

## Title: Behold the Dove

Text: Various:

- **Matthew 3:16:** “and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a **dove** and coming to rest on him.”
- **Mark 1:10:** “the Spirit descending on him like a **dove**.”
- **Luke 3:22:** “and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a **dove**.”
- **John 1:32:** “And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a **dove**, and it (**remained**) on him.”

**Target:** To experience for ourselves the person of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

### I. **The Revelation of the Holy Spirit in Christ:** Key Word: “**Remained**”

- Conceived by the Spirit:** “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18)
- Identified by the Spirit:** “And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.” (Luke 2:26)
- Appointed by the Spirit:** **\*importance of the Dove**
  - Genesis 8:** The Flood
  - Matthew 12:40:** Jonah in the whale 3 days/nights.
- Directed by the Spirit:** “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness” (Luke 4:1)
- Empowered by the Spirit:** “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound,” (Isaiah 61:1/Luke 4:21)
- Resurrected by the Spirit:** “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus[a] from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:11)
- Breathed out the Holy Spirit:** “And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

**Discussion Question:** Jesus fully understood the power and importance of the third person of the Trinity. He even foretold of His coming (John 14:16-17) and the Apostle Paul told of His power (Romans 8:11). However, many believers don't fully walk in the Spirit. At times we go about life living timidly and void of power. Read Ephesians 3:20. Read it aloud over the group. Sit and meditate on this verse for a moment. Is there an area of your life that seems hopeless or beyond reach? Do you need to be reminded that He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than you could ever ask or even imagine?

### II. **The Role of Holy Spirit in You:** Key Word: “**Resides**” (1 Cor. 6:19)

- He Saves you:** “born of the Spirit”-John 3:5 “renewal of the Holy Spirit” - Titus 3:5
- He Seals you:** “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”- Ephesians 1:13
- He Sanctifies you:** “sanctified by the Holy Spirit”- Romans 15:16
  - Clarifies Scripture:** “He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you”- John 14:26
  - Convicts of Sin:** “he will convict the world concerning sin”- John 16:8
  - Confirms our Steps:** “if we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step by the Spirit”- Galatians 5:25
  - Comforts in Sorrow:** “He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever”- John 14:16
- He Strengthens you:** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” - Acts 1:8
  - Equips w/ Spiritual Gifts:** “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” - 1 Corinthians 12:4,11

2. **Enables Spiritual Growth:** *“walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...but the fruit of the Spirit.” Galatians 5:16,22*

**Discussion Question:** Let's focus on the sub points of this section. We find that the Holy Spirit clarifies, convicts, confirms, comforts, equips, and enables us to become more like Jesus and share the Good News with others. What sanctifying characteristic do you need the Holy Spirit to be for you right now or what is He doing in you in this season of life? What strengthening do you need? Think back to the Eph. 3:20. Be encouraged and reminded that He is able to do all that He said He would do in and through you.

**Take Away:** In Jesus name is more than an ending to a prayer, but pursuit of a living life on heavenly purpose.