

iii) A Life Within

'Christ in you, the hope of glory' *Colossians 1:27*

'But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us' *2 Corinthians 4:7*

'for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose' *Philippians 2:13*

You were born as a baby and then born again for this very purpose.

To carry 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' for your life, your family, this nation.

To simply be a jar of clay who carries this treasure within 'to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us'.

Never think you're asking for too much, never be afraid of how 'clayey' you are.

God doesn't want you to do anything for Him in your own strength, He only wants you to carry Him and to let Him do His work in and through you.

'For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose'.

Learning to know the life of the Holy Spirit within us, learning to let Him teach us and lead us is so that He can work in us for His glory.

When it's 'God who works in you' how glorious that work will be.

'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' *Phil 4:13*

Pause for Personal Prayer



Pray with this truth: 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' *Col 1:27*

Discuss



- What is the treasure within you? Discuss.
- How can we learn to know and carry this treasure?
- What are your personal next steps in learning to do so?

Taking it Further

- Each day take time each day to pray with *Colossians 1:27*.
- What difference does this truth make to your life?
- What more do you want to ask the Spirit to teach you?



2: Christ in You

We live in a world of snack bars, meal deals and coffee to go.

We want something we can quickly grab and run with, back into the busyness and drivenness of life.

But we're called to a relationship with the Holy Spirit, not a quick drink to help us run but a relationship with the Holy Spirit of God who will direct our very lives.

So much of our running, our tiredness, our need is because we're trying to dig and maintain cracked cisterns which cannot hold water (*Jeremiah 2:13*).

The truth of the Gospel is that we're called to a place of rest, we're invited to drink from the wonderful spring of living water, God Himself.

Every relationship takes time and care to grow.

We may say that we haven't got time to build this relationship with the Holy Spirit but have we really got time not to?

In this study we shall explore what the Spirit has come into our lives to do and how to grow in knowing and loving Him.

Let's pray as we read.

A suggested outline for the session

Open with worship and prayer

Divide your time between the 3 sections

In each of the 3 sections ...

. Ask someone to read the scripture & reflection

. Pause for a few minutes of personal prayer

. Then discuss the questions given

. At the end allow 10mins for personal prayer

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i) Knowing Him

'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and 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' *John 14:16,17*

'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all' *2 Corinthians 13:14*



The Holy Spirit is God's own Spirit, the 3rd person of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is beyond us and above us but He is also now within us. Not a concept or an idea, but a divine person living within you.

We're called to know Him, to have relationship with Him. The original Greek word for 'know' in *v17* means personal, deep experience. It's the same word used in *Lk 1:34* 'How will this be since I do not know a man?'

We're called to know the Holy Spirit, to have a deep and personal, intimate relationship with Him within us.

When we asked God to fill us with His Spirit He kept His promise and He came, but now it is for us to grow in that relationship.

We're free to forget that He's there, free to move on and go back to sorting things out ourselves but in doing so we're just going back to the cracked cisterns of our old lives *Jer 2:13*.

The joy is that we're called to the spring of living water, to know Him and to enjoy fellowship with Him. To let His life carry us and lead us.

This is the relationship which you were made for.

Pause for Personal Prayer



'But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you' *Jn 14:17*

Discuss



- Read *John 14:16,17*. What does it mean to know the Holy Spirit?
- Has your relationship with the Spirit changed over time and what has helped or hindered that relationship?
- How would you like your relationship with Him to develop? Share.

ii) When He Comes

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you' *John 14:18*

'Unless I go away, the Advocate (Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you' *Jn 16:7 (NIV + Amplified version)*

'when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth' *Jn 16:13*

'those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God' *Romans 8:14*



When Jesus was returning to His Father he told His disciples that He would come to them and live in them (*John 14:20*).

That He would send His Holy Spirit to be our Advocate, Counsellor, Helper, ... He knew that we couldn't manage alone, we need His Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is given to 'guide us into all truth' *John 16:13*. When we don't understand something we only have to ask, He knows all things. So why do we spend so much time trying to work things out by ourselves?

He's the one who has come to lead us *Romans 8:14*, every moment of every day. Whether at work or at home He know the way to go. So why do we go our own way and struggle, wasting time getting lost?

Jesus didn't leave us as orphans, He came to live in us by His Spirit because He knew that we could not live this life alone - we need Him.

The reason we still try to work it out ourselves, go on alone and get lost is because we haven't yet learnt to know Him and hear Him

Learning to know the Holy Spirit is a lifelong, deliberate, wonderful relationship to explore. Where He patiently helps us again and again.

The Spirit comes with all that we need. Our call is to know Him.

Pause for Personal Prayer



Take it personally, Jesus said: 'I will come to you' *John 14:18*

Discuss



- What did Jesus mean 'I will come to you ... I am in you' *Jn 14:18,20*?
- He has come to 'guide us into all truth', what has your experience been?
- What does it mean to be 'led by the Spirit'? Share your own experience.