

We are looking at areas of growth and maturity for a Jesus Follower.

Today, look at this piece of the puzzle:

A growing and maturing cooperation with the Holy Spirit's work in their life

We all know that life is hard. There are many challenges that we face. The good news is that God has not left us here to figure it all out on our own. We don't have to navigate this life alone. We don't have to rely on our own resources and intelligence. We don't have to hope for the "lucky breaks." He has given us the Holy Spirit as a helper along the journey. At times it may seem like the path ahead is bleak or impassable, but God has made a way...through His Spirit. Biblical discipleship helps people understand the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and teaches them how to cooperate with Him.

There are times when we know the right thing to do, but we still need help to do the right thing. The Holy Spirit will lead us if we give Him permission.

Psalm 143:10 *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

The Holy Spirit not only helps us follow God's principles, but He will actually help motivate us to do God's will if we allow him an active role in our life.

Ezekiel 36:27 *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

The Holy Spirit is always there for us, 24/7. He is there in the good times and the bad times.

John 14:16,17 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

As we allow the Spirit to work in our life, He will help us in the battle of the flesh. As Christians, we have the Spirit of Christ, and we need to allow Him to work in us. Too often we try to fight battles on our own, and we can be defeated that way. If we let the Spirit of God lead us in our battles, we can walk in victory. (1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.)

Romans 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

The sinful nature seems to scream out for gratification. Sometimes the pull from that nature can be overwhelming. If we try to combat this with our own strength and wisdom, we will be on a roller coaster ride, but if we live by the Spirit's power, we don't have to gratify our sinful nature.

Galatians 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

God has made quite an investment in us. He has deposited His grace gifts in us so that we can serve others. (1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.) When we live a selfish and disobedient lifestyle, that deposit is not built upon and not only do we suffer but so do others. The Holy Spirit will help us guard and develop what God has deposited in us.

2 Timothy 1:14 *Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

It's easy to feel like we are at a disadvantage if we haven't been able to have access to "great" teachers of the Word. We could feel like we are hampered because we don't go to church that has one of the country's "super" teachers. While it is true that some individuals have a gift of teaching and it is a real blessing to listen to them speak, the ultimate teacher is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes God's word alive to us whether we are reading it alone or are listening to a pastor, small group leader, etc. With God's Spirit in our lives, every day can become a learning experience as we walk with Him.

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Hale Pule Question

Reflect on the various ways the Holy Spirit was given to work in our lives. Are there one or two of the areas that you sense the Father wants you to focus on cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He works in your life? Share these things with a trusted Jesus Follower so they can support and pray for you.