirit and responds in obedience. In our lives, in the communities we are part of, in Bristol and this nation the Holy Spirit is doing a vast amount of creative work. We are offered the amazing and exciting privilege of participating in that work.

For further thought and prayer –

- How do you feel about receiving an invitation from the Holy Spirit to spend time together?
- Think of one specific action you can take to be available to the Holy Spirit in the next week.
- Are there areas where you are already aware of some of the creative work of the Holy Spirit? Share these with each other.
- Spend time together listening to the Holy Spirit and share any scriptures, words, pictures, thoughts that you think the Holy Spirit is giving you. Don’t worry if you don’t get given anything to share, often we get to simply be present with the Holy Spirit without being given things to share.
- Pray for each other to experience even greater intimacy with the Holy Spirit and for opportunities to be involved in the Holy Spirit’s creative work.