



## 13 FEB 2022 | PASTOR LIONEL GOH | THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MY FRIEND

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded that we fail to engage with the Holy Spirit because of our ungodly beliefs, bad perception and indifference.
2. Understand that the Holy Spirit can help us in so many practical and supernatural ways to bear fruits and emerge victorious in our daily life.
3. Learn how to have the Holy Spirit as a close friend, by surrendering to His Lordship and keeping in step with Him on a moment-by-moment basis.

### SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Lionel shared how as Jesus returned to heaven, He sent forth the Holy Spirit to the Church to be our Helper and Friend. However, many believers still do not know the Holy Spirit in these capacities. If we want to be fruitful and victorious in our lives and ministries, we need to learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit, to be fully dependant on His power and help.

### SERMON RECAP

1. While on earth, Jesus was an intimate friend to His disciples ([John 15:13-15](#))
2. When Jesus returned to heaven, He gave us His Holy Spirit to be our Helper ([John 14:16-18](#))

The Holy Spirit is not restricted by physical limitations due to an earthly body, and anyone who desires Him can access the Holy Spirit 24/7. The root word of Holy Spirit in Greek is "*paracletus*", which means someone to come alongside us, on whom we can call upon anytime. He is our Helper, Advocate and Counsellor.

3. Three Truths about the Holy Spirit

- He is fully God, not a junior partner ([Genesis 1:2, Matthew 28:18-19](#))
- He is a Person, not a power source ([Ephesians 4:30, 1 Corinthians 2:10, 12:4-7](#))
- He wants to be our Helper and Friend ([John 14:25-26](#))

#### 4. How does the Holy Spirit help us?

- He empowers us to be Christ's witnesses ([Acts 1:8](#))
- He gives us spiritual gifts ([1 Corinthians 12:4-7](#))
- He enables us to overcome sins ([Galatians 5:16-17](#))
- He makes us more like Christ ([Galatians 5:22-25](#))
- He reveals the truth and future ([John 16:13, Acts 11:27-28](#))

#### 5. How can I cultivate an intimate friendship with the Holy Spirit?

- Make priority for Him ([James 4:8](#))
- Surrender to His lordship ([Romans 12:1](#))
- Trust in His leading ([Galatians 5:25, Hebrews 10:38](#))
- Hear and obey His promptings ([Luke 11:28](#))

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. How would you describe your present relationship with the Holy Spirit? What are some reasons that cause you to feel this way about your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

#### Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to share. Members may describe their relationship with the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways, for instance- as a good friend, a distant acquaintance, a total stranger, or a friendship that is drifting apart. Leaders can encourage members to explore the reasons contributing to the state of the relationship. Some reasons may include- having no time for Him, or feeling let down by particular experiences in the past, or not really knowing how to make friends with Him, etc. Members can use this time to discover how our beliefs about the Holy Spirit, and ongoing lifestyle habits and disciplines, shape our views and ultimately our engagement with the Holy Spirit.

#### Transition

Sometimes, we fail to engage with the Holy Spirit because of our ungodly beliefs, bad perception and indifference. Hence, the first step is getting to know the Holy Spirit as a close friend and helper.

### 2. How does the Holy Spirit help us? On a practical level, what role does the Holy Spirit play in your daily decision-making?

#### Leader's Notes

Pastor Lionel shared that the Holy Spirit helps us in a variety of ways – empowering us to be Christ's witnesses ([Acts 1:8](#)), giving us spiritual gifts ([1 Corinthians 12:4-7](#)), enabling us to overcome sins ([Galatians 5:16-17](#)), making us more like Christ ([Galatians 5:22-25](#)), and revealing the truth and future ([John 16:13, Acts 11:27-28](#)). Members can spend some time sharing which aspect of the Holy Spirit resonates most with them.

On a practical level, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in our decision making. There are numerous examples of the Holy Spirit as guide in bible passages; from the guiding of the people of Israel through prophets, signs, visions, to Jesus and Paul, and in forming of the early church in Acts.



God gives us the free choice and free will to live our lives the way we desire. God wants us to choose, because we love him and want to obey him, to make our decisions within the overall blueprint of his will. It is the Holy Spirit who can guide our choices even as we have freedom to make them - from the initial decision to become a believer, to a desire for a holy life, to the big and small decisions of daily life, the Holy Spirit can be depended upon for guidance in our choices.

#### Transition

The Holy Spirit desires to help us in a variety of ways. He has a place in our daily decision making and can guide us to make choices that are aligned with God's purposes. Let's trust him with our decisions, big or small!

- 3. Do you desire to know the Holy Spirit better as a friend and helper, in this new year? How can you start this coming week to cultivate this closer friendship with Him? What are some things you must give up in order to gain His closeness?**

#### Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to share their understanding about how we can become more intimate with the Holy Spirit. As with any other friendship, we need to put in consistent effort on a daily basis to cultivate a healthy and intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Leaders can recap and explore in greater detail, the points shared over the pulpit, i.e. 1) Making priority for Him, 2) Surrendering to His Lordship, 3) Trusting in His leading, and 4) Hearing and Obeying His Promptings. Members can share some examples from their personal experience of spiritual disciplines which have helped them foster a close walk with the Holy Spirit, to encourage each other. Members can also take some time to pray for one another for more victory in surrendering areas of their lives to God.

#### Closing

The best approach to have the Holy Spirit as a close friend, is to surrender to His Lordship and keep in step with Him moment to moment. Only then will we be able to taste and see that He is good, and find that we can rely on the Holy Spirit in every area of our lives.

## **WORKS**

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

### **1. Sermon Application**

- For us to be more intentional to cultivate our relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- For us to be more attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us.

### **2. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.
- As the community cases rises, pray for protection especially among the elderly and those with health issues.

- Pray against any side effects for our children as they take their vaccinations.

### 3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

### 4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is now open for kids aged two and below from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday. **NO booking of tickets is required.** In order to protect the health of our little ones, parents, do refer to the updated guidelines in our [e-bulletin](#).
2. **Upcoming Classes.** For any enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).
  - **Water Baptism Class, 19 Feb, 9am-3.30pm, Faith Chapel.** This course is for those who wish to learn more about the significance of water baptism and get water baptised. Register for this class at [rlc.sg/baptism-class](http://rlc.sg/baptism-class). Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 13 Mar.
  - **Joining The Family, 26 Feb, 10:30-12:30pm.** This course is for regular worshippers who wish to be rooted here in RiverLife as a member and take ownership of our vision, mission and values. Sign up online at [rlc.sg/jointhefam](http://rlc.sg/jointhefam).
3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](http://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
4. **Service Ticket Returns.** Due to the capacity constraint, if you have booked tickets but are unable to attend – we ask that you kindly return the tickets (as early as possible) so that more RiverLifers have the opportunity to worship in-person. To return your tickets, go to the EventBrite confirmation email and click “View and Manage” or write in to inform us via “Contact Organiser”.
5. **Pulpit Series – Let the River Flow.** This series is a continuation of our journey beyond 30 as a church and will help us discover our Heavenly Father’s invitation to give ourselves fully to Him and experience rivers of living water flow from our

hearts to our communities. The six-part message series kicks off with vision weekends exploring our future through the Scriptural image of the River.

6. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
7. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

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