

September 3, 2017
Series: The Creed
Part 5: I Believe in the Holy Spirit and the Church
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1. Jesus said, “But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7).

- How was it better for his disciples and better for us that the Holy Spirit is with us rather than Jesus?

2. Theologian Packer said this about the Holy Spirit: “It is as if the Spirit stands behind us, throwing light over our shoulder on to Jesus who stands facing us. The Spirit’s message to us is never, ‘Look at me, listen to me, come to me, get to know me,’ but always ‘look at him, and see his glory, listen to him and hear his word, go to him and have life, get to know him and taste his gift of joy and peace.’”

- What is something you believe the Holy Spirit has shown you about Jesus?

3. Do you know a Christian who is especially good at putting a spotlight on Jesus?

- What’s an example of how someone has done that or how we might do that?

4. Read Ephesians 5:18-23.

- List some of the acts of the flesh, which are listed there. What are others?
- What is the fruit of the Spirit? Notice fruit is singular.
- Do you think getting rid of the acts of the flesh and producing the fruit of the Spirit can be done without the help of the Holy Spirit? How do we let him?
- Have you felt the Holy Spirit’s nudging you to avoid something sinful or nudging you to do something good? Did you follow the Spirit’s urging?
- Who in your life radiates the fruit of the Spirit in his or her life? What does that look like? How has it impacted your walk with Jesus?

5. Romans 8:26 gives us another function of the Holy Spirit: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

Notice it says the Spirit groans for us before God because sometimes words are inadequate even for the Spirit.

- Can you recall a time when you were too weak to know how to pray but you felt the Holy Spirit interceding on your behalf? Or can you think of a time he might have done it though you were unaware?

6. The Spirit gives gifts to help God’s people: “To each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good” (I Corinthians 12:7).

- What do you think your gift is?

7. Read Eph. 5:25-27.

- Is the church like this?
- Why do some people dislike the church?
- What do you love about the church?