

SERMON GUIDE:

June 4, 2023, Pastor Jason Smotherman

OUR HELPER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Take a moment and share some wins from tis past week.
- Briefly describe the Holy Spirit. What is he to you?
- In the message from Pastor Jason, he mentions a multitude of attributes and qualities about The Holy Spirit. Name one of the ways The Holy Spirit has shown one of these attributes qualities in your life. Explain.
 - He has a mind (Romans 8:27).
 - He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)
 - He has emotions, such as love and joy (Romans 15:30; Galatians 5:22).
 - He comforts (Acts 9:31).
 - He speaks (Hebrews 3:7); in fact, He speaks clearly (1 Timothy 4:1).
 - He teaches (1 Corinthians 2:13).
 - He can be made to feel sorrow (Ephesians 4:30).
 - He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29).
 - He can be resisted (Acts 7:51)."
- Are the Gifts of the Spirit supposed to be at work for today?
- What stood out to you in the message? Share with the group some notes you took.

SERMON NOTES

We read in scripture that the Holy Spirit descended like a dove.....

Dorothy Sayers tells of a Japanese convert struggling to grasp Christian theology. In broken English said the following: "Honorable Father, very good," he said to his missionary teacher. "Honorable Son, very good. But Honorable Bird, I do not understand at all."

John Bevere

There is an error that many make: they have attempted to understand the work and power of the Holy Spirit without first coming to know Him as a Person.

Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The warning from scripture is clear: Be careful to not care more about the works of God than building a relationship with the author of the works.

Holy Spirit is a Person



It is crucial that we establish in our hearts and minds whether we believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person—One who is infinitely holy, infinitely wise, and infinitely mighty, yet wonderfully tender, sensitive, and compassionate.

In calling the Holy Spirit a “person”, **that doesn’t mean that we are calling Him human.** We are simply saying that He possesses attribute of what we could consider to be personality. The Holy Spirit is Deity (God), not a human being. We must distinguish that humans were created in God’s image. **So He is not like us, rather, we are like Him.**

Let me offer a basic example that will help illustrate this truth.

Water (H₂O) can manifest as three different forms.

Temperature determines whether H₂O will appear as a solid, liquid, or gas. Water’s substance—its molecular structure—never changes one iota, but its expression will change based on its environment (the temperature).

In the same way, God’s central makeup doesn’t change. When you see the Son, you see the Father; and the Spirit was sent to reveal the Son to us (John 17:21; Ephesians 1:17-18). God is one in purpose, and yet He has three expressions (Persons) who perform unique functions. Though there are three Persons, there is only one God

We, created in God’s image have a body, soul, and mind. Three distinct expressions which perform unique functions.

All that to introduce or reintroduce to you the power of the Holy Spirit in our life.

Let’s define, for unity’s sake, what we mean when we say we are believing for a move of God in the valley. A move of God can defined in a number of ways to a number of people all with good and correct intent.

How I define a move of God.

God has already moved, it is really a move of man back to God.

It’s an encounter with the tangible presence of God (Holy Spirit), found upon God’s word, that leads to a transformational change to radical surrender to Jesus and His will for my life.

It’s more than an expression, it’s a transformation.

When we describe moments with altars are full.

Eyes are tear filled. Hands are raised. Bibles are opened. Hearts are surrendered.

What we are describing is the moment.

THE MOMENT. When what was not in sight becomes visible. The moment when HE, the God of the universe, reveals that He wants a relationship with ME!

He has a relationship with me through the person of the Holy Spirit.



John 14:26 (AMP)

"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

John 14:16-17 (MSG)

I will talk to the Father, and **he'll provide you another Friend** so that you will always have someone with you. **This Friend is the Spirit of Truth.**

The Holy Spirit is **Our Helper.**

AJ Gordon

It costs much to obtain the power of the Spirit. It costs self-surrender and humiliation, and a yielding up of our most precious things to God. It costs the perseverance of long waiting, and the faith of strong trust.

But when we are really in that power, we shall find this difference, that whereas before, "**it was hard for us to do the easiest things, now it is easy for us to do the hard things.**"

Oswald Chambers

The ministry of the Spirit is Christo-centric. The test of any professed movement of the Spirit whether in personal or corporate experience is the place it gives to Christ.

When the Holy Spirit arrived in power in Acts 2, two things were noticed in the onlookers. **They were amazed and they were confused**, we like the amazement but are we okay with the confusion? We shouldn't be, demonstration was quickly followed by explanation. **If you can't explain it through His word, what you have encountered is not the Holy Spirit but another Spirit.** Peter's sermon paved the way for thousands to turn their confusion to confession. God is not just the God of demonstration only, He is also the God of explanation. He is on one hand indescribable and on the other hand easy to spend time with. One hand unexplainable and on the other hand simple and loving. A God so vast but still so loving. **The amount of books that have been written for a simple truth is staggering. It all boils to down to this fact, that God loves you.**

You don't get his attention because of what you did, you already had His attention because of who you are. He so desired a relationship with you that John 3:16 describes it. As we confess and believe, the Holy Spirit fills. We are born-again.

But wait there's more. He doesn't just fill you to the top of yourself and stop. He desires to fill you to a place of overflow. The key to victory in Christ, **learn how to abide in the overflow.**

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart**



will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

William Temple

No one can possess (or rather be indwelt by) the Spirit of God, and keep that Spirit to himself. Where the Spirit is, he flows forth; **if there is no flowing forth, he is not there.**”

Why most never experience the Holy Spirit alive in their lives is largely because their unwillingness to be an overflow vessel rather than a vessel always living in lack. You were meant for overflow.

The Holy Spirit is a person, with personal traits.

Let’s take a look at some scriptures that will perfectly illustrate the personality of the Holy Spirit:

- He has a mind (Romans 8:27).
- He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- He has emotions, such as love and joy (Romans 15:30; Galatians 5:22).
- He comforts (Acts 9:31).
- He speaks (Hebrews 3:7); in fact, He speaks clearly (1 Timothy 4:1).
- He teaches (1 Corinthians 2:13).
- He can be made to feel sorrow (Ephesians 4:30).
- He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29).
- He can be resisted (Acts 7:51).”

The Holy Spirit is not someone who just came in the scene in Acts 2.

He has been here from the beginning.

The Holy Spirit is actually the first member of the Godhead who appears in the Bible. Genesis chapter one reads, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (verse 1). Now, let’s look at verse two: “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering** over the face of the waters.” The Spirit shows up right here in Genesis 1:2; **He is the first member of the Godhead to be mentioned by name.**”

“This “three in one” concept can be very difficult to grasp because it defies our human understanding. 1 Corinthians 12:5-7 offers some insight into how the Three work together as One.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.



As we read this passage, we discover that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all serve different roles. The Father operates or initiates (verse 6), the Son administrates (verse 5), and the Holy Spirit manifests (verse 7); yet all of them work together for the same purpose.

If you and I were going to build a house, what would we need to do? Well, we would need to hire an architect, a foreman, and workers (subcontractors) to actually build the house. In this illustration, God the Father is the architect, Jesus is the foreman, and the Holy Spirit is represented by the workers who build the house—He's the "manifestor" of creation. All three roles are essential to the construction of any house."

When we pray.

We pray to our Heavenly Father because of the sacrifice of Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's job in a nutshell from scripture:

Acts 15:28

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us. ..." These words were spoken by the Jerusalem Council when making an important church decision in Acts. He is a companion, a friend, a helper, that points the way to Our Heavenly Father through Jesus.

Metropolitan Ignatius of Latakia (1968)

"Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away, Christ belongs to the past, the Gospel is a dead letter, the Church is merely an organization, authority is domination, mission is propaganda, worship is an evocation, and Christian activity is a slave-morality."

Without the Holy Spirit active in our lives, relationship turn to duty rather than love.

The Holy Spirit is the Christian's Guide. "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13, NIV).

The Holy Spirit has appointments for believers. Lay soul-winner Walt Hanson said, "All Christians should start the day with a prayer that the Lord will lead us to someone who needs salvation — and then, anticipate the appointments the Holy Spirit will arrange."

The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures. Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." "Inspiration of God" is one Greek word, theopneustos, literally meaning "God-breathed." It is a special word, used nowhere else in Scripture, that emphasizes the work of the Breath or Wind of God, the Holy Spirit, in producing the Bible.

The Holy Spirit empowered the fledgling Church. When Jesus' physical presence was gone, His people could become His body. Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever" (John 14:16). Most scholars consider Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost, to be the birthday of the Church.

All Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9 makes this clear: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have



the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." All those who have made Jesus Lord and Savior have the Spirit living within them.

There is a second, separate work of grace called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, Jesus told His followers, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The experience in the Book of Acts was described variously as being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (1:5), "filled with the Holy Spirit" (2:4), receiving "the gift of the Holy Spirit" (2:38), and the Holy Spirit falling upon them (10:44). The Baptism is a definite experience that is subsequent to salvation. This is clearly seen among both the Samaritan and Ephesian believers in Acts 8:14-17 and 19:1-6.

The initial, physical evidence of the Baptism is speaking in tongues. We see this repeatedly in the Book of Acts, first of all in 2:4. In Acts 10:45,46 the Christians know that "the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also" because "they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God." But speaking in tongues is not enough. There is more to being Spirit-filled than that.

Holy Spirit fullness is not a one-time thing. Pentecostals don't believe in "once filled, always filled." Speaking in tongues once does not mean filled always. Ephesians 5:18 literally means, "Be being filled," or "Keep on being filled with the Spirit." It's a continuous process. "The initial impetus comes from the Spirit," explains Assemblies of God scholar Anthony Palma, "but the responsibility for being continually filled with the Spirit rests with the Christian as he cooperates with the Spirit."³ "Keep being filled" also implies there is a measure of the Holy Spirit's presence, based on our capacity (which is further limited if there are lots of other things in our life).

The gifts of the Spirit are for today.

The fruit of the Spirit are active in varying degrees in the lives of all Christians. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22,23). The word "fruit" here is singular. The nine come as a package. These, together, are the true sign of spiritual maturity. It is up to each individual believer to cultivate them as he or she would a fruit vine, by a deep relationship with Jesus.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. The Spirit's role is a major one in all genuine revivals. "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8, NIV). "Repentant tears," said revivalist Brownlow North, "are the waters upon which the Spirit of God moves." **The "unpardonable sin" is sin against the Holy Spirit.**

According to Mark 3:28-30, it is coming to so severe a separation from God and rejection of Christ that one attributes the works of the Holy Spirit to the devil. "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who



blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation, because they said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' ”

The Holy Spirit reveals and glorifies Jesus. Perhaps no verse illustrates this better than Acts 4:13: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John [newly Spirit-filled], and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” At the height of his ministry, Charles Spurgeon drew so many to his church that tickets were needed to get in. One man had traveled a great distance only to find there was no more room. A sympathetic church member gave the traveler his ticket. “What did you think of my pastor?” the church member asked the visitor after the service. “I didn’t see your pastor,” the man replied. The church member was somewhat disturbed by this until the man explained. “Though your pastor preached,” he said, “I saw only Jesus.” This is the primary role of the Holy Spirit ... not to call attention to himself, but to glorify Jesus. The believer who seeks more of Jesus receives more of His Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 2:9-10

“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him”. But God has, through the Spirit, let us share his secret. For nothing is hidden from the Spirit, not even the deep wisdom of God.