

Galatians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.



Lesson
TWO

Life Through the Spirit

Discussion >>>

- 1. Before you came to Christ, what did you think the Christian life would be like?*
- 2. Describe "Life through the Spirit".*
- 3. Where were you when Christ called your name? How did you respond?*
- 4. What are the benefits of sonship?*

Peter wasn't sure how long Andrew had been calling his name, but when the water he splashed on Peter hit his face, Peter realized he had stopped pulling his half of the fishing net. Andrew was concentrating so hard on pulling the net in, he hadn't seen who had Peter's attention on the shore or heard His invitation, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Before Peter could get his composure and fill his brother in, the words reached Andrew's ears, and the other side of the net dropped onto the deck of the boat. They both felt it, their hearts beating so loud, surely Jesus could hear them from where he stood. The Messiah was calling them, and something inside of them both drew them to be in His presence. Whatever doubts they had about walking away from their profession into whatever Jesus beckoned them to, faded away as the power of the Spirit strengthened their every step. THIS was what being alive felt like.

Do you remember the day that you were just minding your own business, busy with life's responsibilities, and you heard Jesus' voice calling? Where were you? Were you driving down the road, singing to the radio, sitting in your room alone or gripping the back of a church pew? Do you remember your heart pounding and burning in your chest, feeling like you were being drawn to Him with some invisible force that threw all caution to the wind? As our pastor pointed out this morning, that force that drew us was not a force at all, it was a person. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, saw us in our sin and chose to beckon to us, "Follow me. This is what being alive feels like."

5. *Peter and Andrew were called away from their livelihood.*

Describe a time Christ called you to lay down what was comfortable and secure.

6. *Has the Spirit ever bore witness in you with a connection to another believer? Share what it was like.*

7. *What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit?*

8. *What does Paul mean when he says in Romans 8:12 that we are debtors?*

When the Spirit shines his light in our darkness, and we see the truth, it sets us free. We're no longer satisfied with just throwing our nets out hoping to find joy, peace, and love by our own efforts. We begin to see ourselves as God does, as sons and daughters of the King, and realize that these gifts come from the Spirit alone. This is the spiritual high I imagine Peter was on when he first started his journey with Jesus. I imagine he was enjoying his new life, and the miracles he was witnessing along the way. No matter the highs however, Peter wasn't exempt from his own battles with the flesh. We read of him walking on the water with Jesus just to sink when his eyes were diverted by the storm (Mt 14:29-30). We read of him confessing that Jesus is the Messiah and being declared as the rock that the church would be built on (Mt 16:15-19), and then falling asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked him to pray (Mt 26:40-41). Finally, after Jesus' arrest, we see Peter follow Christ while the other disciples fled (Mt 26:58), only to deny him three times by a fire (Mt 26:69-75). Peter physically walked with Jesus and still experienced the rise and fall that comes when the "old man" rears his head and tries to make us forget who we are in Christ.

As we learned this morning, Romans 8:16 tells us that, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..." The Spirit by nature will always reveal truth to us and remind us of who we are in Christ. Sometimes we will rejoice in this truth and sometimes we will grieve because He is grieving within us. He grieves because the path we have chosen is not the way of one of God's children. Like the conviction that brought Peter back to Jesus on another fateful shore (John 21:1-17), conviction and Godly sorrow is God's way of correcting us in love, bringing us to repentance and continuing our sanctification process.

The good news is with all his failures, Peter still went on to fulfill his God-given name and became the "rock" on which Christ built the church. His ministry was powerful and was the catalyst for beginning the church as we know it. In our walk with Christ, we'll sometimes find ourselves on the top of the mountain, and sometimes in the bottom of the valley. In both places, we must call on the Spirit daily to perform his sanctifying work, crucify the flesh and help us remain in victory over sin. One day, our bodies will be resurrected, we'll enter Heaven and be able to truly say, "This is what being alive feels like."