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"When the Spirit fills us, we become channels, not reservoirs."

[Catherine Booth]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

If our small group was stranded on a desert island, what would you be in charge of and why?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

[John 14:16-17]

BIG IDEA

God's incredible Christ-centered grace and fatherly love are applied to and experienced by us in the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

1. In the sermon we heard, **"When we think of the Christian life, we need to think more about who than what."** How do you find yourself focusing more on the "what" of your life's circumstances than the "who" is in control of those circumstances?

2 Corinthians 13:11-14 (only goes to v. 13 in the CSB)

2. What do the three elements in this benediction (grace, love, fellowship) tell us about the nature of God's relationship with us?
3. What does the term "fellowship of the Holy Spirit" mean?
4. For many, the Holy Spirit is the "forgotten person of the Trinity." How is that true or not true for you?
5. What difference would it make to view your Christian life not as a list of tasks to do, but as intimacy with God?
6. How do you tend to think of the Holy Spirit—more as a force, a feeling, or a person? How might that shape your relationship with Him?
7. In the sermon we heard, **"Ask God to make His presence the controlling reality of your life."** What specific habit or spiritual practice is God inviting you to lean into to help you live in "fellowship with the Spirit"?

8. What specifically would change if you lived the coming week as if the Holy Spirit were truly with and in you?
9. How can our group become more intentional about experiencing and acknowledging the fellowship of the Spirit together?
10. How can we bless one another with the fullness of the Trinity, as Paul does in his benediction?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Paul's benediction is a profound summary of the Christian life: **rooted in grace, grounded in love, and empowered by fellowship with the Spirit**. The Christian life is not just about rules, knowledge, or behavior—but about being drawn into the relational life of the triune God. The Holy Spirit is not an accessory to faith but the **presence of God** that brings Jesus near and makes God's love real.

As you consider your next step, here are two questions to reflect on: 1) In what area of my life do I live as if I am alone, rather than indwelt by the Holy Spirit? 2) How am I being more focused on knowing about God than walking with Him?

Possible Next Steps of Faith

1. **Begin each day this week with this prayer:** "Holy Spirit, help me walk with you today—aware, listening, and present."
2. **Identify one spiritual discipline** (e.g., journaling, listening prayer, quiet worship) to help you deepen your fellowship with the Spirit this week.

PRAYER FOCUS

Grace, Love, Fellowship

Today, let's prayerfully reflect on how God's grace and love are made real in our lives through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit—especially in community.

- Someone reads 2 Corinthians 13:14 aloud slowly.
- *"This blessing reminds us that God doesn't just give us grace, love, and fellowship as ideas—but as gifts to be experienced, together. Take a moment in silence to reflect on how you've received one of those from someone in this group."*
- Each person affirms someone else by saying, "I've seen God's grace/love/ fellowship in you when ____." Here are a few examples:
 - "I've seen God's grace in you when you shared your story."
 - "I've felt the Father's love through you when you prayed for me."
 - "The Spirit's fellowship was real in the way you listened."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2 Corinthians Ch. 13 Commentary](#) & [What Does "Communion of the Holy Spirit" Mean?](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [A Trinitarian Blessing](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.