

Daniel 5:14

I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you.

The person speaking the words here to Daniel in today's verse is king Belshazzar. This is where king Belshazzar saw a handwriting on the wall and was so scared that the bible says that his knees were knocking together (literally), and no one could tell what the writing said. So they called for Daniel, who in times past had proven himself to be a man of God, because of how the Lord used him. If you haven't read any of the stories about Daniel or only remember the bible stories from being a kid in Sunday school, you really need to read Daniel Chapters 1 – 7 again.

But today's devotional is not about that. It's about what Belshazzar said about Daniel, which was, *"the Spirit of God is in you."* How many times has a non-believer said that to you? Probably very few, if any times. But did he see the Holy Spirit in Daniel because he wore a t-shirt saying he was filled with the Spirit? Maybe it was the cool meditative music Daniel listened to, or maybe the lights were down real low when Daniel walked in, and the emotion of the moment made Belshazzar say that.

It was actually none of those. It was the way Daniel lived his life and the testimony of others and how they saw Daniel live his life. Yet we treat the Holy Spirit like He is afraid of light or only manifests himself when the lights are down low in what we call an Afterglow service. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, so He loves light, because He is light. So why are we turning down the lights?

"Well, it makes me feel Him more and I get all emotional and I even cry sometimes when that happens."

Nice, but the Holy Spirit is not an emotion. Sure, you may feel an emotion at times when you sense His presence. I know I have walked into church sometimes and felt the thick presence of the Holy Spirit. But that doesn't mean He wasn't there at other times. I've been in others setting where I wasn't in church, and there was no soft music in the background, but rather it may have been noisy, with normal daylight shining and have experienced the Holy Spirit's presence. It wasn't an emotion; it was the Holy Spirit speaking through me or using me to minister to others.

I think one of the most powerful times I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit is when I was in Israel. As you are driving up to Jerusalem, right before you enter it, you go through a tunnel. I remember being on the bus with 40 other people, and as soon as you reach the other side of the tunnel and enter Jerusalem, well it's an experience no one can explain, and it is the presence of the Holy Spirit. It's so overwhelming that once you get to Jerusalem, it's about another 10 minute drive until you reach the hotel, but once you do, all you want to do is get to your hotel room and be alone with the Lord, fall on your knees and cry and worship Him.

If you think about it, an afterglow service is kind of like a date night with your spouse, with a candlelight dinner and soft music in the background, feeling that emotional part of your relationship with your spouse. But that happens maybe one percent of your month or year with him or her, other times it's life as usual. No fuzzy feel-good feelings, yet they are still with you, and you are still in the same relationship (marriage being as one) as you are during date night.

So, yeah, have those intimate times with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. But the other 99% of the time, remember that He is still with you, kids yelling in the background, troubles and deadlines at work, being stuck in traffic or whatever, He is with you!

† **John 16:7** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

† **Psalm 71:5-6 (NLT2)** *O Lord, you alone are my hope. I've trusted you, O LORD, from childhood. Yes, you have been with me from birth; from my mother's womb you have cared for me. No wonder I am always praising you!*