

# Holy Spirit is God 3

## ***He Leads, We Follow***

(preached 1/23/22)

Please turn to *Romans 8:1*.

### **Sermon #1: Person or Power?**

- 62% of Christians don't believe HS is a Person, but an ambiguous set of characteristics.
- The Holy Spirit is a Person, part of the Triune Godhead.
- He has a will, feelings, a mind, a purpose, and desires.
- Jesus is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit is His breath—He helped Father and Jesus create everything.
- His purpose is to interact with us here on earth, carrying out Father's will through us. Ex: Moses, Samson, Gideon, David, etc.
- The Holy Spirit glorified Father God & Jesus through us!
- Many spirits! Holy Spirit is 1) God and 2) Forever Holy (cannot be corrupted).

### **Sermon #2: Our Best Friend Forever!**

- The Holy Spirit makes us WANT Christ and everything He brought with Him: going to church, worshipping, repentance, holiness, supernatural gifts, love, joy, and much more!
- When He fills us our cup runneth over: we can't stop ourselves from loving God, loving others, reading our Bibles, going to church, etc.
- Jesus left and sent Him—He is our Advocate, Helper, Comforter & Counselor.
- This was to our advantage!
- Jesus fulfilled the prophetic promise He'd been making since the beginning: for God and man to live together.
- The process began on the glorious day He sent the Holy Spirit to become one with us!
- Because the HS lives inside us, we can have an up close and personal relationship with God.
- He's a Person so let's start treating Him like one. He's the One living inside us.
- We're not alone to rely only upon the love of man and animals to fill us.
- We're not stuck with only the "joy" and pleasures of this world until we finally die and go to Heaven.
- The Holy Spirit provides all these things in more abundance than we can handle. He's our BFF!

### **Romans 8:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

**JOINED TKD.** I met my TKD Instructor when I was 18 and a freshman in college. Even though he was only 2 years older than me he was more mature & wise than I, and an amazing martial artist. I began to follow him and literally become his disciple...wherever he went I went. Whatever he did, I did.

**IMITATED HIM.** I began to talk like him, adopting certain phrases he used a lot and even his manner of speaking. I started wearing the same colors he did. He drank Coke and said it was the best, so I did too. He loved the rock band Rush and played it constantly, and I came to love them too. He ate Lay's potato chips and said it was the only chip to eat, so I started. He would practice about 5-7 times per week, sometimes at very inconvenient times of the day or night, and so I did I. He would call a practice if there was a foot of snow, blistering 90 degree temps, or pouring rain and I would follow. He took us on special trips to the TKD HQ in NYC, to our camp in the Catskill mountains, and to West Point for big tournaments...and I would attend every one. He prioritized TKD over everything else and I did too.

**FAMILY CONCERNED.** My family members and close friends who'd known me awhile got a little concerned, thinking my instructor had too much influence over my life and that maybe I was in a cult. They noticed the changes I'd made and would give me uncomfortable looks, ask me probing questions, and made a few offensive comments & accusations. I recall one time a bunch of us going for a swim up at Goodhue Lake and my instructor had said one of the best places to practice was underwater. We'd gone to several pools, including the one at our college, to do exactly that. So I jump into GL and start doing my workout, and again: my family and friends are not only keeping their distance, but staring at me like I'd grown a second head.

**PRIORITIZE TKD.** My parents were worried that I was spending more time and energy practicing TKD than on my academics, which was true. My friends noticed I started hanging out with a new crowd that wasn't them and they didn't like it. Even when I spent time with him, I couldn't be drawn into the same old things we used to do. They didn't like my insistence on drinking Coke and eating Lay's chips. They were uncomfortable when I told stories about practicing in a foot of snow, and they got really nervous when I would take off for a week at a time to go to a cabin in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

**BELT TESTS.** I started taking belt tests and passing them, and my skills greatly improved in a short period of time. My male friends and I used to hit each other and wrestle a lot in high school, and being a skinny fellow that didn't play too many sports, I often came out on the short end of that stick. With my newfound martial arts skills, however, I began blocking punches thrown at me and again: it created a little tension. One of my buddies used to show me a constant scar in the middle of his fist and say "this is your fault!" Reason being, he would go to hit me and I would block his fist into a wall or whatever object was close.

**WHO I WAS.** Things eventually got to the point where my friends and family understood this is who I was and would likely always be.

**Our relationship with the Holy Spirit needs to be like this.**

**Our relationship with the HS needs to evoke a similar reaction in the people who know us.**

*Who we were before is gone—what we used to say, act like, love, hate, like, dislike, find joy in, prioritize, believe...everything.*

**OUR OLD SELF IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST, AND BURIED IN A SPIRITUAL GRAVE.**

*Our new self, who is one with the Holy Spirit, is born again and completely different.* What we believe, the way we speak, how we act, the way we dress, what we consider important, what we spend our time doing, who we hang out with....

OTHERS UNCOMFORTABLE. It should be making our family members and friends who've known us for a long time uncomfortable and maybe even hostile. They should be looking at us funny, giving us some space, and inspire them to ask probing questions and even make nasty comments. They might think we've joined a cult, gotten too serious about "the Jesus thing" and start calling us names like "Bible Thumper" or "Holy Roller."

***Everyone who knows us should see a change in our lifestyle which is the way we believe, speak, and act.*** They ought to be noticing that we read our Bibles more, go to church a lot, quote and paraphrase the Scriptures, teach our children, listen to worship music, and more. They should see all this is a priority in our lives and they might even make snarky comments about being brainwashed, doing the same with our kids, being "holier than thou," and trying to "shove your religion down their throats."

**JUST AS I TOOK BELT TESTS AND ADVANCED IN RANK IN TKD AS A YOUNG MAN, PEOPLE SHOULD BE SEEING AN INCREASE OF GOD'S GLORY INSIDE OF US AND EITHER BE DRAWN TO OR REPELLED BY IT.**

**Romans 8:1-11 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

<sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

<sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

<sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

<sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

EXPOSIT. Let's go through these verses carefully, because there's a lot to unpack here.

**Verses 1-2:** Paul is referring to the transfer from the Old Covenant to the New.

***The OC is not the commandments, the OC is **\*\*obedience\*\*** to God's commands in order to be in right standing with God.*** When verse 2 tells us that we're now free from the law of sin and death, that means Someone else—our Lord Jesus!—fulfilled the OC by obeying. He obtained eternal right standing with God, eternal relationship, eternal life, eternal love, and therefore inherited the entire Kingdom of God. The good news for us, the reason we've been set free, is that Christ then created a new covenant where He would freely give us the eternal right standing that He earned.

SEALED NC. Look what Paul says in **verse 2:** it was the Holy Spirit Who sealed this new and better covenant by coming to live inside of us! He took a direct role in the freedom we now enjoy. This freedom is defined is that we no longer must obey God's commands to win right standing with Him—this righteousness was given to us freely by Christ and His amazing work at the Cross and Resurrection. We cannot "lose" our Salvation.

***Does this mean we can go ahead and sin and everything will be OK?***

**Verse 3:** God condemns sin whether it manifests in a believer or non-believer. God hates sin. He sent His only Son Jesus to die on the cross because of sin. Jesus came off the throne and left a perfect place called Heaven to come down to this place because He hated sin. He gave up His Godlike glorious, radiant, eternal body to take on fallen human flesh/body to condemn sin on the cross, and pay its debt with His blood.

**Verse 4:** He shared His obedience and victory over sin with you and I. Now listen carefully as we navigate this:

- All flesh has sinful desires and seeks to commit sin. Both the bodies or saved and unsaved people are exactly alike.
- Jesus had a body of flesh just like yours and mine that was tempted on all points just like we are.

- Yet He never committed a sin, even once. He was never led by the desires of His body.
- A believer inherits this victory that Jesus accomplished which is why Father God justifies us...just-as-if-we-had never sinned. He looks at us just like He does Jesus.
- This victory comes in the form of the Holy Spirit, Who contains this in the package we call the NC.
- Believers have a new leader which I quoted to you in the beginning of this sermon: the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is a Person Who has desires and now, as believers, we can choose to follow/model ourselves after the desires of the Spirit of God vs. those of our flesh.
- Unbelievers cannot stop themselves from sinning, because they don't have the Agent of righteousness—the Holy Spirit—living inside them. If they could, they wouldn't need to be Saved.
- What they can do is choose to hear the Gospel, repent, and receive the Saving Grace of Christ.

**Verses 5-8:** I have a revelation for you. God worded it to me this way recently and it helped me to understand myself better.

## **Our Flesh interprets the Scriptures.**

### **Specifically, it interprets them according to its own desires.**

CAN WE SIN & BE OK? A prime example is the question I asked earlier, a question the first century church was plagued with so that Paul spends 2 entire chapters in Romans explaining and giving an answer. When the preacher says Jesus has forgiven us of all sins and that once we're Saved, we're always Saved, the flesh of some hearers interpret the Gospel and conclude: *"so I can do whatever I want as long as I'm Saved. I can commit sins and get away with it and still go to Heaven when I die."*

"HAVEN'T BEEN CONVICTED" Way back in the first century people were saying these things and even accused the Apostles of preaching the same. Even now I hear my fellow Christians, even some mature ones, justify the commission of sin according to this carnal interpretation. One telltale sign for me is when I hear a fellow believer claim that "God hasn't convicted me of \_\_\_\_\_ yet." The \_\_\_\_\_ is a sin and they believe its OK for them to keep doing it because they feel a lack of conviction.

DULL CONSCIENCE. If the Scripture points out that \_\_\_\_\_ is a sin and you and I aren't feeling convicted, it's because our conscience is dull toward said sin. Our conscience is dull toward it because we've followed the desire of our flesh to indulge that thing vs. following the Spirit. When our conscience is dull, the conviction of the Holy Spirit is far less apparent, like us holding our hands to our ears to drown Him out.

HS INTERPRETS RIGHT. It's only the Holy Spirit, Who is One with our spirit, Who interprets God's Word righteously. When we're following Him it will lead to amazing spiritual fruit that brings life to both us and others, and will glorify God.

**Verse 8** and let's navigate this too: God always loves us no matter what. Whether committing sin or acts of righteousness, God's love for us never rises, falls, or is taken away.

***Yet God is not always pleased with us.***

ROMANS 8:8 SAYS SO. I've heard other preachers say God is always pleased with us, and they're wrong. I know this because Romans 8:8 says so.

HATES SIN. When we're following the desires of our flesh and therefore committing sins, God isn't pleased because He hates sin. No, **He doesn't hate us** which I just established...but when we're in sin He hates what we're saying and doing.

PARENTS UNDERSTAND. Every parent and grandparent should understand this completely. We always love our kids and that will never change...yet we don't always like the choices they make or the lifestyles they live. Sometimes we hate the way they treat us and each other. We can and do grieve God when we ignore the desires of His Holy Spirit and are being led by the desires of our flesh.

**Verses 9-11:** our true identity is the one given to us by Jesus. That identity is that our spirit is made in the likeness of Christ Himself which means it's glorious, radiant, holy, righteous, and full of God's love. It's one with God the Holy Spirit.

OLD IDENTITY. Christians struggle because we still try to cling to an old identity, one that's part of the flesh. We're trying to dig up a body that's been put into the grave, attached electrodes to it, and revive it like Dr. Frankenstein did with his monster.

DO WE EXALT? If we're truly our spirit selves, which the Lord says we are, then we do we continue to exalt our race, family, habits, upbringing, sexual orientation, income status, occupation, etc.?

LENS OF FLESH TO INTERPRET. When who we are is wrapped in any of those things, we're seeing things through the lens of the flesh and not the spirit. If I identify as an alcoholic and say "that's just who I am," then I will interpret the Bible and life through the glasses of this identity vs. who I really am.

***Believers have a God-like advantage over unbelievers: God lives in us.***

God has combined with the real us, our spirits, and we are one. We are not God, but we are one with Him and made in His glorious image. We literally are a being that's alien to this sinful world.

**GOD TOOK A BEING WHO DIRECTLY OPPOSES AND IS AN ENEMY OF OUR BODIES AND PUT SAID BEING WITHIN OUR BODIES.**

Look at verse 7 again: ***the desires of the flesh are hostile to God.***

***The idea isn't just to resist and not do what the flesh commands, the idea is to follow and do what the Holy Spirit commands.***

***The Holy Spirit doesn't just tell us what to do, He empowers us to.***

Whatever God commands, God empowers. We are not alone in this. Our BFF has us covered. With Him, this is possible!

**Verse 11** is one of my favorites—we have the same Spirit inside our bodies that Jesus had inside His!

#### **Romans 8:12-17 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**Verses 12-13:** when we obey the desires of the flesh, we're in debt to it.

- If I eat too much I'll gain weight which may result in diabetes and heart disease. DEBT.
- If I follow all its sexual urges I will leave a trail of broken hearts and children without a responsible dad. DEBT.
- If I pursue money and career, my wife and kids suffer. DEBT.
- If I choose to vent my frustrations a lot, others are hurt and I develop a bad reputation as being a drama king. DEBT.
- If I limit myself out of fear, then I have little fruit to bear for my life when I stand at Judgment. DEBT.

PAY FOR IT LATER. We're quite familiar with this. Don't we often say, when we choose to indulge one part of the flesh or the other, that we'll “pay for it later”? ***That's debt. It comes back around to bite us in the behind.***

**Verse 13:** it's by the Holy Spirit that we put to death following the desires of our flesh. Not by will power. Not by "trying." It's only when we call upon our BFF that we overcome.

**Verse 14** is the one we started off with today. The Spirit leads and we follow. Following means what I laid out in my example of when I first chose to follow my TKD instructor as a teenager. We live His life...the HS. Dress like He does, say what He says, do what He does, act like Him, believe like Him, love the things He loves and hate the things He hates.

*So much so that the people who know us see the change. Some embrace it and want the same thing, others reject it and avoid...perhaps even persecute or get snarky.*

**Verse 15:** following the desires of the flesh is slavery, and Jesus said the same thing. Now that we are one with the HS we are sons of Father God!

***My sons look like me***, bear my name, live in the same house, and picked up some of my characteristics and sayings. The HS enables us to imitate our Heavenly Father!

**Verse 16:** our spirit and His are one. The Holy Spirit speaks to us and which part of "us" is us? The heart? The mind? Our bodies? Race? Family? Political party?

**The real us is our spirit.** The Holy Spirit only talks to the real us. It bears witness to us as the Advocate I spoke of last week: in His final will and testament before He ascended back to Father God, Jesus declared we are His joint-heirs of the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit is to probate lawyer reading this good news to us!!!

# DREAM