

SESSION 5. A Biblical Understanding of the Holy Spirit For Today THE SPIRIT-PARACLETE IN THE JOHNNINE TRADITIONS.

The Spirit-Paraclete hold specific importance for the followers of Jesus Christ. John chapter 1 verses twenty nine to thirty four point to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

John 1:33

(CEB) Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

This same Holy Spirit has freedom to animate the followers of Christ for mission. We will look at some ways the animation of the followers of Jesus by the Spirit is articulated in the gospel of John.

1. The Story of Nicodemus (the Pharisee-teacher) and the shifts of perspective of the Spirit's role is important to what John refers to as "believing." Read **John 3:1-10**.
 - The Greek word for Spirit used is Pneuma (wind/spirit) and the adverb Anōthen (again, above) carry double meanings.
 - Nicodemus focus on "again" and Jesus on "with water and the spirit." John 3:4-5.
 - Comes from God and not controlled (v.8). Those who respond to God that Jesus speaks of have the Spirit, and "get it." These are "born of the Spirit."
2. John 4 tells story of encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the famous Jacob's Well. After religious discussions and cultural sparring, the matter of who and where to worship came front and center. Read **John 4:19-24**.
 - Divine perspective is greater than a physical worship site.
 - Worshippers of God who is Spirit, do so in "spirit and in truth."
 - What is the significance of this statement for you today?
3. John 7 tells of the account of Jesus going to the Feast of the Tabernacles and the revealing of Jesus to many who doubted his authenticity. Read **John 7:37-39**.
 - When the Spirit is present focus is placed on Jesus over the operation of the Temple and the Feast of the Tabernacles.

- Note in verse 39 the troublesome text that there was no spirit as yet. The Spirit leading the disciples was dependent on Jesus passing on the Spirit to them. Jesus hands the Pnuema/Spirit to the disciples (John 19:30). Jesus again, breathed upon the disciples the Spirit by saying to them, “receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22). Jesus returning to the Father allows for the Paraclete/Spirit to be present among the disciples of Jesus.
- Jesus is the source of living water, flowing from the belly and returning to the Father. Jesus or/and the disciples share this living water of Jesus. (John 7:38-39).
- Read **John 20:22**. What is being promised?

4. Jesus Farewell speeches/sermons/encouragement.

- John 14-17 highlighted the role and activity of the Holy Spirit.
- John 14:15-18. Spirit is Given or sent by the Father
- John 14:16,26. Paraclete or Advocate sent.
- John 14:25-28. Paraclete teaches and comes into the world.
- John 15:26-27. Paraclete testifies and witnesses via Followers.
- John 16:7-15. Paraclete speaks what has been heard, not own voice.
- John 16:13;cf Guides into all truth
- John 16:14. Honors the one who does the sending.

The Continual Work of the Spirit

The Spirit from the above accounts is always a constant to present Jesus as agent of divine presence.

The Spirit/Paraclete carries on the work of God (the Father) through the role of teacher and revealer like Jesus.

The witness given by the followers of Jesus will confront the world with or through their speech as the “Spirit of Truth.” See **John 14:27; 15:26; and 16:13**.

The nature of speaking via the “Spirit of Truth:

- I. One dimension of this speech is as prosecuting attorney. **John 15:26-27. John 16:8-11**. Prosecuting “sin” as “primarily failure to believe in Jesus as one who makes God known. [John T. Carroll – Understanding the Holy Spirit, p. 99]

- II. Second dimension of this speech is as witnessing disciples of Jesus who are being lead by the Teacher Spirit-Paraclete. The teacher is guiding Jesus' followers into all truth. What constitute truth? Read **1 John 4:1-6; 1 John 2:19, 22, 26-27; 2 John 1,9-11.**
 - III. Third dimension is that the Spirit reminded followers of Jesus about his core message: Read **John 14:26; John 16:13-15.**
 - IV. Fourth dimension is the Spirit as chief consoler and lifter of spirits. Read **John 14:16-17.** What is the meaning of being orphans? In what role will the Spirit come to the followers of Jesus?
5. Spirit-breath, Jesus and the mission of Disciples (John 19-20)
- **John 19:30** (CEB) When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life.
 - **John 20: 21-23.** (CEB) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

What power do we have today as followers of Jesus to participate in his mission?

Based on understanding of the Spirit in John's gospel, how are followers to live out the mission of Christ?