



MESSAGE NOTES

The Promise of God's Holy Spirit

John 14:16-18

James Brown

16 I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

1. The privilege of having God's Spirit

We have the privilege of God's Holy Spirit in our hearts. This privilege wasn't available to the disciples or to the Old Testament Israelites. In Old Testament times, only the great high priest was able to enter the presence of God, once a year and after going through a number of purification ceremonies. But when we believe in Jesus and accept the price He paid for us, we are made holy, righteous and pure in God's sight.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

2. How God's Spirit speaks to us

If you have ever felt moved to change something in your life after reading the Bible, that is God's Holy Spirit speaking to you. If you have ever been encouraged or strengthened through praise, that's the work of God's Spirit in your heart. If you have ever listened to a sermon and felt like the minister was speaking directly into your situation, that's the voice of God's Holy Spirit in your heart. God speaks to us through His Word, through the church and through circumstances in our lives.

3. Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

2 Timothy 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Anxious, fearful thoughts that disturb your peace of mind are not from God. God's Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This is how we can recognize His voice in our hearts. He is the Spirit of Truth who guides us into all truth contained in the Word of God.