

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI ESV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, ESV

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

The Holy Spirit gives God's people the wisdom they need to know God and to live for Him.

How does the Holy Spirit give God's people wisdom? He works in their hearts as they read the Bible, when they listen to Bible teaching, when they talk with other Christians, and when they pray.

This is one of the reasons why God's people set aside time to regularly read God's Word and pray. They know this keeps their heart open to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is also one of the reasons why God's people gather together in churches: so they can learn God's Word from godly leaders; and, so they ask each other for help understanding what God's Word means and how to live it out. The Holy Spirit especially uses these things to help them understand God's truths and how God wants them to live them out.

There may be many things about God and His plans that God's people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him. They only need to ask, and He promises to give it to them..

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: John 14:16-17, ESV

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Hungry Cannibals.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Why was it so risky to go to live with cannibals? What are they known to eat?
2. Who went to live with the cannibals in our story? How did the Holy Spirit give him wisdom?

This story starts out around 1910 in England.

"CANNIBALS WANT CHRISTIANS!" the sign said. "Do they want to meet them or just eat them?" thought C. T. Studd. C.T. had come to Liverpool, England to speak about his years in India and China, but this sign made him curious about these cannibal's tastes for Christians. He went inside, sat down and listened as the speaker, Dr. Kumm, told more.

"I have explored all of Africa," told Dr. Kumm, "but I want to tell you what I saw in the middle, most unknown part. I saw tribes of pygmies, dark-skinned people so short that the tallest is not five feet tall!"

"These people need to hear about Jesus!" the Dr. told. "They live sad lives in fear of evil spirits. Many of them are cannibals who kill strangers and enemies and eat them! There is little love in their families."

"Their country is wild and dangerous," he continued. "Few have dared travel there: only big game hunters, explores and scientists. But none have gone for Jesus! Why? Why should these people not know about Jesus? Is He not their Savior as much as ours? Will no one love Christ or these people enough to endure hardship or even death so that they might hear about Him? You there...why don't you go?" Dr. Kumm asked.

Dr. Kumm's question went straight to C.T.'s heart. Could the Lord be wanting him to go to the pygmies?

"But, Lord, how could I go there?," C.T. thought. "I'm fifty years old! My health has never been good in hot, humid climates. I get terrible asthma in places like that. I could never survive there."

Yet the Spirit of God working in his heart. As C.T. read God's Word, the Holy Spirit gave him wisdom: "Who can stop you, if I have given my disciples the command to go into all the world? I am the Great Physician and I can keep you healthy even in the deepest part of Africa, if I want to. I can supply all your needs." God seemed to be saying to him.

C.T. listened to the Spirit speaking to his heart and he believed. "All right! I WILL go to Africa! Cannibals want Christians and I shall give them some. Perhaps I am an old man, perhaps I will die there. If God is guiding me, then I shall go!"

C.T. went to the committee of men who had given him money to go to China and India as a missionary and asked them to for money to send him to Africa. "We are sorry, Mr. Studd, someone needs to go to Africa to tell these pygmies about Jesus, but can't be you.

Your health is too bad. You'll never survive. We're sorry, but you will have to give up your plans."

No money or supporters. How could C.T. go to Africa without these? Yet C.T. did not give up hope. Hadn't the Holy Spirit guided him to go? Yes, He had!

"Who can stop me, if God has given me wisdom to go?" C.T. reminded himself. He would not give up when God had told him to go! He would trust God to provide what he needed.

"Priscilla," he said to his wife, "We have lost the support of these men, but there is another committee of three: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and they have said 'yes' to me. The Bible tells me that they clothe the fields with grass, preserve the sparrows, and count the hairs on our head. Will He not be able to give me all the money, health and anything else I need to go? Whether or not I have supporters on earth, God will see to it that I will go to Africa anyway."

C.T. prayed and waited to see how God would work out His plans. It did not take long. Only a few days later, a stranger gave C.T. some money, for no reason at all. "This money is from God! Who can stop me, if the Spirit has guided me?" C.T. thought.

With the money, C.T. reserved a room on a ship sailing for Africa in three weeks' time. Over the next three weeks, God provided the thousands of dollars more he needed in equally amazing ways.

God didn't just provide the money C.T. needed for the trip. He prepared his heart, too, giving him wisdom as he prayed and read his Bible. "This trip is not just for the pygmies," he believed the Lord was telling him, "it is for the whole world that has never heard of my Son. Every place your foot shall tread upon, people will come to know Jesus because of your work."

"Thank God I have big feet!" C.T. eagerly responded. "I

will go everywhere I can for God!"

A young man, Mr. Buxton, decided to go with C.T, too. Mr. Buxton's family didn't want him to go that dangerous land, but he knew the Holy Spirit was telling him to go. "Who can stop you, if my Spirit is telling you to go?" were the words that came to Mr. Buxton as he read the Bible and prayed. So Buxton chose to go with C.T. anyway.

C.T. and Buxton sailed to Africa and began their trip into the very heart of Africa. Deep into the jungles they went. They cut their way through thick vines and fought off leopards. Hungry crocodiles lurked in the rivers. The mountainous paths were steep, windy and made slick with moss. One wrong step and they could slip over the side and fall to their deaths.

Would they stop or go back? Did God really lead them to do this? "Who can stop you, if I have told you to go?" the Holy Spirit whispered into their hearts. "Can crocodiles, leopards or dangerous paths? No!"

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, none of this things would stop them. "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him," C.T. exclaimed. So on they went. Nine months later, they made it into pygmy country. Would they be welcomed or eaten? They would soon know.

The pygmies were hungry, all right, but it wasn't to kill and eat the two thin men who risked their lives to find them. These pygmies were hungry to hear about Jesus. So right there among the grass-thatched huts and groves of banana and palm trees, C.T. and Mr. Buxton began to make friends with the pygmies and tell them how they could be saved.

Before long, people began to confess their sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness. They turned away from being cannibals, from being afraid of evil spirits and from living selfish lives. One new believer told them, "My father killed a man and I helped eat him. When I was three years old I remember my father killing a man, and because he had killed my brother, I shared in eating the stew." But now Jesus had forgiven this man and the Holy Spirit had filled his heart. He was a changed man, living a changed life!

C.T. baptized the first pygmy Christians in a crocodile-infested river. One man would shoot off his revolver to scare away the crocodiles long enough for the other man to quickly baptize the new Christians.

C.T. Studd stayed in Africa for over 20 years. Each year he got sicker and sicker. He got so sick that sometimes he had to be carried in a chair with poles attached to the bottom. Four men would take each end of the poles and carry him on their shoulders. Many people thought C.T. was too sick and should go home.

C.T. prayed and asked for wisdom. "God, are You telling me to leave Africa?"

God gave C.T. the wisdom he asked for, "No, I will provide for your needs," was the whisper of the Holy Spirit to C.T.'s heart. "Trust Me. Who can stop you, if my Spirit is telling you to go?"

So C.T. Studd stayed and worked, even though he was so sick. Each morning he would get out of his bed of wood and goat's skin at 3 a.m.. He stirred up the fire for light, then prayed and read His Bible for hours. He prayed that God would help him to speak with the Holy Spirit's wisdom and power to whomever he would meet that day. All day, until late at night, C.T. would go and tell more people about Jesus. It did not matter how sick he was, he kept going.

Many years ago Holy Spirit had whispered a promise into C.T. heart: "This journey is not just for the pygmies, but for all peoples who had never heard about Jesus?" He had promised C.T. Now at the end of his life, C.T. saw how God fulfilled that promise. Many thousands of pygmies and others from that hidden part of Africa came to believe in Jesus. God had used him to bring the gospel to these people who had never heard before. But that was only the beginning. Other Christians joined together with C.T. to form a new missionary group who planned to go anywhere in the world where the good news of Jesus was unknown--just like C.T. had done. And did you know that even today, this missionary group (called the World Evangelism Crusade) is still sending out missionaries to many parts of the world where people have never heard of Jesus.

"Who can stop you, if My Spirit is telling you to go?" Surely the answer of C.T. life was "No one!"

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

Our Bible Verse is: John 14:16-17

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

What about us? Could God use even people like us to tell people who have never heard about Him? Could He want us to go to places like where the pygmies lived in Africa? Yes, He could. How will we know if He wants us to go? We can start by confessing our sins to God, asking Jesus to save us from our sins and turning to live for God. We can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom and show us what He wants us to do and where He wants us to go. We can read our Bibles, listen to the pastor preach, talk to other Christians, and pray. These are the things that the Holy Spirit uses to give God's people wisdom. And if we become God's people, we can know --just like C.T. Studd did--that God will guide us and give us wisdom through His Holy Spirit, just as God has promised.

Let's praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to His people to guide them and give them wisdom. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us wisdom and hearts that long to obey what He tells us to do, like C.T. Studd.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:

The Holy Spirit especially uses our times reading the Bible, praying and going to church to give us wisdom.
 Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Why was it so risky to go to live with cannibals? What are they known to eat?

Answer: They are known to eat people! Enemies and strangers, particularly, would be the kind of people they would choose to eat.

b. Who went to live with the cannibals in our story? How did the Holy Spirit give him wisdom?

Answer: C.T. Studd went to live with a tribe of cannibals in Africa. The Holy Spirit confirmed his desire to risk his life to take the gospel to these people. Every day, C.T. prayed and read His Bible, seeking the Holy Spirit to give him wisdom to teach these people about Jesus.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:

John 14:16-17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another ____, to be with you ____, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You ____ him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Answers: Helper; forever; know.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 20

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free,
 High surging where it will:
 In prophet’s word He spoke of old,
 He speaketh still.
 Established is His law,
 And changeless it shall stand,
 Deep writ upon the human heart,
 On sea or land.

Words: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, Translated by Newton Mann

Music: Meyer Lyon

God’s Holy Spirit is powerful to teach us and give us wisdom. Whether it is the words of the prophets or the laws or the words of the Psalms in the Old Testament; or, the words of Jesus in the gospels or the letters of people like Paul in the New Testament, God’s Holy Spirit uses God’s Word, the Bible, to give us His wisdom. And the wonderful thing is, He doesn’t just help us understand it with our minds. We can ask Him to “write it on our hearts”--which means, change us by His wisdom that we love and live for God.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being the Great Sustainer and Provider for Your people. You took care of C.T. Studd, even when many others doubted that C.T. could survive in Africa.

C God, we confess that many times we doubt whether You could take care of us, if You were to call us to do something very difficult like what C.T. Studd did. We can confess that we are often lazy about praying and reading the Bible. We do not care enough to seek You and Your wisdom.

T God, we thank You for the great work You chose to do through C.T. Studd. Thank You for the many other missionaries who have gone out after seeing his example.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us wisdom. Send Your people out, even today, to all the earth, that all may hear and believe in Jesus as their own Savior.

I Will Ask the Father

PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 21

I will ask the Father,
 And He will give you,
 Another Helper to be with you forever,
 A helper to be with you forever,
 Even the Spirit of truth,
 Even the Spirit of truth.

You know Him, for He dwells with you,
 And will be in you,
 Another Helper to be with you forever,
 A helper to be with you forever,
 Even the Spirit of truth,
 Even the Spirit of truth.
 John Fourteen, sixteen and seventeen.

Words: John 4:16,17, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2015

Jesus promised His disciples that after He rose from the dead and went to heaven that He would not leave them alone. He would send them the Holy Spirit to be their helper. He would live inside of their heart, giving them wisdom and helping them know and love God, and live for Him. He would be with them forever.