

WEEK 4

God's Presence

By: Bethany Lay

Ephesians 1:12-14

There can be much controversy in today's church regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. If you are like me, it is the hardest for me to wrap my head around this person of the Trinity. I can certainly identify with Christ in the sense that He became a human and lived on the earth. I have an idea of God the Father because I have a father and father figures in my life. While they all fall quite short of God the Father, they give me a glimpse of Him nonetheless.

By the Holy Spirit. His very name brings a sense of mystery and abstractness. Growing up, the churches I was in referred to Him as the Holy Ghost! Yikes! I sure hope that means more like Casper than Ghostbusters. But either way, this is still a far cry from the Holy Spirit.

These verses tell us that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance as God's children. I like how Wayne Grudem describes the work of the Holy Spirit in his book, *Systematic Theology*. He says,

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church....after Jesus ascended into heaven, and continuing through the entire church age, the Holy Spirit is now the primary manifestation of the presence of the Trinity among us. He is the one who is most prominently present with us now. From the very beginning of creation we have an indication that the Holy Spirit's work is to complete and sustain what God the Father has planned and what God the Son has begun.”

If the Holy Spirit is the “primary manifestation of the presence of the Trinity among us” I am compelled to want to know Him more. I hope this longing will rise in your heart as well. Read some good books about the Holy Spirit. Do a Bible study about the Holy Spirit. But be careful to find reputable sources. You can find good resources listed on our website under “Grow” and “Recommended Resources.”

QUESTION: Are you growing in your desire to know each person of the Trinity more?

WALK IT OUT: Find a book, article or podcast that can teach you more about the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER : Dear Holy Spirit, Help me to know you more. Show me the truth of who you are. Thank you for being the guarantee of my inheritance to come.