

**Monday, May 16 – Read Acts 2:1-4, 14-17, 22-24.** Jesus told his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit's power (Acts 1:8). That power came on the day of Pentecost, a Hebrew harvest festival that fell seven weeks after Passover. On this day of Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit in a dramatic way. The Spirit led Peter to boldly preach the saving news of Jesus' victory over death, which had happened just 50 days earlier in that very city. In John 15:26, Jesus said the Holy Spirit "will testify about me." That's just what the Spirit did at Pentecost. Peter's Spirit-inspired sermon said, "Listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs." How have you sensed the Spirit testifying about Jesus to your heart? When you have a chance to share the good news of Jesus, how can you rely on the Spirit to make your sharing as effective as possible? Peter quoted images from Joel 2 that make the book of Revelation scary to many people: "wonders in the heavens," "blood and fire and smoke." But he ended the quotation at the point he wanted to stress: "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How can that message make all of earth's pressing problems less scary and troubling to you? In what way(s) do you "call on the name of the Lord" today?

**Tuesday, May 17 – Read Matthew 28:19 & 2 Corinthians 13:14.** The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is not an indistinct "power" or "thing." Some people refer to the Spirit as an "it," as if the Spirit is a thing or force that we can control or use. This distinction may seem subtle or trivial, but it is actually a very serious misunderstanding of the Spirit and His role in our lives. Read John 14:17. This passage calls us to relationship with the Spirit, instead of allowing us to think we can treat the Spirit as a power to be harnessed in order to accomplish our own purposes. The Holy Spirit is a Person who has personal relationships with not only believers but with the Father and the Son. We see the Spirit working in conjunction with the Father and the Son multiple times throughout the Scriptures.

**Wednesday, May 18 – Read Acts 5:3-4.** The Holy Spirit is God. He is not a lesser or different kind of Being than God the Father or God the Son. The Spirit is God. The words "Spirit" and "God" are used interchangeably in the New Testament. In Acts we read of Peter's challenge to Ananias: "How is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?...What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human being but to God." In these verses we see that Peter explicitly refers to the Holy Spirit as God. This is vital to remember. When we forget about the Spirit, we really are forgetting about God.

**Thursday, May 19– Read John 14:16, Hebrews 9:14 & Romans 1:4.** The Holy Spirit is eternal and holy. We read in the gospel of John about Jesus' promise to His disciples that the Spirit will be with them forever. And in Hebrews we read that it was through "the eternal Spirit" that Jesus "offered himself unblemished to God." The Spirit is not just a flighty, whimsical spirit who comes and goes like the wind. He is an eternal being. The Spirit is also holy. Obviously, we commonly call Him the "Holy Spirit," and this is reinforced throughout the New Testament. But consider this truly amazing fact: Because the Spirit is holy and dwells in us, our bodies are holy sanctuaries from God's vantage point. Too often we disdain our bodies as the source of sin and our falseness; yet they are precisely where God the Spirit chooses to dwell!

**Friday, May 20 – Read Romans 8:26-27.** The Holy Spirit has His own mind, and He prays for us. I don't know about you, but I find the thought of the Spirit of God praying for me according to the will of God extremely comforting. So many times in life I haven't known what to pray, either for myself or for others. Other times I pray for stupid things. In any given situation, we may not know exactly how we should pray or what we should do. But we can take confidence in the fact that the Holy Spirit knows our hearts and the will of God, and He is always interceding on our behalf.

**Saturday, May 21. Read Isaiah 63:10 & Ephesians 4:40.** The Spirit has emotions. For a time, whenever I read that we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit, I thought that was a bit of an exaggeration. It almost seems sacrilegious to say that I could grieve God. Who am I to have such power over the Spirit? That doesn't seem right. In fact, it even seemed wrong to say that God has feelings; for some reason I felt it belittled Him. In our culture, having feelings or emotions can be equated with weakness. This is a lie that is deeply ingrained in many of us. God created feelings. Like anything else, they can be misused and abused. but the intent and purpose of feelings come from God. Since he created emotions, why is it difficult to believe that He Himself has emotions? The Spirit is grieved when there is a breach in relationship, whether it be relationship with God or relationship with other people. When we are disunified, unloving, hateful, jealous, gossipy, etc., that is when we grieve the Spirit of God. And since He is the creator of emotions, I believe that the Spirit grieves more deeply than we can understand. If we truly cared about the Spirit's grief, there would be fewer fights, divorces, and splits in our churches. Maybe it's not due to lack of belief but rather lack of concern. May there be a day when we care more about the Spirit's grief than our own.