

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU.

Ecclesiastes 1:1

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

The Preacher calls himself “the son of David, king in Jerusalem,”. Therefore, we can safely identify King Solomon as the writer of the book.

Ecclesiastes 1:2

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

The word vanity in this context literally means that which vanishes. It's meaningless, it's worthless, futile.

Ecclesiastes 1:3-10

3 What profit has a man from all his labour in which he toils under the sun?

4 One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever.

5 The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose.

6 The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north;

The wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit.

7 All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;

To the place from which the rivers come, there they return again.

8 All things are full of labour; man cannot express it.

The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done,

And there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there anything of which it may be said, “See, this is new”?

It has already been in ancient times before us.

The book of Ecclesiastes deals with mankind's search for the meaning of life.

Ecclesiastes presents us a naturalistic vision of life—one that sees life through human eyes.

Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes at the end of his life; as he was writing he was reflecting on his own life.

A quick background on King Solomon. He was a very rich king and he had everything.

According to his own words, he had tried many different plans and strategies in search of his life's meaning and significance.

In fact, in chapter 2, he lists in great detail all that he tried, to find pleasure and satisfaction in life.

Chapter 2:1-11

Every pursuit of pleasure felt worthless to Solomon, he didn't know what more he needed.

I can safely say that this pursuit describes most people who live specially in very affluent countries, in the West.

So, after reflecting on his own life, Solomon declared that everything was meaningless! A chasing after the wind!

Ecclesiastes 2:11

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labour in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind.

There was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

What Solomon came to understand is that a life just lived in the natural without God and an eternal perspective, is empty and meaningless. True happiness comes from centring our lives on God, not on ourselves.

So, if you find yourself stuck in a rut, in an existential rut like Solomon, first of all you need to make the decision to get out of it, as Ps Luis mentioned last Sunday.

Once you've made that decision, God will offer you supernatural help:
The Holy Spirit.

1. ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE

If you are going to be successful in living a meaningful life, you need supernatural coaching. God knows we are not that smart, so He prepared a Helper in advance.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

You and I need the Holy Spirit to help us live our lives with meaning and purpose, to make good choices and good decisions in life, to live a life with an eternal perspective, one that at the end you can say that was well lived.

It may happen that at times we may fail to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit and we go on a detour, or make a mistake, or make the wrong decision, but when that happens don't get discouraged, acknowledge your mistake, and ask the Lord to help you get back on track.

How can I be led by the Holy Spirit throughout my life?

After doing the basics, which is: praying and reading the Bible every day, you need to learn what it is to:

2. WAIT ON GOD

When we don't wait on God and for the leading of the Holy Spirit, what ends up happening is that we jump into making rushed or bad decisions in life.

We have a great advantage in comparison with Solomon who lived under the Old Covenant. The Spirit of God would come upon him and give him wisdom, he was known for that, but the Holy Spirit did not live on the inside of Him. At that time the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon all flesh.

We live in a different covenant, the new covenant. When you invite Jesus into your life, the Helper, the Holy Spirit comes along and now resides in you.

Let me show you what the Bible says about the importance of waiting on God:

Psalm 27:14

**Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the Lord!**

Lamentations 3:25

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

Psalm 33:20

Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

Psalm 62:5

My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.

Psalm 37:7

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; (...)

Isaiah 64:4

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him.

Micah 7:7

7 Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation;
My God will hear me.

You need to wait for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

How do I do that?

3. LEARN TO DISCERN THE STILL SMALL VOICE IN YOUR HEART

It's not an audible voice, it's not neon lights on a wall, it's that inner small voice that guides you always in line with the Word of God.

1 Kings 19:11-13

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

Acts 10:19

19 While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you.

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Life can be a monotonous rut, a dissatisfying unfulfilled existence in spite of all our possessions and achievements, or life can be purposeful and full of meaning.

The Holy Spirit is the One who when acknowledged and relied upon, will lead you there.

There are many 'life coaches' and 'life experts' out there, but in reality, the Holy Spirit is the true life expert.