

Holy Spirit – God’s Promise John 14:15-26

During the month of February, we looked at “love”. Specifically, love as God’s Word explains it, which is in direct opposition to the way in which the world and Satan wants you to see it. Each of the messages from that series focused on God as the originator and then helped us better relate to how love from our Father and our Savior flows directly to us, and then how that same love should flow out of us towards others. One of the key components of those messages, which on the surface would seem to have been omitted, would be the involvement of the Holy Spirit. This is typical of how we treat the Holy Spirit most of the time, wouldn’t you say. In fact, the study of, and teaching about the Holy Spirit is so rare in most churches that it makes me wonder if most really believe what we are taught in the Bible about this tremendous blessing from God. The Holy Spirit, without argument, is the most misunderstood person of the deity, yet every true believer has Him living inside. Why do you think it is we fail to understand the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives? How is it that our helper, our comforter, our source for truth, our connection to Jesus, is so overlooked? Perhaps, it’s because we fail to embrace the gift, or we just simply do not want Him in charge of our life.

Over the next few weeks, we are going look at what the Bible teaches us concerning the Holy Spirit. Let me say too, there is no way we can cover everything because the Bible has a lot to say about the misunderstood personage of God’s Spirit. The plan is to look at when we receive the Holy Spirit. What is the purpose for the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer? Are there other names for the Holy Spirit? If I have the Holy Spirit sealed in my heart, then why is it I often fail to feel His presence?

The Holy Spirit is the Lord - Let’s begin by looking at who the Holy Spirit is. The first thing we need to acknowledge is that the Holy Spirit is the Lord. He is the third person of the Trinity. New Testament writers, along with Jesus, provide us with great examples of this fact. Think first of our church verse, which we borrow from Paul in **2 Corinthians 3:17**. *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* Here, the Spirit is identified as the Lord. Likewise, the author of Hebrews cites from Psalm 95, when sharing these words in **Hebrews 3:7-11**: *“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore, I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’”* The words used here represent the voice of the Holy Spirit who is speaking about the wilderness wandering of God’s people and how God did not let them enter His rest. Only someone with first hand knowledge of this event could speak about it.

Another aspect to think about here is since the Holy Spirit is God, then He cannot be anything other than personal in nature. He cannot be an “it”! How often have you heard someone refer to the Holy Spirit as an “it”? Inanimate objects and other things which we most often refer to as an “it” cannot be personal. An “it” is lifeless. The Holy Spirit, however, is very much alive and full of life! Let’s go back to John again and let me give you an example to support this. **Read John**

14:15-17. As Jesus said, the Holy Spirit is a helper, a teacher, a person whom the world cannot receive because they cannot see or know Him. Sounds like a living person to me.

We must also understand that the Holy Spirit is our creator, just as much as the Father and the Son are. The Holy Spirit was an active participant during the events of creation. **Read Genesis 1:1-2.** These few examples are by no means an exhaustive list of Scripture which inform about who the Holy Spirit is, but they should be evidence enough to prove the existence and involvement of the third person of the Trinity in our lives.

Why should this matter to us?

The Holy Spirit is a promise from God - We've already looked at John 14:15-17, so let's go back and pick up from verse 18 and read through verse 26. **Read John 14:18-26.** When we consider these verses along with 15-17, we see that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come after Him. The key to this promise, however, is that He will only come to the true believer, which is the one who knows Him and is the one who keeps His commandments and His word. I love these verses because it reassures me that the Spirit of God was sent to reside and abide with me. The Holy Spirit dwells, which really means, takes up residence, with those who truly belong to God. We are promised that the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit will help us, will guide us to truth, and through us, will testify to others about Jesus. Let me take a second to show you something about the testifying work of the Holy Spirit. Let's read **John 16:7-8.** You see, as we love God, and follow His commands, and trust His Word, and learn from His Spirit, the world around us will see Jesus on display. It's through these things that the convicting power of God is placed into the world, and the call to repentance and forgiveness takes place. This is one of the ways the Holy Spirit acts on those who do not yet believe and in the process convicts the world of sin.

I love these verses for another reason too. They remind me of the generous side of the Father. Think about it... I love that my salvation is a gracious gift from Him, and His grace is sufficient for everything. Yet, out of His abundance, He also gave me His Spirit. When we truly love God, He is faithful to give and give and give. How awesome is that! God, in giving us His Son and His Spirit, put action behind the Kingdom principle of giving cheerfully. God did not do these things because He had to. He did them because He wanted to.

Conclusion – Why this message? Why now? Honestly, I'm concerned. I'm concerned that I have not trained you properly. Most Christians are fine with trusting in God the Father and allowing Jesus the Son to be their Savior, but most Christians have no idea what to think or what to do with the Holy Spirit. Some of that can be attributed to fear and ignorance, but most of it is because pastors like myself, and other Biblical teachers have spent very little time teaching believers about who He is, or how important His role is in your life. My hope is that you leave here today knowing that the Holy Spirit is God and out of abundant generosity for all who choose Him, God sends His Spirit to take up residence in our life. While He resides with us, God intends for Him to fulfill a purpose. As we have seen this morning; the Holy Spirit is our helper, our teacher, our guide for everything as we go through life as a Christian. He is here to help us become Kingdom minded and Kingdom focused. This walk is not just hard, it's impossible,

without a little help. God knows this. Jesus knows this. The Holy Spirit knows this. If it is so simple and God only expects us to do our best by simply doing what we can, or the best we can, then what would be the point of sending us a helper? We, and I mean believers, need to stop practicing a religion and begin living the life God truly intends for us to live. God is looking for far more from us than to just get by. He's looking for changed attitudes and changed lifestyles which accomplish great things for the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the key. He was sent to help us, and I think it's about time we start letting Him do His job!