

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for April 24, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

The Gift and the Giver: The Spirit Teaches, Reminds and Reveals

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Which description of the Holy Spirit's role in your life (Teacher, Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, etc.) are you already the most familiar with? Which was the most new to you? Ask God to broaden your understanding of all the ways the Spirit can enrich and direct your life.
- Do you tend to rely too heavily on the "ordinary" means of gaining knowledge, understanding, or wisdom? Are you regularly opening yourself to the "deep things of God" that the Spirit wants to teach you?
- Are you trying to live your life by your power alone? Invite the Holy Spirit to enlighten you to the resurrection power available to you in Christ.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Psalm 32:8-9** | What does this contrast—between learning to follow the leading of the Lord and the way animals are led—reveal about the way God wants us to grow in obedience?
- **Isaiah 55:8-9** | How does this passage work alongside the idea that God wants to reveal “deep things” to us by the Holy Spirit?
- **Titus 2:11-14** | In what ways do the themes found in these verses compliment, or deepen, our understanding of similar themes in Ephesians 1:17-20?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

April Practice: True Service | Sensitivity & Community (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 129)

- If true service is to be understood and practiced, it must be distinguished clearly from “self-righteous service.” This month, we will look at several of these differences. Pray that God would allow you to find opportunities for “true service” in your life.
- Self-righteous service is insensitive. It insists on meeting the need even when doing so would be destructive. It demands the opportunity to help. True service can withhold the service as freely as perform it. It can listen with tenderness and patience before acting. It can serve by waiting in silence.
- Self-righteous service fractures community. In the final analysis, once all the religious trappings are removed, it centers in the glorification of the individual. Therefore it puts others into its debt and becomes one of the most subtle and destructive forms of manipulation known. True service builds community. It quietly and unpretentiously goes about caring for the needs of others. It draws, binds, heals, and builds.