

"What We Believe"

Session 10

Holy Spirit-God Empowers

I) INTRODUCTION

- A) It is my opinion that the Holy Spirit is the most neglected Person of the Trinity. Many of us love the Father and the Son, but we really don't know what to do with the Holy Spirit. Some of us have assumed that He is that part of Christianity that causes Christians to speak a different language or makes them shake.
- B) When you and I fail to have a vibrant, progressive relationship with the Holy Spirit we come up short in both our personal and corporate encounter of Christ.
- C) The Holy Spirit was the promise of God to humanity that God wouldn't be distant from His creation forever, but that He would at some point live within His creation and work to fully redeem them.
- D) We want to know the Holy Spirit for who He is, not only for what He does.

II) What Caused The Birth Of The Early Church?

- A) **Acts 1:2-3** *"...until the day in which He was taken up after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His sufferings by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."*
- B) Jesus is here alive from the dead and about to ascend back into the heavens and what Jesus has to say is of the utmost importance when it comes to the life of the local Church.
- C) **Acts 1:4-5** *"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father which He said, you have heard from Me; for truly John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*
- D) Jesus is repeating some verses that He had already quoted to them previously. In **John 16:5-7** this is what He had to say to them; *"But now I go away to Him who sent Me...But because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is for 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."*
- E) Jesus is telling the apostles that it is better for them if He leaves, because if He leaves then He can give the Holy Spirit. Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit poured out on the earth is better than Him walking from city to city.
- F) Do you treasure the Holy Spirit in this kind of way? Do you talk to Him as much as you talk to Jesus and the Father?
- G) **Acts 2:1-4** *"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled*

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the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

- H) The Church really wasn't birthed at the resurrection, but at the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 as they waited for the Promise of the Father.
- I) The Holy Spirit turns this weak, deficient, and struggling ragtag bunch of 20-somethings into bold messengers of the Kingdom of God.
- J) Prior to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit it's Jesus and Jesus only who quotes Old Testament passages under divine revelation. Every time He tells the disciples about what is going to take place with His life they are royally confused. But within moments of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we see Peter, who was scared just days ago, boldly preaching and quoting Old Testament passages. Following Peter would be all the other disciples quoting scripture with clear understanding of what it meant.
- K) We can attribute the advancing of the Kingdom of God on earth first to Jesus for His death and resurrection and then mainly to the Holy Spirit!

III) Who Is The Holy Spirit?

- A) The Holy Spirit is the divine Third Person of the Trinity, who is co-equal, co-eternal and co-existent with the Father and The Son.
- B) The Holy Spirit is mentioned more than 90 times in the Old Testament with at least 18 different titles. And the Holy Spirit is mentioned 260 times in the New Testament with 39 different names and titles. In the New Testament only the books of 2nd and 3rd John have no mention of the Holy Spirit.
- C) **The Holy Spirit is not an influence.**
 - 1) Many of us view the Holy Spirit as an influence, a power or a force.
 - (i) Although He does influence humanity, and He is powerful and He is a force, He is more than all that, He's God and He's a Person.
- D) Viewing the Holy Spirit as an influence hinders our worship, our reverence and our relationship with Him.
 - 1) Our worship is hindered because worship is a personal act, not impersonal act.
 - 2) Our reverence is hindered because we can't purchase the Holy Spirit like you can an "it".
 - 3) Our relationship is hindered because as humans we don't build quality relationships with impersonal objects.
- E) **The Holy Spirit is revealed as a Person.**
 - 1) The Holy Spirit is referred to with personal pronouns.
 - (i) The word "Spirit" is non-gendered. But when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit He used words like He, Him and Himself which are masculine in their form of gender.

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- 2) The Holy Spirit is spoken of as having personal qualities.
 - (i) The three things that make a person a person (mind, will, emotions) He possesses.
 - (a) Mind **Romans 8:27** *"...God...knows what the mind of the Holy Spirit is."*
 - (b) Will **1st Corinthians 12:11** *"The Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one as He wills."*
 - (c) Emotions **Colossians 1:8** *"...who also declared to us your love in the Spirit."*
 - (ii) It's clear that impersonal forces don't have these qualities.
 - 3) The Holy Spirit performs personal acts;
 - (i) The Spirit works (1st Cor. 12:11)
 - (ii) The Spirit searches (1st Cor. 2:10)
 - (iii) The Spirit speaks (Acts 13:2)
 - (iv) The Spirit bears witness (1st John 5:6)
 - (v) The Spirit teaches (John 14:26)
 - (vi) The Spirit instructs (Nehemiah 9:20)
 - (vii) The Spirit reproves (John 16:8-11)
 - (viii) The Spirit prays and makes intercession (Romans 8:26)
 - (ix) The Spirit leads (Matthew 4:1)
 - (x) The Spirit guides the believer into all truth (John 16:13)
 - (xi) The Spirit lifts up Jesus Christ (John 16:14)
 - (xii) The Spirit brings about regeneration (John 3:5-6)
 - (xiii) The Spirit strives with men (Genesis 6:3)
 - (xiv) The Spirit convicts men (John 16:8)
 - (xv) The Spirit sends messengers from God (Isaiah 48:16)
 - (xvi) The Spirit calls men and women into ministry (Acts 13:2)
 - (xvii) The Spirit directs men in the service of Christ (Acts 8:29;10:19)
 - (xviii) The Spirit gives gifts to men and women (1st Corinthians 12:7-11)
 - 4) The Holy Spirit is spoken of as having personal feelings that can't be attributed to an impersonal power or force;
 - (i) He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
 - (ii) He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)
 - (iii) He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
 - (iv) He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31-32)
 - (v) He can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
 - (vi) He can be tempted (Acts 6:9)
 - (vii) He can be vexed (Isaiah 63:10)
 - (viii) He can be quenched (1st Thessalonians 5:19)
- F) The Holy Spirit Is God.**
- 1) The Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3,4; 1st Corinthians 3:16)
 - 2) The Holy Spirit is eternal (Hebrews 9:14)

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- 3) The Holy Spirit is all powerful (Luke 1:35)
- 4) The Holy Spirit is all knowing (John 14:26; 16:12,13; 1st Corinthians 2:10)
- 5) **The Holy Spirit is spoken of as having many symbols.**
 - (i) He's like water
 - (a) He's like water because He's refreshing, washing and cleansing (John 7:37).
 - (ii) He's like fire
 - (a) He's like fire because He purges sin, and gives passion (Acts 2:3).
 - (iii) He's like wind or breath
 - (a) He's like wind because though He is invisible, He is still felt (John 3:8).
 - (iv) He's like oil
 - (a) He's like oil because He marks and anoints those He resides in (Luke 4:8).
- 6) **The Holy Spirit's names mean that He is God.**
 - (i) The Spirit John 3:6-8
 - (ii) The Holy Spirit Luke 11:13
 - (iii) The Spirit of God 1st Cor. 3:16
 - (iv) The Spirit of the Lord Isaiah 63:14
 - (v) The Spirit of the living God 2nd Cor. 3:3
 - (vi) The Spirit of the Father Matthew 10:20
 - (vii) The Spirit of Jesus Acts 16:6-7
 - (viii) The Holy Spirit of God Ephesians 4:30
 - (ix) The Spirit of Jesus Christ Philippians 1:19
 - (x) The Spirit of the Son Galatians 4:6
 - (xi) The Spirit which is God 1st Cor. 2:12

IV) How Do We Build A Relationship With The Holy Spirit?

- A) The reason that this is important to you as a Christian and to our local Church, is because the power encounter that many of us are looking for lives within you.
- B) You have already been given all the God you're going to get. You're not going to get any more God. Just like your brain, you have it all, but that doesn't mean you're using all of it.
- C) Learning to fellowship with the Holy Spirit will release the God that already lives within you, into your soul, for the purpose of going deep in love personally, and releasing God through your body in community and ministry.
- D) In Christ the way up is in, and the way deep is down. Most of what we do in Christianity is upward focused, but God has mainly called us to go inward with the Holy Spirit.
- E) You won't walk in the Spirit more than you talk to the Spirit who lives in you.

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- F) **2nd Corinthians 3:17-18** *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*
- G) As we behold Him we become like Him. We are actually transformed into the same image of God. We do this by talking to Him, looking at Him and giving Him our affection.
- H) Three things I say nearly every day, all day: Holy Spirit what are you thinking? Holy Spirit come! Holy Spirit Help!