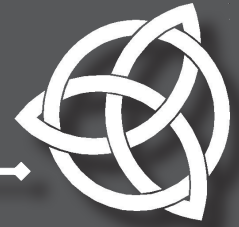




# TRI GOD



A PINECREST LIFEGROUP STUDY RESOURCE

**Sermon Title:** *Freedom Maker! (The Holy Spirit)*

**Speaker:** Ray Schwartz

**Main Passage:** John 16:5-15

**Date:** May 2, 2010

## Getting Started

- » Share with the group your most memorable tour guided experience. Share when and why you took the guided tour as well as what made it so memorable (was it the guide, the tour, something else?).
- » What do you think is the most common misconception people—including Christians—have about the Holy Spirit? Why do you think this is the case?
- » This morning, Ray said that people have a hard time with the Holy Spirit because He seems so “mystical”. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? Do you think it’s an accurate picture? Why/why not?

## The Study

- » What challenged you the most from this morning’s sermon? Was there anything new that you hadn’t heard or learned before? What was most important? What questions did it generate?
- » Do you struggle accepting or seeing the Holy Spirit as a separate entity of the Trinity? Why is it important to understand that the Holy Spirit is fully God? Does it really matter? Why/why not?
- » Have someone read **GENESIS 1:1-2** out loud. Have you thought about the Holy Spirit being part of the creation story before? Is this the same Holy Spirit we read about in the New Testament?
- » Have someone in the group read **JOHN 16:5-15** out loud. What stands out the most to you in this passage? Why do you think it was so important for Jesus to point out that He would send the Holy Spirit once He was gone? What roles does Jesus indicate the Spirit plays in our lives?
- » In the John 16:5-15 passage Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our “Advocate” which Ray taught can be translated “Counselor”...or more accurately: “Paraclete”. What do these names for the Holy Spirit mean to you? Do you think this means that the Spirit is on our side as our representative or is He simply pointing out the sin in our lives?
- » Read **PSALM 139:7-8** as a group. Does this passage give you comfort or make you uncomfortable?
- » Ray outlined the following four roles of the Holy Spirit :
  1. Counselor (Psalm 139:7-8)
  2. Guarantor (Ephesians 1:13-14)
  3. Life Coach (Galatians 5:16-18)
  4. The Giver of Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

As a group, pick one of these roles that challenges you the most and discuss your thoughts, ideas and reactions based on the sermon and your own thinking. Now discuss the one that is easiest for you to understand and accept. How can understanding these roles help you develop a better relationship with the Holy Spirit?

- » **GALATIANS 5:16-25** indicates that we should live our lives guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. How do we do this practically? Do you struggle being led by the Spirit (or knowing how to listen)? Why? According to this Scripture, what kind of “fruit” is produced in our lives when we let the Holy Spirit guide our lives? Share examples of this truth in your own life or in the life of someone you know.
- » Now that we’re done with the Trinity series, discuss what has made the most impact for you over the past four weeks. How have you grown? What have you learned? How are you different as a result?

## Application

- » Ray indicated that the Holy Spirit plays a key role in us finding God. He quoted A.W. Tozer: “*The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to restore the lost soul to intimate fellowship with God.*” Think back on the process you went through before you got into right relationship with God. Can you see the Spirit working in that process? Share your experience with the group.
- » How do you typically interact with the Holy Spirit (if you do at all)? How can you build a better, stronger bond and relationship with Him? What will you do differently this week and how can the group hold you accountable to that?
- » Ray stated that the spiritual health of a church is not determined by the worship service, the speaker, or the facility, but by how many individual members are using their spiritual gifts in ministry. How do you think Pinecrest is doing in this area? How about you personally? Discuss as a group.
- » As a group, spend time specifically and directly praying to the Holy Spirit. Ask Him for guidance and direction in your life. Ask Him to help you tune into and listen to Him more consistently. Spend some time talking to Him and seeking His counsel.
- » Spend some time this week in Scripture looking for passages and stories that include the Holy Spirit. Examine what Scripture says about the Spirit. How do people in the Bible interact with the Spirit? Look for areas where you can grow closer to Him and accept more of His power and guidance in your life. Ask Him this week to show you more of Himself. Journal what you discover and hear.
- » Are there any unanswered questions, thoughts, or ideas we haven't discussed yet? Don't be shy... time's almost up on this topic. Get it off your mind now!
- » Share with the group one more time the “Trinity Blindspot” you identified four weeks ago. Have the blinders come off over these past few weeks? If so, how can you continue to grow closer to God and eliminate that blindspot altogether? If not, why do you think that is and how can the group help you get there?

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## Caring Community

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking into your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
  
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
  
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...
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