

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. While the whole idea of the Trinity is hard to understand in itself, most Christians would agree that the Holy Spirit is the least understood person of the trinity.
 - a. If you agree that this is the case, why do you think it is so?
 - b. This lack of understanding can be manifest not only as a lack of understanding of the Bible's teaching about the Holy Spirit, but also as confusion and misunderstanding about what the Bible teaches. What are some wrong and/or questionable teachings about the Holy Spirit you've heard?
 - c. How important is it that we have the right beliefs about the Holy Spirit? What are the practical consequences of believing the wrong things?
2. In his message Pastor Mike talked about how often the Bible uses agricultural imagery to describe our spiritual life and growth. The Gospel is like a seed planted in our heart (Matt 13) which we are to receive and let grow in us (James 1:21). We are to be like a healthy growing tree (Ps 1) and a fruit bearing vine (John 15) that produces the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5)
 - a. What is the significance and meaning of this illustration of comparing our spiritual life and health to the growth and fruit of a plant or tree?
 - b. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruits of the spirit. How are these fruits produced in our lives? What can/should we do to produce these fruits?
 - c. When you review the list of the fruits of the spirit, to what degree are these fruits evident in your life? How has your life grown in demonstrating these fruits over the past few years? If you are not growing in the fruits of the spirit, what does this suggest about your spiritual life?
 - d. Which of the fruits of the Spirit do you feel God needs to grow in you the most? How can you pursue growth in that area?
3. In Galatians 5 Paul calls us to "walk by the spirit (5:16), to be "led by the spirit" (5:18), to "live by the spirit," and to "keep in step with the spirit" (5:25), and in Ephesians 5:18 he calls us to be "filled with the spirit."
 - a. Are these all the same thing? If not, what is the difference between the ideas? What are they all teaching us we should do?
 - b. To what degree are you walking in the spirit, being led by the spirit, living by the spirit, and filled with the spirit? How can you know if you are or are not?
4. Paul also warns us against quenching the spirit (1st Thess 5:19), grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) and searing our consciences (1st Tim 4:2). What specifically is he warning us against? What is the relationship between these warnings and his call to walk in the spirit?
5. In his message Pastor Mike talked about how we walk in the spirit. Which of the areas that he talked about do you need pursue more? What are you willing to do this week to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit?