

## The Holy Spirit

*prayer*

Today I would like to speak to you about GOD. God the Father, God the Son, but today I want to put specific emphasis on God the Holy Spirit.

Remember a while back when I spoke about the WWJD movement?

We spoke about the benefits of asking ourselves: "What would Jesus do?"

Can we agree that asking ourselves what he would do is easy... but doing it may be a wee bit more difficult?

Wouldn't it be awesome if he walked among us today like he did with the disciples – as a man incarnate in the flesh?

If he were here today we could just ask him what to do, or spend time observing him and his ways. We could learn first hand by empirical observation what to do.

I for one would love to spend time with the saviour.

How would he be received today? Remember, people are still people. Many did not believe in him even when he was here. Yet as Christians at least we have the events of his life recorded for our example don't we?

Do you think it was hard for the disciples to accept Jesus telling them he was going to die? Do you think these Apostles would have grief over the events to come? Do you think that if they saw Jesus as the great teacher and their heavenly father they were prepared to accept what he was telling them? This is why he addressed this very issue with his disciples...

John 14:17,18 CEV

*The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you. I won't leave you like orphans. I will come back to you*

These Holy men of God struggled with the issues just as we do today... So where do we turn to?

We turn to the Holy comforter, which was promised to us.

In John 16:7 CEV Jesus said:

*But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you*

I want to take a closer look at what Jesus said in full context lets read through John 16:5-15 HCSB

*“But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counsellor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in Me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

*“I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.*

So you see that Jesus has told us that he has given us the Holy Spirit to enlighten us about the meaning of the scriptures and to give us guidance in his truth.

In the Old Testament that the Holy Spirit would indwell leaders and priests only for a short time for service and then depart.

You see it was when the last of the Old Testament prophets died. That is Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi that the presence of the Holy Spirit ceased to be seen in Israel. For 400 years people yearned to hear the voice of God, but heard only echoes of the Spirit.

Then Jesus Christ hits the Scene, is anointed and commissioned, his ministry as a Prophet begins. We have the big picture and know that he is the messiah, but that fact wasn’t really revealed until later...

After which Jesus re-established his role as the royal prophet culminating in his taking up his crown on the entry to Bethlehem.

Jesus then died and rose again and ascended to heaven after imparting the gift of the Holy Spirit to us. This gift of the Spirit which was indwelling in the Old Testament was promised in Joel 2:28-29

*“Later, I will give my Spirit to everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will even give my Spirit to my servants, both men and women”*

This was a permanent presence. Jesus told us in John 14:16 CEV

*Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you*

So the Holy Spirit is no longer intended to indwell only leaders or priests only and for a short time for service, but the Holy Spirit is to help us and always be with us.

The Holy Spirit is divine, eternal, omnipresent and omniscient. The Holy Spirit is God and is one of the Trinity. We have previously discussed the Holy Spirits Role in Salvation

## Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation:

- Regeneration
- Indwelling
- Baptizing
- Sealing
- Filling
- Guiding
- Empowering
- Teaching

So He:

He draws us to Christ

-- We are Saved --

He does a restorative work in us

He fills us and indwells us

HE comforts us

He teaches us the scriptures

He illuminates the meaning of scripture

He guides us into all truth

--Baptized in the HS --

He commissions us to service

He empowers us for service

We receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Jesus Christ as our personal saviour, but there is a second great work of the Holy Spirit. It is baptism in the Holy Spirit. This is the point at which we are commissioned and empowered for more effective witness.

Many people here have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour yet a significant portion have not yet been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Some have occasionally experienced his presence for service. There is a difference between infilling or indwelling and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 tells us to repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

To be clear as this is another point of confusion: There is baptism in Water also know as John's baptism and there is baptism in the Holy Spirit. John's baptism is an act of obedience to God. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a commissioning and empowerment for witness.

Jesus was baptized in water by John to fulfill all righteousness. Yet note that it was after his baptism when Jesus went aside and prayed that he was commissioned for ministry.

(Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2)

Later at synagogue, Jesus told everyone:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

*He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him. He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled"*

You see the Holy Spirit commissions us for ministry. If you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour then you have the Holy Spirit inside of you working to bring about the likeness of Christ within you. When you are ready, you are baptized in the Holy Spirit and you are commissioned into the ministry of making disciples. You are effectively empowered for witness.

When this happens:

You are equipped

You have all the tools you need

You are ready

Anyone can talk about Jesus, and that is awesome, God's word won't return to him void... but to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit with you, leading you, guiding you, empowering you with the gifts of the Spirit. It's a whole new league of witness.

The commissioning of the Holy Spirit is really an empowering for ministry. At Pentecost the first evidence that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit was that they were speaking in tongues. It is because of that precedent that we look for speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of this baptism. There are additional evidences.

In fact the gifts of the spirit can be broken down into three categories each of which has three sub-categories:

- Gifts of Knowing
  - Words of Wisdom
  - Words of Knowledge

- Discerning of Spirits
- Gifts of Doing
  - Faith for Miracles
  - Healings
  - Works of Power
- Gifts of Speaking
  - Tongues
  - Interpretation
  - Prophecy

How many people today want to see the gifts exercised to a greater measure in the church?

If you want to be more effective and carry greater authority in the gifts of the spirit you need to seek baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Do you think today that the disciples would have been disappointed when Jesus

How many people here today know that God has a purpose for your life?

How many people here today want everything that God has for you?

Do you want to be effective for winning souls to Jesus?

How about having the right words to say in any given situation to bring glory to God?

How about knowing something, not just suspecting but having clear knowledge of something that without God you could not possibly know?

How about knowing what spirits are tormenting a person you are trying to help?

How about faith, not the faith of just stating your faith but the kind of faith where you actually believe what you are saying, what you are doing and that God can accomplish anything. Did you know this too is a gift of the Holy Spirit? If you are struggling with your faith seek baptism in the Holy Spirit.

How about hearing from God and healing the sick and the lame?

How about raising the dead?

How about creative miracles organs where there were none before, new limbs and so on?

How about prophecy, speaking in other languages you have never learned or interpretation of a language you don't know?

All of these things are the purview of the Holy Spirit and are available when you are walking in the will of the Lord God.

So often I come to church and I hear Jesus is great or praise Jesus that and that is awesome!  
But have we lost sight of the fact that there is also God the Father and the Holy Spirit?

Remember when we discussed the Trinity we talked about three distinct personages all with distinct roles, yet with never conflicting objectives all in one accord and of one mind? The trinity is a mystery yet one which we must embrace to its fullest.

The Holy Spirit Draws You to Christ

Jesus Saves you

The Holy Spirit works in your life to bring about the likeness of Christ

Christ covers you with his righteousness so that you can be once again in fellowship with the father.

Jesus is coming back to rule and reign, then he will hand the kingdom back to the Father.

As Christians we cannot just cherry pick one of the trinity, we must embrace the fullness of Gods truth.

- Jesus is Lord
- Jehovah is Lord
- The Holy Spirit is Lord

---They are God---

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three individuals comprise one God, each aspect of which has the same nature and attributes of the others and which is worthy of the same obedience, confidence and worship. (Matt 3:16, 17, Matt 28:19-20, Mark 12:29, John 1:14, Acts 5:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14) All three have always existed and have not been created of the other.

The Father is the creator of the heavens and the Earth. He is the giver of the law and all things are subject to the will of the Father.

The Son is personified in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is eternal and yet begotten of the Father. Jesus is truly fully God and fully man. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We have greater revelation of the nature of God through his sinless life and teachings. We can only understand an infinite God in the context of the revelation of himself that he has shared with us. To give us greater revelation of himself he has come, died and is our risen great High Priest. He has provided a substitutionary sacrifice resulting in Justification and sanctification (both instant and ongoing) for those who accept him. It is only through Christ's atoning sacrifice that we can be saved.

The personage of the Holy Spirit is also God and performs the actions and possesses all of the attributes of the Deity. He is daily engaged in the creative work of regeneration.

The Holy Spirit is the guiding force of the church today. He tells us what Jesus wants for his church. Luke shows us that Prophecy and inspired speech have always been in the Holy Spirit's bailiwick.

If we want to see the hand of God in our churches we need to embrace the Holy Spirit. He is the one who enables us in the gifts that Christ gives us. He is here to guide us and lead us into all truth.

The scriptures tell us that all three members of the trinity are holy, truth, benevolent, powerful, eternal, called God, called creator, sanctifiers, life givers, omnipresent and omniscient.

- **Holy:** Rev 15:4, Acts 3:14, Acts 1:8
- **Truth:** John 7:28, Rev 3:7 1 John 5:6
- **Benevolent:** Rom 2:4, Ephesians 5:25, Nehemiah 9:20
- **Powerful:** 1 Peter 1:5, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 15:19
- **Eternal:** Psalms 90:2, John 1:2, Rev 1:8, Rev 1:17, Hebrews 9:14
- **Omnipresent:** Jeremiah 23:24, Matthew 18:20, Psalms 139:7
- **Omniscient:** Jeremiah 17:10, Rev 2:23, 1 Corinthians 2:11
- **Called God:** Philippians 1:2, John 1:1,14, Acts 5:3-4
- **Called Creator:** Isaiah 64:8, 44:24, Colossians 1:15-17 Job 33:24, 26:13
- **Sanctifier:** 1 Thessalonians 1:10, John 2:19, 10:17, Romans 8:11
- **Life Giver:** Genesis 2:7, John 1:3, 5:21, 2 Corinthians 3:6, 8

You see the Holy Spirit has had a huge role in accordance with his status:

Holy Spirit's Works:

- Active in Creation
- Inspired Biblical Writers
- Empowered the conception of Christ
- Convicts of Sin
- He Regenerates
- He Counsels
- Brings assurance of Salvation
- Teaches and enlightens
- Aids in prayer by intercession
- Resurrected Christ
- Calls to Service
- Seals the elect's salvation
- Indwells the believer
- Works in the Church

Now we are told to make disciples of Jesus aren't we?

So if that is the case:

- Who is the one who draws people to Jesus? HS
- Who is the one who indwells us with his presence? HS
- Who is the one who empowers us with the spiritual gifts of Jesus? HS
- Who is the one who brings about the likeness of Christ within us? HS
- Who is the one who speaks the words of Jesus to us? HS
- Who is the one who calls us to ministry and service? HS
- Who is the one who establishes the gift of faith within us today? HS
- Who is the one who resurrected Jesus from the Grave? HS

Who understands that the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, the Holy Comforter, the Helper is an active force and partner with us as we endeavour to fulfill the great commission of Jesus ?

God is one yet three. Yet we tend to lose focus on the essential elements:

So here is a review:

The essential elements are:

- 1) God is one
- 2) Each entity in the Godhead is Deity
- 3) The oneness and the three-ness of God are not contradictory
- 4) The Trinity is eternal
- 5) The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are of the same essence and are not inferior or superior to the others in essence.
- 6) The Trinity is a mystery

The bible teaches us that God is one.

- Deuteronomy 3:13-15, 6:4, 20:2-3
- 1 Timothy 1:17, 2:5-6
- 1 Corinthians 8:4-6
- James 2:19

The bible also declares three distinct individuals as Deity.

- Genesis 1:1-2
- Exodus 31:3
- Judges 15:14
- Psalms 2:7, 68:18
- Hebrews 1:1-13
- Isaiah 6:1-3, 9:6, 11:2
- 1 Peter 1:2
- John 1:17



- 1 Corinthians 8:6
- Philippians 2:11
- Matthew 3:16-17
- Acts 5:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 3:17

God is Spirit (John 4:24). God has appeared as a Burning Bush, a Pillar of Fire, a Cloud and so on. God provides these manifestations for our benefit. His substance is pure and uncreated Spirit. When we consider the Trinity: we have God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They have all always existed. Yet Christ was given flesh so that he would be fully man and fully God on earth. The attributes of God are not parts of him but rather are qualities that make up his whole essence. God is Love. God is Truth and so on. The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes.

Today let us not forget to give honour and praise to our Saviour, but let us also not forget the Holy Father and the Holy Spirit.

When we see God the Father's love in action we see in him the characteristics we talked about. We see that he is like a parent who cares for his children. God the Father cares, nurtures, directs and watches over us.

When we see God the Son, we see a person who has come alongside us. He was a person who lived and died for us, who was both fully God and fully man. God the Son we will always view in loving solidarity with us as our advocate before the Father.

When we look to God the Holy Spirit we see one who draws us to salvation, comes into the depths of us, who loves us, who brings about the very nature of Christ within us and empowers us for ministry.

Today there is a great need for ministry in the world. The burden on my heart today is Salmo. I pray today that the Lord lays the burden of Salmo on each of your hearts today and that you seek baptism in the Holy Spirit for commissioning and empowerment to minister.

I firmly believe that to be effective as a church we need full truth. It is all there for you in the scriptures. I pray that you embrace the word of God.

Think about what that means for a minute...

We are told that Jesus is the Logos. He is the living word of God. We are told that the Holy Spirit illuminates the scriptures to us. We are told that Jesus was begotten of the Father (Not made) and he was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was fully God and fully man.

If the bible is the revelation of our God and that word of God is the Son incarnate in Jesus Christ and that word is illuminated and inspired by the Holy Spirit then they are truly inseparable.

The Holy Spirit speaks what God is saying... John 16:13-15

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you*

Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and hear what God is saying to the churches.

*Prayer*