

BASICS

WEEK 7: THE HOLY SPIRIT

WATCH: BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO - The New Humanity

Genesis 1v26-27 says that God made humans "according to our likeness." Again in **Genesis 2v7-9** the scriptures say that Yahweh God "formed human of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and human became a living being."

What are the implications of this with regard to the Holy Spirit being present at creation and as part of the creation of humanity?

The video makes clear what the scriptures say in Genesis 1-2 about God offering humanity the chance to rise above their mortal origins in the dirt so that they can become God's eternal partners in ruling the world together. **Read and reflect on Psalm 8 and notice God's generosity towards humanity to partner with him.**

Ultimately, humanity is deceived by a spiritual being and this **partnership between God and humanity** is derailed. We see this derailing happen again and again with many heroes and heroines in the scriptures: Noah (Genesis 5-9), Abraham (Genesis 12-25), Joseph (Genesis 37-50), Moses (Exodus 2 - Deuteronomy 34), David (1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 2). **All of these characters have the hope and opportunity to become full partners with God through the power of the Spirit, but they don't. Discuss the implications of this.**

In the gospels Jesus comes on the scene full of power and hope as God's answer for a **new human partner who will set about the work God originally wanted to do** in Genesis. We find Jesus healing the sick and casting out demons (Read: Luke 13v10-13,16; Matthew 4v23-24; Matthew 12v22-29). This is what God's kingdom looks like and Jesus was ushering it in. **Discipleship means doing what Jesus did as we imitate him. Are you doing this? How could you do this better?**

In Paul's letters he uses the word "spiritual" to refer to a mode of humanity that is empowered by God's life-giving Spirit (1 Corinthians 15v35-37; 1 Corinthians 2v12-3v3)...a humanity that can partner with God again. **Since Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, how are we empowered to partner with God today?**