

danger in any relationship (take marriage for example) is that even “good things” become boring and mundane. **The very foundation of a relationship is the “love-factor” – that unscientific element where you love someone just because you do – or because you have made a decision to do so.** Hence, as we look at several keys that will certainly help you, be diligent to keep the fires burning in your heart for your Savior! Do not allow anyone or anything to become more important. Paul admonished Timothy to “*stir up the gift of God*” (2 Tim 1:6). The **Amplified Bible puts it this way:** “*That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you.*” Here are several keys that will help:

1. Pray throughout the day – the very foundation of any relationship is communication, which is what prayer is all about. **You must develop the habit of talking to God throughout the day. Prayer must become as natural to you as breathing.** Pray about your loved ones, pray about your problems, pray about your decisions, pray about your disappointment, pray about your failures, and pray about everything! Philippians 4:6 says, “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything pray... and the peace of God will guard your heart and mind.*”

2. Make God’s Word a priority – the Word of God is the will of God. Think about that. If you want God’s will in your life (and, if you are abiding in Him, then you certainly do) – you must make reading and studying the Bible a priority in your life. **As you read the Word, you gain an understanding into God’s ways of doing things.** You learn from the stories in the Bible, both what works and what doesn’t work. Start thinking of the Bible as the greatest **SUCCESS MANUAL** ever written, for it truly is. Joshua 1:8 clearly links meditating in God’s Word to your success and prosperity. He told Joshua to read and study the Bible, and then said, “*For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success*” (Joshua 1:8).

3. Learn to exercise faith in God’s promises – it’s one thing to read the Bible, and quite another thing to start actively trusting in His promises. 2 Peter 1:4 says, “*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature.*” The way to “partake” of God’s provision is to start trusting in His promises. **There are promises for success in business (Ps 112); promises for**

food and clothing (Mt 6:33); promises for health and healing (Ps 103:1-5) – and on and on! In fact, 2 Peter 1:3 says that God has given us ALL THINGS for life and godliness. Therefore, as you discover promises in your Bible, mark them and then start claiming them as your own. Use the promises just like you would use a sword to defeat the enemy (Eph 6:7).

4. Learn to yield to the gifts of the Holy Spirit – the gifts of the Spirit as listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 are wonderful “tools” that God has provided to gain the victory. I grew up in a church that did not believe in the gifts for today. It took me some years before I truly understood that the same Holy Spirit is here today to help us. When you face a dilemma and do not know what to do, ask for a “word of wisdom.” There have been many times that the Holy Spirit has given me a word of wisdom, or what I like to call “a God-plan.” If you are in business, ask for the “discerning of spirits” so that you can know and sense the motives and intents of the forces at work. God can help us if we will but avail ourselves to His mighty gifts and tools for victory.

Keep in mind that the goal of any key is help you maintain “connection” with your Savior. The truth is, if you will attend to this first priority, everything else will fall into place (Mt 6:33). Paul said, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor 13:14). Paul had proved the power of communion and “abiding” in his own life. He had endured shipwrecks, stonings, beatings, and all sorts of unbelievable hardships (2 Cor 11:23-33). His secret? His connection to the power of Christ. In Philippians 4:13 Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Dear friend, regardless of what you may be facing, recommit yourself to the first priority of fellowship and communion with your Savior. The wisdom and plans-of-action that you need will come as you commune with Him and stay vitally connected.

I pray that you will “press in” and cultivate your abiding walk with Christ, and truly enjoy the communion of the Holy Spirit every day.

■ Jason Peebles

Key Memory Verse:

“The Son can do nothing of himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, this also does the Son likewise.” John 5:19

Prayer for Greater Communion

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I want to grow in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Teach me to abide in the vine, hear your voice, and walk in your assignments. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.

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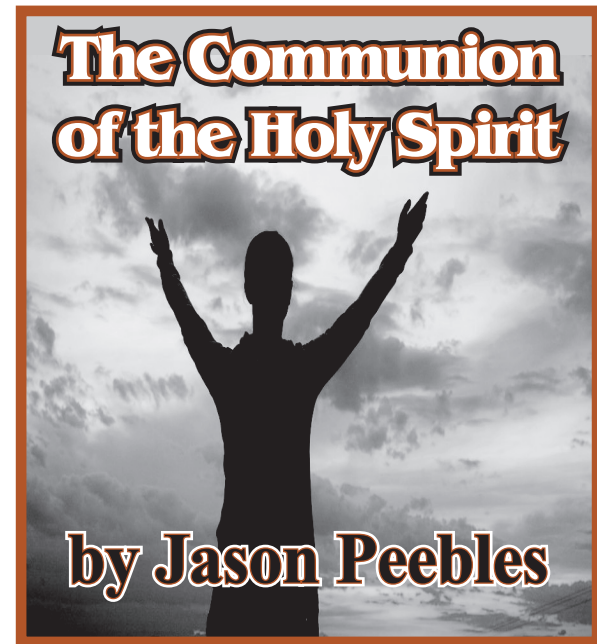
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In 2 Corinthians 13:14 the apostle Paul said, “***The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***” The word used for “communion” is the exact same word translated “fellowship” in other places. For example, in 1 John 1 the apostle John says, “*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you may have fellowship (communion) with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*” Our prayer is that this Study Guide will help you develop a greater level of fellowship and communion with God whereby you are in step with His assignments for your life.

Inner Fellowship

The Master Key to Christian success is abiding in Christ. The principles for abiding are outlined in John chapter 15. Jesus said, “***I am the vine and you are the branches; he that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.***” Jesus uses a very simple illustration – the relationship between a vine and a branch to teach us the importance of inner fellowship. As long as the branch stays “connected” to its source, the sap will flow. The life-giving fluid comes from the vine. If the branch becomes disconnected, then it’s just a matter of time until it dries up and withers.

Friend, this is not rocket science! In our walk with Christ, we are called to a life of inner fellowship and communion with Him. It is not enough to say that you have a “positional” place in Christ. **Thank God that your place in Christ is secured through faith and faith alone. However, there is a “vital” side to your salvation that God wants you to walk in.** Like a branch, we must stay “connected” to our life-giving source. Call it inner fellowship, abiding in Christ, walking in the Spirit, or whatever – it is that place where your heart and mind are actively trusting in your Savior. It is that place where you are “downloading” His most current updates into your heart and mind.

Let me give you an example from my own life some years ago. Through the years, I have been a pilot and flown many hours for the ministry. We’ve owned several different airplanes that have served us well. I can remember the very first airplane that we owned. It was a single engine workhorse – a Piper Cherokee Six. I loved that airplane. However, the day came that I wanted to upgrade to a retractable version with more speed. I was traveling cross-country every week for Bible conferences, seminars, and church services and I wanted a better equipped airplane. In the flying world, better equipment translates to better safety. **Thus, I tried and tried to sell the Cherokee Six. It got to the point that I seemed to be blocked at every turn and grew more frustrated as time went on. Have you ever felt like that?** Then one day I found the perfect replacement airplane, but I still needed to sell the Cherokee Six to make the deal happen. **As I prayed one afternoon (in utter frustration), I heard the Holy Spirit speaking in my heart and mind. It was as if He said: “Jason, why don’t you let ME put this deal together for you? I want you release your frustrations and pray in the Spirit over this. I know what to do and I will show you.”** Well, I paused right then and there and asked God to forgive me for getting so stressed over things. I was “trying too hard” in my own power and not really depending on Him. I opened my Bible and began praying one of the Psalms aloud and I also prayed in the Spirit. To make a long story short, God directed my steps to a key man who had a contact to buy my plane. He even worked it out as a “trade” which saved hundreds of dollars in taxes. Within a few days, the new airplane was ours! **I am convinced that we miss many miracles because we do not take enough time to fellowship with Him and maintain a vital “communion” with the Holy Spirit.** God knows what YOU need to do right now in the situations that YOU are facing. It is important that you cultivate and develop a communion with the Holy Spirit.



Jesus and the Father

It is amazing to consider that Jesus operated in the same way that He tells us to walk. In John 5:19 he said, *“The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do; for whatever He does, these also does the Son likewise.”* Over and over again Jesus repeated the same idea. Later in verse 30 He says, **“I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear I judge (or decide); and my judgment is just because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father who has sent me.”** Dear saint, how much easier would our walk be, if like Jesus, we sought not our own will but the will of the Father? I think the answer is obvious – we would avoid all the frustrations that go along with the “self-willed” decisions and actions.

Let’s take a moment to further examine some of the insights that we can see in Jesus’ example of abiding, union, communion, and fellowship with the Father.

1. The Son can do nothing of Himself - Jesus walked in the exact same revelation that he passed along to his disciples when he said, *“Abide in Me, and I in you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide; no more can you except you abide in Me.”*

2. I seek not my own will but the will of the Father - Ah, here is one of the lost secrets of Christian success. This is the place the Holy Spirit longs to draw us into, but which our flesh loathes. Our minds (apart from Christ) conclude that God is out to “spoil our fun and hinder our goals.” Nothing could be further from the truth! The Holy Spirit knows that the peace and joy that we long for can only be found when we are in step with God’s plan for our lives. Jesus always sought the will of the Father.

3. As I hear, I judge - There is a realm where we can “hear” what the Father wants as we pray and commune with Him. He has a way of impressing us with his thoughts and infusing his desires into our minds. He can use His Word, the gifts of the Spirit, the still small voice, or the counsel of someone that God brings into our lives. We must develop a “listening” ear.

4. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all things - there is a dimension in the Spirit of “hearing” and “seeing.” Both are vitally important. In our modern world, we are familiar with the process of downloading files and texts. There is a similar process that can occur when we walk in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Father wants to show us things to come.

5. Obedience brings more revelation - John 14:21 says, *“He that has my commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves me; and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father and I will love him and will manifest myself to him.”* As we walk in the light given, more light can come. Let this principle motivate you to obey more! Conversely, if you feel that you are not hearing God clearly, then ask the Father if there is any area that you should repent of. Sometimes our lack of sensitivity is the result of unconfessed sin that must be cleared away.

Amazing Promises

There are many wonderful results and promises that are attached to the communion of the Holy Spirit. **When you fellowship with God, it only stands to reason that amazing things can occur!**

One of the things that will immediately occur is a new found sense of **JOY AND PEACE**. When you finally slow down long enough to fellowship with your Source of supply, it’s like when a runner slows down for a big glass of cool water. It tastes so good! The apostle John said, *“And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your JOY may be full”* (1Jn 1:3,4). **After teaching on the principles of abiding in the vine, Jesus says, “These things have I spoken unto you that my JOY might remain in you and that your JOY might be full”** (Jn 15:11). This type of joy is a deep inner satisfaction that arises from the knowledge that you are connected to the center of the universe – our Savior Jesus Christ! I’ve known the joys that a loving relationship can bring and the joys of watching children grow up. Surely these are



some of the most valuable things that we could ever have in this world. **Yet, nothing can compare to the joy of knowing in your heart that you are right with God – and that with His help, all things are possible for you. And that leads us to the next amazing promise . . .**

When we walk with God, we are also promised **MIRACLE ANSWERS** to our prayers. **“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you”** (John 15:7). Wow! What an amazing promise we have! Jesus is telling us that authentic prayers and answers are the results of abiding in Him. Let’s consider this. If you are abiding – that is, praying for the Father’s will, endeavoring to “listen” to His instructions, etc. (review all the points above in Jesus and the Father) – then Jesus says that you can expect miracle answers. You see, if you are truly abiding, you will not be asking for frivolous things. You will be asking for things that are in line with the will of your heavenly Father. John 15:5 says, *“I am the vine, you are the branches; He that abides in me and I in him, the same brings forth MUCH FRUIT; for without me you can do nothing.”* The MUCH FRUIT are the answers to your prayers (compare verses 5 and 7). **If you want to tap into the exciting, adventurous life that God has for you, then start abiding and developing the communion of the Holy Spirit.** Ephesians 3:20 says, **“Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, ABOVE all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”**

Developing the Abiding Life

At this point in our study, I want to be careful that my suggestions for how to enhance your walk with Christ are not viewed as some sort of legalistic list. The