

Bible Study, Symbols Of The Holy Spirit, Week 1

These Bible Studies have been based on: Emblems Of The Spirit, By Selwyn Hughes

Only his ideas have been used. The questions have been worked out separately.

Day: 1

Read Genesis 8: 1-22

1. The first symbol of the Holy Spirit is the dove.
2. Why do you think the Raven did not return? (Leviticus 11: 15)
3. What is the symbol of the dove returning twice before staying away?
4. When the Holy Spirit “came” upon someone in the Old Testament did He stay on such a person or did He leave again when the person has completed his task?
5. What happened when John the Baptist baptized Jesus?
6. When we are reborn, does the Holy Spirit stay with us, always throughout our whole life?
7. Think about the Holy Spirit’s character of permanency.

Additional reading: Psalm 91: 1-10, Matthew 3: 13-17

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Day: 2

Read Song Of Solomon 6: 1-13

1. Why do you think the groom calls her a dove?
2. What is a bride the symbol of in the Old Testament?
3. What is the first part of the Holy Spirit?
4. God does not like to live in an unholy body, is there still something in your life making you unholy?
5. How can you do about it?

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Day: 3

Read Matthew 10: 1-20

1. In verse 16 the symbol of a dove is once more used. What is the other characteristic assigned to the dove here?
2. What do you think it means?
3. In Afrikaans the word “harmless,” as it is in the Message and King James versions, are translated with sincere. Do you think that is a part of the fruit of the Spirit even though it is not mentioned in Galatians 5: 22? (Look at the Amplified that says “be innocent (harmless, guileless and without falsity”))
4. Do you think it says something about how we should act?

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Day: 4

Read Psalm 55: 1-23

1. What is it the Psalmist is longing for, “as a dove?”
2. Why is he saying it?
3. Is it a good thing to try and flee from your problems?
4. Is it a good idea to try and “rule” over your problems?
5. Did Jesus allow problems to overcome Him?
6. He had wings like a dove to soar over it all.
7. Do you think the Holy Spirit gives us wings?
8. Do you need it today?

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Day: 5

Read Song Of Solomon 5: 1-16

1. Read this in more than one translation if possible. You will find the Amplified version very good.
2. It is said that when a dove drinks water from a stream or a river, the dove keeps it's easy focused on the water. The dove does not lift its head until it has finished drinking. What is the symbol in that for us?
3. A dove only has one mate for his whole life. What does it tell us about love and the Holy Spirit in the light of the dove as a symbol of the Holy Spirit?
4. What does it tell us about God's love?

Additional reading Zephaniah 3: 17

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Day: 6

Read Isaiah 60:1-14

Verse 8 is what we are thinking about today

1. Even though doves only have one mate for their whole life, they like to be with other doves, sociable, so to speak, they love to be together. Do you think it says something about the Church of God?
2. Why do we have to be together? Could it be that each has its own task?
3. Do you feel the Holy Spirit wants us to have a good relationship with all people?
4. Does it mean we have to show something of the love of a dove to others, especially fellow believers?

Also read Philippians 2: 1-4

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Day: 7

Read John 1: 29-34

Today is the conclusion of the part of our study where we look at the dove as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The dove is soft and tender and that is how the Holy Spirit is. He wants to love us and He wants to have a close relationship with us. WE need Him to lead us daily. He can make a difference in our lives, but we have to spend time with Him. It takes time to see how He is working in us and in others.

1. Read Exodus 34, how long did Moses spend time in God's presence before he came down with his face glowing?
2. Read Acts 1: 14, how long did the disciples spend in prayer before the Holy Spirit came upon them?
3. What does this tell us?
4. Spend some time thinking about sanctification and whether we are making it "cheap" today.
5. How do you understand sanctification?
6. How do you understand mercy?
7. How can we make it real in the lives of others?

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