

The Creed  
**Week 8: May 2 – 8, 2010**

**“I believe in the Holy Ghost...”**

**Sunday**

Read: John 16: 5-15

Observations and Questions

- Who is speaking in this passage? What transition is being described? What does Jesus say are the things that the Holy Spirit will do when He comes? What do you think the disciples thought about what Jesus was telling them?

Key Concept:

- The Holy Spirit is fully God and has come to bring conviction, revelation, and guidance to us.

Questions to Ponder:

- Have you experienced God’s touch through the Holy Spirit in any of the ways described in this passage? What has been your reaction to “hearing” from the Spirit? Does the idea of God coming to you as the Holy Spirit trouble you? Encourage you? Challenge you?

Pray

- Know that God loves you as a unique unrepeatable miracle of His creation, and wants to bless you through the Holy Spirit’s presence in your life. Ask that He would help you to draw closer to Him as you open your spiritual ears and your heart to all He would want to reveal to you through the Spirit.

## Monday

Read: Acts 5:1-6

### Observations and Questions

- Who are the players in this passage, and what is taking place? Why did Ananias and Sapphira die?

### Key Concept:

- God is not to be trifled with. There are serious consequences to lying to Him.

### Questions to Ponder:

- Do you think God was fair in his discipline? Was He too harsh? What do you think God was trying to accomplish in punishing Ananias and Sapphira so severely? Have you ever been deceitful, thinking, “nobody will know”? Did God know? Have you been convicted by the Holy Spirit about the lie? Have you confessed to Him and to others who were affected by the lie? What were the results of your confession (or the lack of confessing)?

### Pray

- Praise God for His mercy in not punishing us as we deserve, and for the mercy He extends to us through forgiveness. Take full advantage of this mercy by searching your heart for any sin that needs to be brought before God and confessed. Listen for the Holy Spirit directing you in any other ways, and respond quickly to what He tells you.

## Tuesday

Read: Romans 8: 1-11

### Observations and Questions

- What is being described in this passage? What is the difference between those who are condemned and those who are not? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this passage?

### Key Concept:

- When we allow ourselves to be in submission to the Holy Spirit, we will be alive to Christ and no longer under the control of our sinful desires.

### Questions to Ponder:

- What does it mean to you personally that there is no condemnation for your sin because you are in Christ? Have you experienced the “life and peace” that is described in this passage? Do you “have your mind set on what the Spirit desires”? If you do not relate to any of this, have you given your life to Christ yet? If not, what is holding you back from doing so?

### Pray

- Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit work in tandem to bring us fully into a deep and satisfying relationship with God. If this has not happened in your life, take time today to confess your sin to Him and ask Jesus to come into your life. Experience the joy of His love for you as you begin this journey together. If you have this relationship already, pray that God will take you deeper with Him in this journey together.

## Wednesday

Read: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

### Observations and Questions

- What is the context of this passage? Who was speaking? Who was he speaking to? What is the message that he is speaking about in verse 4?

### Key Concept:

- When we allow Christ to reign in our hearts, the Holy Spirit is able to provide us with godly wisdom and understanding by which to live our lives and to help others also.

### Questions to Ponder:

- What is the difference between men's wisdom and God's power? Have you ever experienced an understanding of something that you realize did not come from your own knowledge? Have you ever spoken words that conveyed a truth that you know did not come from you, but from God speaking to you and through you? What purpose did that God-provided truth serve? Were you able to minister to another through the Holy Spirit's presence in your life? Are you aware of and living into the McLane Church core value, every member is a minister?

### Pray

- Ask God to help you release control of your life over to Him, and seek His wisdom and direction for your life choices and decisions. When you see a need, ask God to help you know if you are to be a part of meeting that need...and if so, to provide what you need (wisdom, understanding, words of comfort or direction, etc.) so as to minister in that situation.

## Thursday

Read: Psalm 139: 7-12

### Observations and Questions

- If you have time, read the entire psalm and sense the context of these verses. What thoughts are running through your mind about the nature of our relationship with God?

### Key Concept:

- Being omnipresent, God is with us at every moment through the presence of His Spirit.

### Questions to Ponder:

- Does the ever-presence of God make you nervous or fearful...or does it bring you warmth, comfort and assurance? In these verses, we see that God is not only with us, but He is an actor in our lives, providing guidance & security. Do you welcome that? It also says that if we want to hide from Him (darkness), He will see us anyway. Are there times when you want to hide from God? Why?

### Pray

- Thank God for the fact that He is never “asleep at the wheel,” but is always present with us, and for us. Take advantage of His proximity by speaking with Him throughout each day, sharing your joys by thanking Him, and your sorrows and concerns by petitioning for His help. God loves you and wants to hear from you (and talk to you was well!)

## Friday

Read: Galatians 5:22-23

### Observations and Questions

- What kind of things are the fruit of the Spirit? How do they contrast with the verses that come immediately before (Gal. 5: 19-21). Do you see any from either group in your own life?

### Key Concept:

- The Holy Spirit works in believers to develop godly character qualities.

### Questions to Ponder:

- Do you think it is possible to have any or all of the nine fruit of the Spirit without having been given them God? How many of these fruit would you say you have in abundance? Which ones are lacking in you? Have you asked God to help you become more Christ-like? If so, have you seen an answer to that prayer in your character?

### Pray

- God can enhance the good character qualities that you already have, and transform the poor qualities that are in your nature. Come before Him in prayer and yield your life to Him, asking that the Spirit would help guide your life. Notice what you select for entertainment. Is it God honoring? Reflect on how you have spoken to people during the day. Would Jesus have done the same? Present any poor choices or words you have made to God, and ask him to replace them through the development of the fruit of the Spirit in your heart and mind.

## Saturday

Read: 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10, 28-30; Romans 12: 1-8; Ephesians 4:1-16

### Observations and Questions

- What is the common thread of these passages? Do you notice anything being spoken of that you relate to personally?

### Key Concept:

- God gives each believer in Christ one or more gift through the Holy Spirit for the purpose of strengthening the body of Christ (the Church).

### Questions to Ponder:

- Have you ever heard about gifts of the Spirit? Why do you think God gives them to us? (see Eph. 4: 11-13) Make a list of the gifts you see in these passages. Do you believe that you may have one or more of them? If so, how are you using them for the building up of the church? Have you seen God working in and through you as you use the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you?

### Pray

- If you have trusted Jesus to be your Savior, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit has given you at least one of these gifts. Pray that God will use you in ways that He has designed and is calling you to His service. If you don't know what your gifts are, find out. If you would like help with this, contact McLane GroupLife for some resources that will help you to understand what your spiritual gifts are. You can reach them at 734-1907 ex. 27, by email at [grouplife@mcclan church.org](mailto:grouplife@mcclan church.org), or by stopping by the GroupLife Center at the Edinboro site.