

We'll eventually get to John 16. For now, go to Genesis, chapter 1 as we continue in our new series:



"The Role of the Holy Spirit." I want you to see the Holy Spirit, all the way back in:

Genesis 1:1-3

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Right there we see the Holy Spirit in the second verse of the first chapter of the Bible. The Holy Spirit hovering over the face of the deep... From the very beginning we see the Holy Spirit present in creation. Now remember, the Holy Spirit is God... He's not a force...He's not an it. He's a person... He's a He...and we can say that without any confusion, as we use the masculine pronoun, "He."

Church, what I want us to be reminded of again is what God used to create the universe...His hands...no...tools...no...a machine...no. "**Words.**" Now think with me...think with me about the power of words. What does a person have to be saved? They have to use words, right? They have to call upon the name of the Lord...confessing with their mouth the Lord Jesus...**with words.**

Now keep thinking with me...what did the Holy Spirit inspire...give to us to use to guide our lives? The Word of God...the God breathed...**theoneustos**...word of God... the Bible. Keep listening...we're going somewhere with this...the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God. He always has and He always will. And what is the word of God? Hebrews 4:12 describes it as a sword...therefore, the Bible is the Sword of the Spirit, because it's the Spirit that gave the words of God to man to write down.

So, think of that...the word...the sword...was forged by the Holy Spirit...and He put the edges on that sword...to divide and penetrate all the way down to the joint and marrow of the spirit of man. Therefore, it can be said this way: The work of the Holy Spirit is always in tandem with the Word of God. Meaning: The Holy Spirit always speaks and directs us using the Word of God as the guide and the lamp to our feet and the light to our path. F.F. Bruce says in his Gospel of John Commentary: "**He has no message over and above that which is implicit in the incarnate Word; it is His function to make that message explicit in Scripture.**" F.F. Bruce *Gospel of John Commentary*

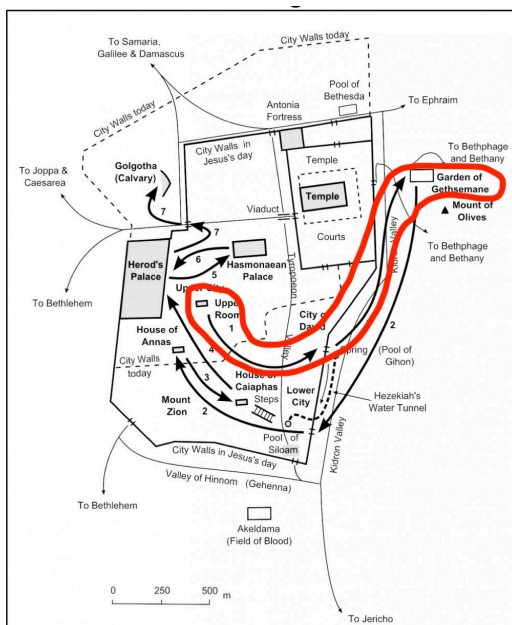
So, what I'm seeking to establish is the fact that the Holy Spirit from literally, the beginning, has been involved in the "words" that created everything...down to the "words" that we have today called the

Scriptures...Holy Writ, the Bible, the very Words of God, which contain all truth! Are you getting this? Today we're going to be talking about: **"The Holy Spirit Reveals All Truth."** Follow along with me:

John 16:12-15

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Now, you'll remember it's Thursday evening...Jesus will be crucified the next day. For now, Jesus is on His way with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to meet up with Judas...see the map...



They've left the upper room (middle of the map) and headed out of the city of Jerusalem, down through the Kidron Valley, up to the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane that's nestled there. Jesus has been preparing them for the hatred they'll see displayed against Him by Judas and the religious leaders...He's saying He's going away; and yet, He's assuring them that He's going to send a "Helper," to replace Him. That "Helper" is the Holy Spirit. And last week we saw the Role of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Convicts Concerning:

- 1. Sin**
 - 2. Righteousness**
 - 3. Judgment**
-

And that's "standing in the chair" kind of stuff. That takes guts and courage in our world. But, when we do it...truth and courage are contagious and it grows as we share the truth of Jesus.

But, all of sudden, on this walk to Gethsemane, it's almost as if Jesus abruptly stops...He says: "Guys, I just can't share any more with you." Watch verse 12.

John 16:12

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Why couldn't they bear more? Jesus knew what He had been telling them was overwhelming and the sponge was full...they couldn't take anymore...they couldn't bear it...it was too much. All of this talk about Him leaving...them being thrown out of the synagogues...being killed. It was all they could bear. In fact, the word "bear" in the Greek literally means: "a stone that's too big to pick up...you can't lift it." Church, Jesus knows what we can bear. He knows when it's too much and that's when in His grace and mercy, He shoulders the load.

Jesus then speaks again about their coming help...the Spirit.

John 16:13

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Did you know the entire Godhead is there in verses 12-15. You have Jesus speaking about the Holy Spirit and the fact that He will come...which we know He will come from God and when He comes, He's going "guide you into all the truth." Oh, don't we need truth today in this labyrinth of lies we live?

Now church, how is ALL TRUTH revealed? Is it through CNN? The Press Briefings at the White House? Is all truth revealed at Harvard/Yale/Lebron/The Veiw/Twitter? Where is **all truth** revealed? You got it! The Word of God! We know the Holy Spirit will eventually carry 40 authors...like a stick in a creek and they penned the very words of God.

"The Spirit will guide them into all truth; that's the epistles, the New Testament. 'He will show you things to come' refers to the prophetic Scriptures, especially the Book of Revelation."

Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary

So, we know Matthew, Peter and John would pen Scripture (words) inspired by the Holy Spirit, along with Jesus' brothers, James and Jude, and the eventually the Apostle Paul and his associates, Dr. Luke and John Mark. Thus, we have the 8 authors of the New Testament. And how was all of this done? WITH WORDS. You pick up your Bible, inspired by the Holy Spirit, which reveals the mind of God IN WORDS...words that are ALL TRUTH! I like how the ESV Study Bible Commentators put it.

"The Spirit's ministry of guiding Jesus' followers into all the truth is a promise especially directed toward these 11 disciples, and it finds particular fulfillment in the subsequent work of these disciples in personally writing or overseeing the writing of the books of the New Testament. The promise, like the other things that Jesus says in these chapters, also has a broader application to all believers as the Holy Spirit leads and guides them." ESV Study Bible Commentary/Notes:

Jesus always, (as great teachers do), gives what we can handle at the right time to His students. We know when Jesus was on this earth...He obviously spoke IN WORDS...and those words were the truth...all the time. He said, "When you know the truth (Him), the truth will set you free. And when you read the Bible, (you are READING WORDS), words inspired by the Holy Spirit...all words that are ultimately from the Father, God. Remember what Jesus said in John 5...pointing to God/Father.

John 5:30

³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."

The words Jesus spoke while He was on this earth were from the Father and the words that we have in Scripture are from the Father. That's verse 15. Jump down to verse 15.

John 16:15

15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Listen, for those who reject Scripture, they are actually rejecting the Trinity. In other words, rejecting Scripture is actually the rejection of the word of the Father, the word of the Son, and the word of the Spirit, who inspired the writers of Scripture.

You see church, we have access to this book, (the Bible), that we can hold in our hands, inspired by the Holy Spirit...and get this...at the same time...if you know Jesus, you have the same Holy Spirit living inside of you...meaning: we have the author of the Bible, as our private tutor, our instructor, our helper. That's incalculable, if you ask me. What gifts we have...We have the Holy Spirit and the precious of Word of God...and all of this brings glory to the Lord Jesus! Look back at verse 14.

John 16:14

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

How is Jesus glorified? By what is "declared to you," by words...God's word. How do you DECLARE something to someone? You USE WORDS, right? And the words we're to use should always point back to Scripture, where ALL truth is found.

Well, that's the passage. You say, "Are we done?" Well, you know better than that...yes, we've covered the passage, but we're not done. And here's where I want to do. This has been a straightforward passage and I chose a shorter passage, because I want to **take some time to practically apply this passage.** I want to try to help us see something that's happening in our culture, right our noses, you might not know about.

Church family, you know this, but there continues to be a full-throttle-attack on the Word of God today; and this attack is even happening within Christendom...and in many ways, that's even more dangerous than if it were coming from CNN, MSNBC or the press briefing room of the White House.

You see, as the culture continues to go more and more pagan the culture will continue to push harder and harder on the church to change and to compromise the truth, so as "not to offend." But that's just a "dog whistle" to "gas light" anyone who dares to speak truth that goes against the cultural grain. Yet, the Word of God is the truth...it's God's VERY words...inspired by the Spirit of God to give us "all truth." All truth...comes from this book and we can't be embarrassed by the Word of God or afraid to use it...**but, we must use it properly.**

I want to show you to see how one of the most brilliant scholars on the planet categorizes our current situation in Christendom, when it comes to how the Word of God is being mishandled in so many ways. Dr. David Black, professor of Greek and New Testament was recently sharing on his blog about how the Anglican Church in England had gone totally woke and had jettisoned the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in regards to homosexual marriage, now fully accepted in the Anglican Church. He said this:

"The Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He never leads the church of God apart from the word of God. The liberals in the world have sought to make their autonomy—their opinions—superior to what is taught in the Scripture. What they disagree with, they dismiss. 'Well, that was back then. The times have changed.' They say this without realizing that it is the very word of God, God's revelation to man, they are rejecting.

It is a historic moment for the church—any church—when a denomination votes to put the Bible to one side and to be led by contemporary society. 'He who is not with me is against

me,' said the Savior. In a day of indefinite gray, how refreshing to see black and white. Evidently our Lord has no place for twilight zones. Be hot. Be cold. But not lukewarm. Sadly, the climate of compromise marks the Laodicean church still today. It is indeed time for a Spirit-led showdown on Carmel between Baal and Yahweh.” Dr. David A. Black, Professor of Greek and New Testament, Southeastern Theological Seminary

It's true, today, we're living in “a climate of compromise,” when it comes to Word of God, again, that which was inspired by the Holy Spirit to give us “all truth,” and it's now happening even in the Southern Baptist Convention. I want to show you a picture of two couples:



From left to right that's Stacie Wood, Rick Warren, Andy Wood and Kay Warren. Now you've probably heard of Rick Warren. He is famous for his book, “Purpose Driven Life,” and the fact that he pastored one of the largest churches in America: Saddleback Church in Orange County, California. I say “pastored” in the past tense, because he has turned the church over to the new pastors: Andy and Stacie, whom he has his arms around.

Now, notice I said: “Pastors.” Because Stacie Wood has been ordained as a pastor, along with her husband, Adam. Now church, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would guide us into “all truth.” So, can we know the truth about who should pastor our churches? The answer is a definitively: yes. Therefore, I'm going to read a benchmark passage in Scripture about pastors, sometimes called elders, bishops, shepherds, overseers of the church. That passage is 1 Timothy 3:1-7. And I want you to notice the masculine words that we'll highlight.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, **he** desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer^[a] must be above reproach, the **husband** of one wife,^[b] sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.⁴**He** must manage **his** own household well, with all dignity keeping **his** children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage **his** own household, how will **he** care for God's church? ⁶**He** must not be a recent convert, or **he** may become

puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.⁷ Moreover, **he** must be well thought of by outsiders, so that **he** may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Could it be any more clear that it's men who should lead and pastor churches? Another Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:12. Paul was instructing Timothy, who was seeking to bring order to the church at Ephesus:

1 Timothy 2:12

¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

(The phrase "remain quiet" is in regards to teaching men in a church.) Now, we perhaps begin to cringe because of our culture. Church, this wasn't an issue until about 50 years ago. And that's when our culture began to despise God's "Divine Design" for men and women. The culture wants NO differences. Sex is interchangeable, whatever you want to be or say that it is.

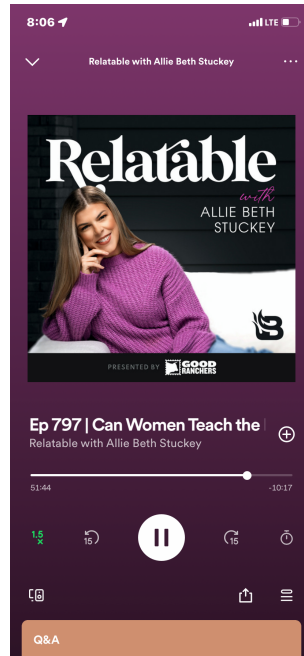
Yet, we know that Jesus said in Matthew 19:4 that God made male and female, and He made us with different roles. In the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, God created Adam first and then brought the woman, Eve, to Adam to be his helper. Scripture is clear that men are to bear the weight and burden of the home and carry that responsibility on his shoulders. He leads by carrying that burden (Ep 5-dies) with her encouragement and help. That's God's design. The problem is...women will fill the void when the men won't step up and do their job and that's been an issue for half-century now.

Please understand and hear me clearly when I say: women are not inferior to men. Women are 100% equal to men in worth, in value, in intellect. We have the same spiritual resources, male and female...the same spiritual promises and blessings. The ground is level at the cross:

Galatians 3:28

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave^[a] nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Church, men and women are equally valued in God's sight; and yet, when it comes to the home and the church, Scripture describes "male leadership." Now, this doesn't mean that women can't serve in the church. Goodness...what would we do without the ladies...the ladies are the glue that holds our churches and our homes together. Women can speak in church...they come up here and give a testimony of what God has done in their lives. Women can have great Christian ministries. I think of Amy Carmichael, Elizabeth Elliot, Rosaria Butterfield and this lady, Allie Beth Stuckey w/her podcast:



Her podcast is for women, but I listen to it because it helps give me perspective. But in the church, the teaching and the preaching, according to Scripture is to be led by men. You see, the role of leadership in the home and the church has been dictated and mandated by God to the men. In the N.T. there are no women pastor/teachers/shepherds. No women Apostles. There are no women authors of the 66 books of the Bible. But, I get it...

Some say, "But what about Phoebe?" Yes...she was considered a "servant," or Deaconess in the New Testament. She carried the Roman epistle to Rome for Paul. But she's the ONLY Deaconess ever mentioned by name in Scripture, meaning, this was not a normative practice (normative), but an anomaly. Can I say this: **The truly godly women I have known in my life have had no desire to pastor or run a church.** That's just my observation. They don't desire that power/position (Eve).

The role of men and women as designed by God is similar to how the Trinity works. The Son submits to the Father, and the Holy Spirit submits to the Father and the Son. Remember, in John 16, Jesus said that He would "send the Spirit." (He has the power to do that.) The Holy Spirit submitted to Jesus in this. But this submission does not imply an inferiority. No! All three Persons of the Trinity are equally God, but they differ in their function/role. The same is true for men and women. Men and women are equal in the sight of God and equally share the image of God, but they have different, God-ordained roles and this was primarily accepted and understood for close to 2000 years...until the 1960s and the rise of feminism.

Since then, over time...particularly in the mainline protestant churches in America...women pastors are now the accepted norm. We know this practice is true and prevalent within the Episcopal church, the Lutheran church, the Presbyterian (USA) church, and many Methodist churches. **Well, did you know, it's now front and center in the Southern Baptist Convention?**

Next month, I'll be going to **New Orleans to the annual Southern Baptist Convention** to vote on whether or not to allow Saddleback Church, pastored by a man and a woman, to remain in the convention, even though they have violated what Scripture teaches and the document called the "Baptist Faith and Message," which guides our convention.

Now, you may be thinking...what does this have to do with the passage we just studied? Everything church. Everything! It is the Spirit of God who uses words to give us God's word to guide our lives, to guide our churches, to guide our families and we must not play fast and loose with the Scriptures.

Andy Wood, see him again:



the new, I would say: **“Co-Senior pastor at Saddleback”** says this about Bible interpretation: **“We hold our interpretation through the lens of our humanity and understand that we are humans that are flawed. We are doing our very best to understand the Bible. That is why things like church history play into our perspective. That is why learning from other churches and other teachers is so helpful.”** Andy Wood, Senior Pastor, Saddleback Church

Church, to read those four sentences at face-value, seems kind of okay, on the surface, if you don't know the Bible. But if you read carefully, and you test the spirit of what's being said, (which is what the Scripture tells us to do in 1 John 4), Wood is saying, if you don't like something that Scripture says, you can just learn from another church or another teacher. He says, that is “so helpful.” Indeed it is, when what you're seeking to do in your life, or in the church goes against the clear teaching of the Word of God.

Let me show you another quote from Wood. This comes by way of an interview that happened recently with Wood and his wife, they were asked whether: “a gay, married couple” should carry on with their sinful relationship after coming to Christ. Andy Wood said:

“I don't know. That's really hard. There is no black-and-white answer and we'd have to ask the couple how they feel the Holy Spirit is leading them.” Andy Wood, Senior Pastor, Saddleback Church

O church, this is blasphemy. There are no “black and white answers” is an absolute lie! Jesus said:

Matthew 19:4-6

⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his

wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

What Wood is doing is hijacking the Holy Spirit to be able to make "us, humankind" the authority not the Word of God. For Wood and those of his ilk: When it goes against the culture...we just let the Holy Spirit guide...that's code for me...using the Holy Spirit as a cloak and that's blasphemy. This is hijacking the Holy Spirit so that everyone can simply say, "Well, this is what the Holy Spirit is saying to me," and you can't question me. O be careful being around leaders who say you can't question them. Warren Wiersbe says this:

"People who claim that the Spirit of God led them to do things contrary to the example of Christ or the teaching of the Word are mistaken and being led astray by Satan. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6), and the Word is truth (John 17:17), and the Holy Spirit is 'the Spirit of Truth.' Where the Holy Spirit is at work, there must be truth." Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary

It's so sad that we now live in a society where more and more churches, like Saddleback are rejecting the authority of Scripture to please people, to validate their choices. These churches are not seeking to change the culture, but instead are becoming like the culture. Dr. Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, says this about Saddleback:

"Frankly, this is all part of a package in terms of the theological confusion of the day. And if the SBC is faced with a church that directly and aggressively challenges our position on [women pastors] and the SBC does not take action, then that weakens our ability to take action on these other matters, the LGBTQ agenda." Dr. Al Mohler, President, Southern Seminary

"Apart from the Word of God read and studied, examined and expressed with clarity in preaching and teaching, the church ceases to be the church, formed and reformed by that Word. Instead, it begins to talk to itself, echoing the language of the world..."

There are basic, universal steps involved in biblical hermeneutics [the science of studying a text] -- historical analysis, literary analysis, textual analysis, lexical analysis, syntactical analysis, etc. It's important that we develop a consistent method of Bible study, one that would lead to accurate and insightful applications of the Scriptures. Unfortunately, (and it is tragic that I even have to bring this up), some say that the rules of biblical hermeneutics are dynamic. The rules change as they adapt to different cultural contexts. They are wrong. The 'rules of the road' are the same whether I am teaching in China, Ethiopia, Korea, Romania, or Ukraine. Biblical hermeneutics is biblical hermeneutics regardless of your nationality, ethnicity, and geography. And we all need to be following the proper guidelines when studying the Bible." Dr. David A. Black, New Testament, Greek Professor, SEBTS

Church, in John 16 Jesus has sought to prepare His disciples for the hatred of the world...hatred that will descend upon them like gangrene. He's told them when they preach about Him, and tell the truth...they will be thrown out of the synagogues and killed. All because of words.

Words. The correct and proper use of words will make or break a denomination, a church, a family, a life. In the beginning God used words to create everything...His design...His order...His way and the Holy Spirit has been there through it all. Do you now the Word that the Holy Spirit has given us?

[2 Timothy 2:15-17a](#)

¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,^[a] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷and their talk will spread like gangrene.

Church, Lord help us to know the Word of God and handle it RIGHTLY so that the gangrene of the culture will not spread. For the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth! May we be led by the truth, His Word!