

The Whole Counsel



“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” ~ Acts 20:27

The Spirit of God

(Article 3, The Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church)

We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from and is one in being with the Father and the Son. He convinces the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He leads people through faithful response to the gospel into the fellowship of the Church. He comforts, sustains and empowers the faithful and guides them into all truth.

John 14:15-23

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. **19** In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” **23** Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit would soon reside within the disciples**
- ◆ **The Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ**
- ◆ **The Spirit creates an inner unity between God, Jesus, and us**
- ◆ **Through the Spirit, God and Jesus make their home within us.**

Further Study *for a deeper understanding*

The following daily readings are available online.

Sunday	Spiritual Unity with Christ	John 14:15-23
Monday	The Spirit Foretold	Acts 2:14-21 (Joel 2:28-32)
Tuesday	The Promise of the Spirit	Acts 2:37-42
Wednesday	The New Birth	John 3:1-8
Thursday	The Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:16-25
Friday	The Gifts of the Spirit	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Saturday	Life in the Spirit	Romans 8:1-17

APPLICATION *for Daily Living*

Prayer

There is an inner life each of us can enjoy. God promises that if we receive Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit will take up residence within us. Prayer is the door to the inner life.

Many people struggle with prayer because they do not conceive of prayer as a conversation. Prayer is both speaking to God and listening to God. The listening part can be awkward at first, but in time and with much practice we are able to hear God more clearly.

Meditating on God's Word is a form of prayer. Through meditation, we read God's word and allow each idea to take root within our soul. By returning again and again, the truths of God reside more deeply within us, which gives the Spirit a greater vocabulary to use in communicating with us.

QUESTIONS *for discussion*

How would you describe your current prayer-life?

When was the last time you heard God speak?

What motivates you to pray?