

## ESSENTIALS 2 – The Holy spirit (where's the power)

Portions adapted from "I Believe in the Holy Spirit" by Rodney Buchanan @ Sermon Central.com

One phrase we hear a lot in church – at baptism or benediction is, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen."

We also sing the **Gloria Patri**, honoring our Triune God in 3 Persons, Father, Son & Holy Spirit - blessed Trinity

And we think we understand a bit about God our Father, we especially know who Jesus is, but many people are kind of vague as to the Identity of the Holy Spirit.

That is because, quite frankly, we don't talk about the Holy Spirit that much in our mainline churches. Why? because

1. there is not that much in the Bible about the HS and even then the HS seems to always be pointing away from himself and towards the work of Jesus.
2. Because we don't want to be identified in any way with the charismatic church believing that they have abused the concept
3. But most likely because we have become so identified with our culture that we don't really believe in Holy Spirit anymore.

In today's portion of scripture, Jesus warned his disciples that in sending the Holy Spirit as his replacement, the world would accept neither the reality, nor the promptings of the Spirit because they could neither see him, nor know him ... but that Christians would know him because the Holy Spirit would "be in" and "abide" with them.

Now the word "**in**" is very simple – If you believe it, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God has placed a small portion of Himself (all three parts) **within** us in.

But the word "**abide**" has so much more meaning: it means to dwell together with someone in a friendship relationship; to share a life together.

So how much do you know about this person whom God has supposedly placed inside every believer. Is the HS just "in" you or are you two abiding together and sharing a life.

**First of all, we need to understand that: The Holy Spirit is a person.** The Holy Spirit is not a thing, or an it. He is not merely a force, a power, or a phantom. One of the unfortunate leftovers of the King James Version of the Bible is the term "Holy Ghost." A Ghost is a poor picture of the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is simply the Spirit of our Holy God. He is a part of the Godhead—the Trinity. He expresses all the aspects of the wonderful personality of God. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts us of sin, helps us to repent, thrills us with the new birth and fills us with the indwelling presence of God. He guards us, encourages us, strengthens and empowers us to live for God. He protects and sustains us spiritually, and finally brings us safely home to heaven.

While Jesus was on earth he was only able to be in one place at one time. He was limited, but he knew that when he left the world he would send his Spirit into the world to minister effectively and personally to every person on the face of the earth. Jesus said to his disciples, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he

lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:16-18).

So the Spirit of Jesus, (and also the Spirit of the Father) comes to live with us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

**The second point is: The Holy Spirit is personal.**

Because he is a person, our relationship with him must be personal.

Before we were even aware of it, the Holy Spirit was at work in our lives. In fact, he is at work in your life right now. Whether you can feel it or not, or whether you can see it or not, he is there working in you.

He is busy in ways you may or may not notice; creating conditions to help you understand your need of God. He is trying to draw you to the One who knows you best and loves you most: Your eternal Lover, Creator, Father and Friend.

Jesus said one of the purposes of the Holy Spirit was to convict the world of sin and convince it of its need of God. He said, "*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment*" (John 16:7-8).

And then having drawn us to God, the Holy Spirit actually takes up residence within us, with us working to rebirth us to a new life, to cleanse us of our sins, make us holy, to bind and build us into the rest of the body of Christ and to help us grow up as God's child. In that sense the Holy Spirit may be the busiest member of the Trinity these days.

And what a wonderful experience it is to know that we are clean and free; that we are forgiven and living in an open and honest relationship with God – that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can feast on God's word and grow strong in the life that he has equipped us to live.

But do we know this?

Or having ignored the indwelling Holy Spirit have we contented ourselves with living on the crumbs of life.

Years ago a woman wanted to return to England to visit her family. She saved her money for a long time in order to buy a ticket on the ship that would take her across the sea. After years of saving and doing without she finally could afford the ticket. but she could not afford to buy any meals on the ship. So she packed several packages of crackers in her suitcase and lived on crackers and water during the voyage. On the last day of the voyage the captain spoke to her and asked if she were enjoying the meals on the ship. She explained that she could not afford them and had been eating in her cabin. In shocked surprise the captain explained that all the meals were included in her ticket. She had been living on crackers when she could have been enjoying a banquet.

Like that woman, many people are unaware of what is available to them through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. The banquet comes included with the ticket. There is power, freedom and joy that comes with the Holy Spirit.

So let's begin today to get to know the Holy Spirit a bit better – so that he no longer merely lives in us, but we can truly abide with him.

## 1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- a. The HS is a person (not a "thing," nor a "ghost" )
  - i. HS decides, chooses – Acts 15:28, 1 Cor. 12:11
  - ii. HS can be grieved – Ephesians 4:30
  - iii. We should not try to lie to, test, or outrage the HS - Acts, 5:3- 9, Hebrews 10:29
- b. The HS is an member of and representative of the Triune God - John 14:23
- c. The HS is that portion of God indwelling us  
– 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- d. The HS has always been active in the world  
Genesis 1:2 (wind = Spirit), Psalm 139:7-10,

## 2. What is the purpose of the indwelling Holy Spirit?

- a. The HS cleanses ("baptizes" us), sanctifies (makes us holy) justifies (makes us legally righteous) - 1 Corinthians 6:11
- b. The HS transforms us in God's child  
- John - 3:3-9, Galatians 4:5-6
- c. The HS seals us as belonging to God  
- Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Cor. 1:21-22 & 5:5
- d. The HS pours God's love into us – Romans 5:5
- e. The HS Assures us that we are God's child  
- Romans 8:14-16
- f. The HS Guides, reveals, teaches & reminds us the things God wants us to know and do – John 16:12-15, John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12,
- g. The HS Helps us live as God's child John 14:16 – 16:13, Romans 8:9-14, Galatians 5:22-26  
*3 times, Jesus calls the HS our paraclete often translated into English as "advocate," "counselor," "helper," the word literally means: one who comes alongside to help. –*
- h. The HS Convicts us of sin (when we stray)  
- Psalm 51:1-15, Hebrews 3:12
- i. The HS Interprets & communicates our prayers to God – Romans 8:26-27

- j. The HS Gifts us with various abilities to serve the common good – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- k. The HS Unites us (all nationalities and ethnics) into “one body” - 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
- l. The HS Inspires us to speak for God
  - 2 Peter 1:20-21

### **3. How can we respond to the Holy Spirit?**

- a. Realize that with the indwelling HS, we should live like what we have become: a “Temple” of God – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 & 6:19-20
- b. We should use our HS empowered gifts to grow in and to help grow the body of Christ until we reach a unity of faith & love Ephesians 4:11-17
- c. We should live a life that is holy and God honoring – Ephesians 4:17-32

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.***

2 Corinthians 13.13