

The Holy Spirit (9-9-2018)

New Series: The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

Today: Introduction to the series

1) The Holy Spirit is God

The Doctrine of the Trinity (From our website)

There is one God in essence, power and authority, manifested as three distinct, non-created, co-eternal persons. Each is of the same essence or nature and the same Glory or Divinity. There is one God, but He has revealed Himself in three distinct persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and all three are the one God.

(Isaiah 43:10, Deuteronomy 6:4, Luke 1:35, Luke 3:21-22, Matthew 28:18-19, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

The Holy Spirit is a member of the God-head, & therefore co-equal, co-eternal, & co-operating

- One of Three in Godhead (Old & New Testament)
 - Gen. 1:26 - Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, ...”
 - Matt. 28:19 - “Go therefore and make disciples ... in the Name of Father, Son, Holy Spirit”
 - Present and Active in Key Moments:
 - **Creation** (Genesis 1:2)
 - **Baptism of Jesus** (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22)
 - **Great Commission** (Matt 28:19)
 - **Resurrection of Jesus** (Romans 8:11)

John Piper - “When you read the New Testament honestly, you can’t help but get the impression of a big difference from a lot of contemporary Christian experience. For them the Holy Spirit was a fact of *experience*. For many Christians today it is a fact of *doctrine*.”

Note: We are meant to have not just proper doctrine of God, but a relationship with God - Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit plays a central role in the life of the believer to walk in this relationship!

2) The Holy Spirit is Essential

In **John chapter 15** Jesus lays out the importance of living a life connected to Him . . .

*This is Jesus last moments with the people he knew best and loved the most before he is betrayed and killed.

John 15:4-5 (ESV)

(4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (5) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Note: Apart from Jesus what can we do?

John 15:10-11 (ESV)

(10) If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (11) These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Note: Surrender, Stay Connected, His Joy becomes My Joy - and it fills me up!

John 15:17 (ESV)

These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Note: He is saying all of this to teach us how to love each other

- Jesus is saying it is essential to stay connected to Him in order to live the life he intended for us!
- So, then what does he do? Naturally he leaves them!

This makes no sense unless we realize that Jesus actually bookends this talk on abiding in Him by talking about the Holy Spirit . . .

John 14:15-17 (ESV)

(15) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Note: Once again surrendered to & connected with God, this time the Holy Spirit

John 16:7 (ESV)

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 go, I will send him to you.

Note: Jesus says its actually working to our advantage that He leave so we can experience the person & power of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

We see this in action in the life of the early church . . .

Acts 9:31 (ESV)

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied

A.W. Tozer - “The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people.”

3) Experiencing the Holy Spirit in our lives . . . A sneak peak of this Series

- Who is the Holy Spirit - getting to know Him by seeing Who he is and how he works in our life
 - Examples of pictures & descriptions: Dove, Wind, Fire, Helper, Teacher, Comforter
- Stories of the Holy Spirit at work in people’s lives - OT, Jesus, NT believers
- How to develop a relationship with Holy Spirit - receiving Him, hearing God’s voice, growing in relationship and character
- Power of the Holy Spirit in my personal life - forgiveness of sin, freedom from sin, enjoying a godly life
- Power of the Holy Spirit to work in me & thru me - exploring the fruit & gifts of the Holy Spirit

Goal of the Series: Developing a real, personal, and daily relationship with the Holy Spirit so that the default setting in my life is to regularly experience the transforming Love of God in my life and live empowered to give that love away!