

## **WEEK FIVE: THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**The Trilune God...all Christians Creeds are TRINITARIAN IN FOCUS. Early Christians couldn't describe God without referring to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Over 500 times, the Spirit is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. The 3RD PERSON OF TRINITY isn't the NEW GOD ON THE BLOCK, just the way God intervenes in human life.**

**DAY OF PENTECOST...At Pentecost, the Disciples danced to the MUSIC no one else heard. They woke the world up to a PARTY that was already going on. There were signs: shy people became bold. They came out of hiding, hit the streets. When they opened their mouths, they sounded like Jesus; laying their hands on the ill, it was as if Jesus touched them**

**SPIRIT CONFUSION...if Church had a MISSING PERSON DEPT, the SPIRIT would top the list. Many Christians are unsure of how/when/where the Spirit comes. Paul saw this same confusion in Ephesus when the Christians there claimed that they'd never even heard of the Holy Spirit.**

**Signs of the Spirit...the Spirit's main job is to equip us to be CHRISTIANS IN MORE THAN NAME ONLY. The Spirit has an agenda: not to indulge us, but to change us, to make us more holy, to help us grow in faith. The Spirit turn us into people God created us to be. The Spirit reconfirms God's promises to each generation. A few tell-tale signs of the Spirit's work:**

**PERSPECTIVE...we see things differently than before, develop new attitudes, stir new PASSION for God, create the desire to obey God**  
**FRUIT OF SPIRIT...love, joy, peace, goodness, Paul list, signs of Spirit presence, fruit that develop over time, not in a single moment.**  
**WORSHIP...brings scripture to life, make Sacraments special, Spirit is what makes BEING A CHRISTIAN POSSIBLE/MEANINGFUL**

**OUR OPEN SPACES...the Spirit is most present at 3 open spaces in our lives: in the UNPREDICTABLE, in places of RISK, and in those areas over which we HAVE NO CONTROL. In other words, during those times when we are most receptive. Being attuned to God's Spirit involves VULNERABILITY. There is no way to explain the Spirit's work in detail or reduce his role to easy-to-name points. We are dealing with a MYSTERY. Knowing HOW and WHEN the Spirit works isn't like flipping a LIGHT SWITCH that we will AUTOMATICALLY detect God's nearness. God isn't a BELLBOY who jumps whenever we snap our fingers. This much we can say: without the Spirit, we literally don't have a prayer of following Jesus.**