

mondayPERSONAL*Read John 14:16-26 and 1 Corinthians 2:9-14*

The Holy Spirit is not an "it" or an impersonal force. He "dwells with you and will be in you." He teaches and reminds, counseling us in the face of whatever life brings. It's just that we don't often listen to his voice or turn our attention to his presence. We have a hard time imagining him as personal because we rely on our senses to tell us what is true – seeing, hearing and so on. But God is with us always by his Spirit and is inviting us to go beyond the natural to connect with him. What do you do daily to connect personally with the Spirit? Do you pause to simply be aware of him? Consider setting aside time to actively listen for his voice.

tuesdayDIVINE*Read John 4:24, 14:16 and Acts 5:3-4*

The Holy Spirit is God. He isn't a lesser or different being than the Father or Son, but he is distinct as far as we understand him from scripture. That's a huge mystery, but we know it to be true because of Jesus' words in John 14. In Acts 5, Ananias' lie to the Holy Spirit who is present in the Church was also a lie to God. One in the same. Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit as something or someone other than God himself? Are you willing to accept that this mystery is valuable because, though God is completely immeasurable, he is right here, right now, available to you in the person of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord to help you think rightly about him, even to embrace the mystery as something that inspires even more awe in you.

wednesdayINTERCEDING*Read Romans 8:27*

The Holy Spirit is praying for you. Read that again. That means God's Spirit is thoughtfully communicating the issues of your heart and life even as the Father is working out his will for you. Let's put it another way. The Holy Spirit, present and thoughtful (he has a mind, ya know) in your circumstances, is carrying them to the Father and aligning them with his perfect will for your life. It's an amazing connection between you and God that isn't dependent on you getting all the words right or even being in the right frame of mind. Yet again, it's our kind and caring God doing for us what we can't always do in our own ability. It could be that his wise prayers override our shallow ones and the result is the best outcome for our lives. Maybe the best response to knowing this is utter gratitude. Voice it!

thursdayFEELING*Read Isaiah 63:10 and Ephesians 4:30*

You read that right. The Holy Spirit does have emotions because he is God. He is grieved when we sin. Does that make him weak and jerked around emotionally by the things we do? No. Because the Holy Spirit doesn't respond to feelings the way we do, often sinfully. His emotions are pure and his response is always right. Emotions are part of what it means to be made in God's likeness. He is not mechanical in the way he deals with us. Empathy, compassion, love and joy are part of who he is. And on the flip side of those, there is anger, grief, sadness and disappointment. He loves us so much and of course it pains him when we settle for less than his desires. Should it matter to us that our rebellion isn't just a legal issue, but it grieves the Holy Spirit? Remorse for grieving the Spirit is an important motivation to repent and on the other side we grow deeper in our relationship with him.

fridayGIVING*Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

The best version of you is the one who embodies the gift or gifts the Holy Spirit has given you. To be honest, it's what you're on the earth to do. Yes, you have a will, but so does the Holy Spirit (v.11). And his will is perfectly aligned with the perfect plan of the Father. You have choices, yet they are made with a very limited view of things. The Holy Spirit sees (created!) the big picture and is inviting you to that level of living. Do you know your gifts? Do you pray to know? Do you use them? Now is the time to get serious about identifying and using your gifts of the Spirit for the kingdom of God. Not one ambition in life matters more.

saturdayHOLY*Read 1 Peter 1:1-2*

Holy is not a fancy word, but it's beautiful. In practical terms, it has to do with the highest quality. Something set apart from all else. Dwelling in our lives is God's Spirit, perfect and unmatched in quality. And his intentions are to rub off on us constantly because we can't make ourselves better by trying! We learn by trusting, interacting and relying on his power. That's what being sanctified is all about. The perfection of God, present with us, should have an increasingly profound effect on us. Is it happening? Do you see the Spirit's work in your life? Do you sense his conviction and his encouragement to live above the low, self-defeating standards of the world? A Spirit-filled believer should crave transformation!