

## **HOLY SPIRIT: Session 4**

I have heard the phrase, “The Trinity is not; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Bible.” The Holy Spirit over the years has seemed to lose His place in the Trinity. I do not know if this is a lack of understanding on the part of the Church or pastors unwilling to dive into seeming controversial waters. As one who is never opposed to controversy or conflict lets dive in.

I believe that if we base everything in scripture and let scripture speak for itself, the conflicts that may arise will not be with me, but with His Word. The Bible is a good thing, in fact, it’s an amazing thing! All of us should be grounded and rooted in God’s word, but desiring to have a relationship with the Spirit. RT Kendall makes a clear statement in consideration of the work and person of the Holy Spirit. His words are incredibly strong and concise.

*“It seems to us that there has been a ‘silent divorce’ in the church, speaking generally, between the Word and the Spirit. When there is a divorce, some children stay with the mother, some stay with the father.*

*In this divorce, there are those on the ‘word’ side and those on the ‘Spirit’ side.*

*What is the difference?*

*Take those of us who represent the Word. Our message is this: we must earnestly contend for the faith ‘once delivered unto the saints’ (Jude 3), we need get back to expository preaching, sound doctrine such as justification by faith, the sovereignty of God and the internal testimony of the Spirit as taught by men like Martin Luther, John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards. What is wrong with this emphasis? Nothing. It is exactly right.*

*Take those whose emphasis has been on the Holy Spirit. What is the message? We need to rediscover the power that was manifested in the Book of Acts, there needs to be a demonstration of signs, wonders and miracles; we need to see the gifts of the Spirit operating in the church – that the world will once again take notice of the church so that people are left without excuse.*

*What is wrong with this emphasis? Nothing. It is exactly right.*

*We believe that the need of the hour is not one or the other – but both! It is our view that this simultaneous combination will result in spontaneous combustion! And then, but almost certainly only then, will the world be shaken once again by the message of the Church.”*

*RT Kendall*

## **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO YOU?**

We all have a preconceived notion of the Holy Spirit, much of which is dictated by your background, Church history, current understanding, and experiences. Some may have little to no experience and come with a clean slate. Others may come with baggage, hurt or bad experiences. Others will come with a fiery passion for power and the tangible reality of the presence of God experienced through work and the person of the Holy Spirit.

## **TO THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE TO KNOW EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

The Spirit of God is the completer and worker of many of the foundational experiences of our Christian faith. The Holy Spirit brings us power (Acts 1:8), brings healing to ourselves and others (Acts 10:38), the ability to live without sin (Galatians 5:16), He intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27), He renews us (Titus 3:5), gives us authority (Matthew 28:18-20), gives us irrevocable gifts (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 11:29), sanctifies (1 Corinthians 6:11), regenerates (Titus 3:4-7) and justifies (1 Cor. 6:11).

### ***John 16:17***

*“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”*

## **TO THOSE WHO HAVE HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE, BAGGAGE OR HURT:**

I can say with almost complete certainty that these negative experiences are a result of a person, denomination, or a movement. I say this not to devalue your hurt or experience but to remind you that the Holy Spirit never hurts us or ever adds baggage to our lives. He is our Comforter. The first obstacle to moving forward from hurt is to overcome a critical mind. I am not saying to turn off your mind, but to not let the past set the framework for the future. A critical mind can easily shut down your heart. We must keep our hearts soft. A hard heart is seen several times in scripture and one of the scariest things that a believer can have.

It is easy to say we are using “discernment”, only to have that “discernment” turn to pride and arrogance, laying judgment on all those who experience God differently than I do.

Ask yourself, “Are you discerning or just uncomfortable?”

Everyone wants to be comfortable, but when God wants to grow you, you cannot stay comfortable. John Wimber says, “God offends the mind to reveal the heart.” As you journey into a relationship with the Holy Spirit, you WILL BE uncomfortable and your mind WILL BE offended. You will have to “Sacrifice your ego on the altar”. As your perception of God grows, your theology may shift. God cannot be put in a box. We cannot limit what He wants to do in and through us (Isaiah 55:8). Don’t let the “weird” distract you from a real and personal encounter with the Holy Spirit. We must mature, see through the weird, and see the Holy Spirit. Have you put God (the Holy Spirit) in a box? Believing you know how God works or how He may come through. Jesus did some weird stuff and never repeated the same weird thing. David was an odd guy. John the Baptist would have not been normal. God has a history of doing things that from the outside looked weird and was continually pushing the religious leaders of the New Testament outside their comfort zone. The saddest part is that they missed Him.

The point is to have the Holy Spirit change you, heal you, love you, lead you, and empower you. How He does this in you may be different from others and often is. But it must be real and authentic, in line with the Word of God, and have a lasting positive effect on your relationship with your Heavenly Father.

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE?**

As the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is a person and we can see His personality in scripture. The Holy Spirit shows wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge (Isaiah 11:2), can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), and empowers us (Acts 1:8).

Let's focus on the power for a moment.

Jesus not only carries all authority but gives it to us (Luke 9:1-2, Luke 10:19, John 14:12) through the Holy Spirit (John 16:17). The Holy Spirit came and unlocked a supernatural power (Acts 1:8) that no one had ever seen before. This was not normal.

What does this supernatural power look like? In scripture, these are; signs, wonders, and miracles and if you don't believe God is still doing miracles it's time to wake up. I am not talking about "easy miracles". I am talking about real life, God had to come through or it was over, kind of miracles. If you can do it without God, it's not a miracle.

Signs, wonders, and miracles can become a distraction or too heavy emphasized. They are merely a confirmation of the person and work of Jesus, for they will not bring people into a saving relationship with Jesus (John 6:26, Luke 16:31). They are simply to confirm the preaching of His word and should follow all who believe (Mark 16:17-18, 20). Once you go seeking the miracles you have placed greater importance on them than the one doing the miracle.

## **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT:**

One of the ways the Holy Spirit manifests Himself is through our gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7). This is incredibly powerful; every time we are using our gifts we are "manifesting" the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also gives these gifts, these gifts being wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, speaking in different tongues, and interpretations of tongues, arguably there are more! (1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11). These gifts are irrevocable, meaning we have them whether we use them or not (Romans 11:29).

If you have struggled with some of these gifts and if they are still in use today, can you find a scripture passage that says they are not? Even specifically which gifts are and which are not.

## **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:**

As you use your gifts and walk out your Christian journey the Bible says that you will be known by your fruit (Matthew 7:16-20). This fruit is known as the "Fruit of the Spirit". These fruits show themselves as love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus states that our fruit is actually how people will know we are connected and in relationship with Him (John 13:35).

## **BAPTISM AND FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

Another often time topic shied away from is the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit. If we look to scripture we can see how these events play out.

The first question to answer is, “When do we receive the Holy Spirit?”. The answer is when you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Lord and Master. The Holy Spirit enters in at upon regeneration, transforming us from flesh to spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:13, Romans 8:9). Is this one experience enough? Many think so, many equate this as a simultaneous experience with salvation, but what is to be said of Acts 19.

*Acts 19: 1-7*

*While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”*

*They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”*

*3 So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”*

*“John’s baptism,” they replied.*

*4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after Him, that is, in Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.*

While scripture is clear we all receive the Holy Spirit on conversion, there is something that we can “miss out” on. It was not until Paul laid His hands on them, that the Holy Spirit came on them. I am not saying that situation is always the model, but saying the Holy Spirit can come in different ways and at different times outside of our conversion experience. This leads us back to, “What is the difference between Baptism and filling?”. In short, there is one baptism (which can happen on conversion or at a later time) and there are many fillings.

We see baptism as a one-time event, this too is true of water baptism. Baptism represents a washing or cleansing (Matt 3:11, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Acts 1:4-5). John the Baptist emphasized the difference in the baptism of water and the Holy Spirit. He stated, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Filling of the Holy Spirit is just that, to be filled (Acts 4:8, Acts 6:3-7, Acts 11:24). In Ephesians 5:18, The term “be filled”, is the Greek present imperative tense, it has the connotation of a continuous replenishment and ongoing state of being filled. It’s a continual filling that must happen throughout our lives, this is also confirmed in Acts as we can see that people are “filled” with the Spirit on more than one occasion (Acts 2:4, Acts 4:31). We even see Old Testament examples of the filling of the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 34:9, 1 Samuel 19:18-24).

Imagine a cup, you can cleanse and clean a cup, but the interior must be filled to hold water. If you have struggled with the gifts, baptism and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Search the scripture. Research both sides, don’t just confirm your bias. Let scripture speak. Take it before God with open hands and heart. Good biblical men and women fall on both sides of the argument.

But, please don't miss the main point of the message.

The Holy Spirit is more than Jimmy Cricket, guiding our conscience. The Holy Spirit is real, alive, and active. He is here to give us power so that we can be a witness to all nations. (Act 1:8) He is the finisher, the one who empowers, comforts, intercedes, guides, and is the tangible expression of God Himself. Let's not steer away from Him, let's get to know Him.

It has been a pleasure to do these 4 lessons with you. Thank you so much for taking the time, I feel honored. I hope that this has blessed you and brought you into a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Remember, it's not about what you know about Jesus, it's about knowing Him intimately and personally.

Blessings, Danny