

Why Believers Must Connect Their Faith, God's Word and the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit loves when you're reading the Bible. While you're reading, studying or listening to Scripture, He is present, leading you into God's truth as you're encountering Jesus.

The apostle Paul closes 2 Corinthians (which is the fourth letter he wrote to them, but only two withstood the test of time) saying, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Cor 13:14).

Within this Bible verse, we see some incredible principles. Read it again.

And again.

Let this verse soak into you.

The Trinity at Work

Within this Bible verse, we see the precious Trinity at work. We see the Father, the Son and the wonderful Holy Spirit. The Trinity is to be the model of relational community within the church. However, it tends to be that when some of us read this closing verse we tend to think individually. But this verse is showing that the corporate group, the church, may have the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit *together*.

Bible Study as Community Reflected by the Trinity

It is estimated that over 100 million Bibles are printed every year. And the Bible Society believes that 2.5 billion copies

of the Bible were printed from 1815 to 1975. And now the YouVersion Bible app has had over 350 million installs on digital devices since 2008. Those are incredible numbers!

Most of us have a Bible or digital copy of it and can read it for ourselves. But in the early church, few copies of the apostolic letters and Gospels were around. So, they read the Bible aloud as a gathering and people memorized them together. And they would eat together, discussing and interpreting what was read to them as a community.

Just like the Trinity is a community, Bible study is to be a community endeavor. I personally love reading, listening and studying Scripture on my own. But we miss something if we're not blending our faith community with the aid of the Holy Spirit in studying and interpreting. The apostolic church accomplished this together in Acts 15. and we can do the same today having God, Scripture and our community of faith. Just as they were reading, studying, discussing and interpreting Scripture together, in our Bible study we should consider what our leaders, church and affiliations believe.

If you're doing a personal or group study of Scripture, you can ask the question, "How does my church community believe or practice what it reads?" You can even relate historical events in your denomination or councils or creeds to what you're studying. And you can talk to your leaders, small groups and others seeing if you agree or disagree with various understanding and interpretation. This is all done in a safe and loving atmosphere of community. If you don't know how to begin studying the Bible s I've mentioned, check out my resource the Spirit Empowered Journal in the U.S. and U.K.

Holy Spirit Empowerment

When studying personally or corporately, the precious Holy Spirit is with you. He reveals the deep truths of God's Word to all of you while engaging your heart, mind and church

community in your study. He loves to empower you with His anointing. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Spirit be upon all of you.

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