



Returning to God

EXPERIENCING
GOD

Henry and Richard Blackaby
**EXPERIENCING GOD
IN YOUR DAILY LIFE**

Session 12

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RETURNING TO GOD

Children of God have the Spirit of God **in-dwelling** them and He is performing His duty in God's salvific plan

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the action by which God takes up **permanent residence** in the body of a believer in Jesus Christ.

In the OT, the Spirit would **come and go** from the saints, empowering them for service but **not necessarily remaining** with them (Judges 15:14; I Chron. 12:18; Psl. 51:11; Ezk. 11:5).

- In John 14:17 Jesus revealed to His disciples the **new role** the Spirit of Truth would play in their lives: "He lives with you and will be in you."
- Scripture teaches us His roles and work in this world:
 1. The Holy Spirit is a **helper** (parakletos) who teaches and reminds (John 14:26)



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2. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (John 16:7-8)
3. The Holy Spirit dwells in believers and fills them (I Cor. 3:16)
4. The Holy Spirit is a source of revelation, wisdom, and power (Acts 1:8; I Cor. 2:10-11)
5. The Holy Spirit guides to all truth, including knowledge of what is to come. (John 16:13)
6. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers (I Cor. 12:7-11)
7. The Holy Spirit is a seal (legal signature) in the lives of believers (Eph. 1:13)
8. The Holy Spirit helps in a Christian's weakness and intercedes for them (Rom. 8:26-27)
9. The Holy Spirit makes believers new and gives them eternal life (Rom. 8:10-11)
10. The Holy Spirit sanctifies and enables believers to bear good fruit in their lives (Gal. 5:16-25)



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The fact that the **believer's body is likened to a temple** (I Cor. 6:19-20) helps us understand what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is all about.

The word temple (naos- shrine) is used to describe the inner sanctum in the OT tabernacle tent.

There, God's presence would appear in a cloud and meet the high priest on Yom Kippur.

On this day, the high priest sprinkled the blood of a slain animal on the **mercy seat of the Ark**.

○ On This special day, God granted forgiveness both to the priest and His people

Is it possible to have a resident Spirit of God living in every believer, and there not be a relationship?

○ That is the case for a religious, non-relational person



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The heart of these lessons has been to move us from a **mere superficial religious performance** to a progressive relationship with God.

- They were designed to **restore our intimacy** with God.

There is reality of even the most zealous Christian loosing the fire of fervor in their relationship with God

- This condition is properly recognized as DRIFT (a slow and subtle diminishing of devotion to the Divine

We find in John 15:10-11 *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

- Obedience to God's rule of life impacts the joy of God
- Disobedience diminishes the amplitude of our joy



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We find in Heb 2:1 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip (pararreō – drift away; flow by; carelessly pass)

Evidence that one has drifted from God is clear in the John 15 passage:

a) You no longer hear from God (Amos 8:11-12)

❖ *There is a famine of hearing the word of God*

a) You lose your joy (John 15:10-11)

❖ *My joy May be in you and your joy complete*

a) You do not produce spiritual fruit (John 15:4-5)

❖ *No branch can bear fruit by itself*

a) You no longer have victory in your life – Deut. 28:25

❖ *The Lord will cause you to be defeated*



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The word of God contains valuable instruction of how to **keep the embers burning** in devotion to God

A. Prov. 4:23 “Keep **[GUARD]** your hearts with all diligence for out of it springs the issues of life.”

➤ Our hearts are desperately wicked and if left unguarded will be drawn from God (Jer. 17:9)

B. Prov. 11:14 “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety”

➤ Surround yourself with godly counselors (Psl 1:1)

C. Matt. 22:37 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind”

➤ Keeping the heart, mind and soul is a posture of love

D. Matt. 7:24 “Everyone who hears these words of mine and put them into practice, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

➤ We must habitually obey everything God says

➤ Obedience will bring us into fresh experiences

RETURNING TO GOD



**God Meets us
Individually**

**God works
Thru Couples
(Families)**




**God Works in
Communities**

**God's
Intent is
for
Global
Impact**



When we accept Christ as our Savior (Rom. 10:9–13), the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts, bringing with Him an entirely new life of love, relationship, and service to the Lord.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIDEO

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- ❑ There are times when God want to use us to share joy rather than a sermon or formalized religion
 - ❖ God is at work all around us, even with our families
 - ❑ Experiencing God is not a new way of finding out doctrine about God, rather it is way of opening up a lifestyle that relates to and works with God
 - ❖ Mark 8:18 Having eyes do you not see, having ears do you not hear?
 - ❑ There is no place as important in seeing the work of God than in our own families
 - ❖ A great question to ask our families: *What have God been saying to you lately?*
 - ❖ We should ask God: *What are You doing in my family, at my job, in my church that I can be a part of?*



OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ How many times have God been at work around us, and we have not noticed what He was doing?
 - ❖ We could have been on a mission with Him and we just didn't join Him
- ❑ The end of this study is not the videos or the lessons but is about making the decision to become more intimate with God and hearing Him when He speaks
- ❑ As we start to move with God, we will surely come to a crisis of belief at some time
- ❑ But our relationship with Him will motivate us to make adjustments in our lives as we progress with Him



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God has a unique purpose for every one of our lives:

- **Psalm 139:13-17** For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and wonderfully made*: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and curiously wrought* in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!
- God has predetermined a standard for us that will lead to our glorification (Rom. 8:29-30)

PERSONAL STUDY

1. What should you do if you discover that your heart is not as devoted or enthusiastic toward God?
2. When we consider the ways you and your spouse are different, how can those differences be used for the glory of God's work through you?



PERSONAL STUDY

3. Are there any ways in which you and your family experience a God-given unified oneness?
4. What is the connection between you and your families prayer life and your Divine assignment?



BIBLE STUDY

STARTING JULY 14, 2020



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