

# Holy Spirit is God 2

## ***He is Your BF Forever!***

(preached 1/16/22)

Please turn to *John 14*.

### **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).

GO TO CHURCH? After I got Saved in the late 90's I didn't start going to church. I was still holding onto the philosophy of my flesh that said I didn't need to and could become a disciple of Christ all on my own. My wife was on my case about it a lot. She would say things like: *"now that you're Saved, I would like for us to go to church"* and *"we really need to be in fellowship and hearing God's word."* Let's not forget *"this is something I would like us to do as a family."*

ONCE PER MONTH. I would go around once per month, at best, just to get her off my back and check the box that said "there, I went!" I told myself I "wasn't getting anything out of it." I felt like worship went on too long and sometimes the sermon would step on my toes too much, so I would respond with something like "I'm not sure I agree with that!"

***It was the Holy Spirit Who not only inspired me to repent, but made me WANT to go to Church.*** WANT to worship. WANT to listen to sermon and read the Bible. WANT to serve. WANT to know God's will not just for me, but for His entire church.

BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT. TALKED TO HIM. I read a book about getting Baptized in the Holy Spirit and the big secret to obtaining this was to just ask Him...so I did. I stayed up one night and laid on my living room floor, and it was the first time I'd ever talked to God's Spirit. Up until then, in my ignorance, I viewed Him as an ambiguous...form? Thing? I wasn't sure what to do with...it? Him? The author of the book proved ***He was a Person, that I could talk directly to Him, and have a relationship with Him.***

CUP RUNNETH OVER. Night 1 I asked Him to Baptize me and nothing happened. Night 2, same thing. Night 3 I asked and something really weird happened: it was as if someone took a bucket full of love, joy, peace, and faith and poured it over me. Now all this spiritual liquid didn't just run off me like water during the Bucket Challenge, but it filled me like a cup to the point where my cup ranneth over. In other words, He had a lot more—a LOT MORE—of all that stuff than I could possibly contain.

NIVER. First off I was nicer, like way nicer. Pleasant to be around, in a great mood, loving, giving, happy to see everyone. I was also quite kind and considerate of others and please understand none of these things were or are “natural” to me.

RAN TO CHURCH. When the first Sunday after this experience came I'm waking up early and getting dressed—no shower or deodorant. My wife says “what are you doing?” to which I eagerly replied that I needed to be at church, like now. She explained that it didn't start for another hour but I knew the worship team would be there soon to practice, and I needed to be there to worship. She tried to convince me to wait for her and I wouldn't have it—I jumped in my Jeep and drove there immediately.

BIBLE OPENED UP. Revelation was pouring in like never before. The Holy Spirit was opening up the Bible like the living and active word it is, and every day I was learning so much about Jesus and His will.

BFF. The best thing of all was the Holy Spirit became my BFF. We talked and I giggled all the time and I would literally feel His presence constantly. He was also changing me from the inside out.

EMBRACING NEW. Because of His loving and powerful inspiration, I was casting off the former things of the flesh and embracing my Christ self. My wife is very difficult to shock but, through the power of God, I did. We were sitting on Olive Garden and the Spirit of God had been gently showing me things I needed to repent of AND the consequences upon others.

MY FAULT. I blurted out to Becky: “all the problems in our marriage are my fault!” I wasn't bawling or feeling ANY guilt or shame in this statement. I wasn't trying to get on her good side. I wasn't trying to impress God with my humility. What was happening was that the HS was bringing me out of the myopic bubble I'd lived in for my whole life, and showing me how all of my actions affected those around me, especially the one human being on the planet I was one flesh with: my wife. I saw how my sins and insecurities affected her and therefore us, and that I was the cause to their effect.

NO SHAME. OVERCOME WITH BFF. I repeat: I wasn't feeling any shame. As a matter of fact, I was feeling encouraged for the first time because I knew *that with my new BFF—God the Holy Spirit—I could and would overcome*. With Him it would be easy because He's God and He was leading the effort. With His fruit filling my cup, and His power running over, all things were possible!

PERSON, GOD, ETC. We've already established that He's a Person, part of the Godhead, with a will, a mind, and emotions. He can talk, act, and ***His purpose is to be Father's representative here on earth for humanity, starting with the Church.***

JESUS LEAVING. In John 14 Jesus drops a bomb: He's LEAVING EARTH! The disciples have been with Him for a majority of the 3.5 years that have passed since our Messiah went public. He loves them and they love Him. They're very close to each other, BFF's. Now Jesus says He's going back to Heaven and they're sad...big time. Look at His response:

**John 14:15-17 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

<sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

**Verse 15:** the commandments He's referring to are the same ones He gave earlier: 1) loving God with all that we are and 2) loving our fellow brothers & sisters in Christ as much as we love ourselves.

The 2 "love" commandments are the foundation for His promise in **verse 16:** ***to send another Helper Who is with us forever.***

**Verse 16a:** He's going to ask the Father to send this mysterious forever Helper. GOOD NEWS: anything Jesus asks His Father for, Father gives Him. Since the Lord Jesus is asking on our behalf, we WILL receive.

**Verse 16b:** not just a Helper but ANOTHER Helper. That means the disciples already have one and His Name is Christ Jesus. "Helper" translates to comforter in the form of someone who advocates on your behalf.

RAN AWAY. When I was a kid my siblings all gathered in my brother's room and locked me out while mom was away. I got really mad, put my coat on, and walked all the way to my grandmothers house across town. I was young...really young. When I showed up and told grandma everything, she called Dad who came right over. He was angry because I could have been kidnapped or something, especially at that age, and wanted to spank me for leaving the house with no supervision.

GRANDMA THE ADVOCATE. He was angry and his wrath was righteous...and Grandma was my advocate. To this day I remember dad walking toward me and I could see my impending doom all over his face and body language. Then there was grandma, his mother, stepping walking alongside him and saying "*Terry wait. What he did was wrong, but they locked him out of his room and left him alone. I don't blame him for being upset.*"

WRATH ABATED. Grandma didn't have authority over dad anymore because he was an adult and I was his son...but she did have great influence. I still recall that, every time she spoke up—advocated for me—Dad would pause and his wrath would abate a little more and gram was relentless, walking alongside him every step of the way calling for mercy. By the time Dad actually got to me I still got spanked, but it was the traditional “love tap” that was almost for show so that he could say he did it. I'd been spanked by dad before and he RARELY did that!

**Do you and I, as Saved born-again Christians, still commit sins? Yes.**

**Does Father God get angry and visit wrath upon us for doing so? No.**

**WHY not? BECAUSE WE HAVE an ADVOCATE WHO BRINGS US COMFORT.**

POINTS OF LIGHT. The Holy Spirit shines with Father's Glory inside of us and the way I picture it is like this: Father looking down from Heaven is seeing every one of His sons and daughters as these radiant, shining, points of Light! His Light!

REMINDS HIM WHO WE ARE. When He sees us, even though we still commit sins, His own Light reminds Him of Who we are: covered by the Blood of Jesus, born-again in the image of Christ, made righteous forever. *The Holy Spirit in us is why our Father sees us this way—He's our Advocate.*

**Verse 17:** Jesus identifies this mysterious Helper as the Holy Spirit and says He will live inside of us.

NEXT STEP IN PLAN REVEALED. So now the step in the evolution of God's Plan is revealed by our Savior. We've already established that the Holy Spirit is Father's agent here on earth with humanity and please understand He is not “everywhere” in the sense of being in the atmosphere. He does not make mountains, trees, bodies of water, or animals His temple.

OT “UPON.” As Father's Agent on earth, the Holy Spirit has always rested UPON select human saints (which we proved in last week's sermon.)

IN US. Jesus is fulfilling His promise which has always been to live among us. He's upgrading our relationship with Him from descending from Heaven once in a while to be on us like clothing, to living inside of us forever.

**John 14:18-21 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

<sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

<sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

**Verse 18:** Jesus makes no spiritual distinction between Him and the Holy Spirit in this verse. He just got done telling us He was leaving yet sending another Helper which was a distinction. Yet now He identifies said Helper as being just another part of Him, no distinction. I repeat: water comes in 3 forms yet it's all still water—we DO understand this.

**Verse 19** continues the strange distinction that really isn't one: they won't see physical Jesus any more because He's going back to Heaven. Yet the disciples will see “Him” once He ascends to Heaven in the form of the Holy Spirit.

**Verse 20:** more Trinity! Jesus is saying He and Father are one, which He just gone done telling Phillip. Since He's sending His Spirit to come live in us, we are now one with Him as well. We are not God like Jesus is, but God lives in us and we live in Him. ***Jesus has done what He promised to do: live here with us so that we never have to be separated again.***

**Verse 21:** the result of the Holy Spirit bearing His fruit inside of us is the fulfillment of Jesus' commandments.

***The Holy Spirit is meant to be our Best Friend Forever.***

**HE'S A PERSON AND WE'RE MEANT TO LISTEN TO AND TALK WITH HIM.**

So let's start.

AFRAID? I've debated with other Christians about this, because some of them are afraid to do this. One time years ago another Christian warned me not to take this too far and start worshipping the Holy Spirit and compared the same to idolatry.

***I do not worship the Holy Spirit and I'll explain why in a moment. Yet I do talk with Him, pray to Him, and love Him.***

COMPARTMENTAL. Human beings can become compartmental and with that, things can become idols. There are people who say they like Jesus but don't like Father God. Reason being, they think Jesus is all about love and mercy whereas Father was wrath and vengeance.

FATHER & JESUS ARE 1. Not only is that false, but remember what Jesus just told us: He and Dad are ONE. Remember His rebuke of Phillip who tried to compartmentalize the two: “if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.” When we don’t believe what Jesus said, and still think of Father, Son, and HS as 3 separate beings then we can move into idolatry of claiming to like one and not the other...or to like one more than the other.

PERFECT ALIGNMENT. They are One. Let’s believe the doctrine taught in the Bible that they are One, in perfect alignment with each other in every way possible. So when I listen to, talk with, and pray to God’s Spirit I am talking with the Lord.

***I don’t worship Him in the sense that I separate Him out for worship, and also because there’s no evidence of any of the Apostles or OT saints doing so.*** They listen to, obey, follow, and are filled with Him yes.

ROLE. The role of the HS, according to Jesus, is to point to Jesus:

**John 15:26-27 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

<sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

**Verse 26:** The HS will “bear witness” about Jesus. Also translates to “testify.”

**Verse 27:** we do the same thing to others.

BRING ATTENTION TO JESUS. The Holy Spirit wants to tell US about Jesus—everything about Him. He bring our attention to our Lord Christ, and thus we should do the same with humanity.

**John 16:4-11 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

<sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

<sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

<sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

<sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;

<sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Verses 4-7: Jesus HAD to leave and go back to Father

**It was to our advantage.**

**Please say that out loud and make it personal:** “It was to my advantage for Jesus to go back to Father.”

2<sup>nd</sup> COMING. Do we really believe that? I want Jesus to return and the Lord, especially through the NT Scriptures, encourages and even commands that we look forward to Him coming back with eager anticipation.

ARE WE ORPHANS? Yet do we believe, in our hearts, that He did leave us alone? Like an orphan?

- That He’s not really “with us” despite His OT name Immanuel saying otherwise?
- Do we believe that our only option for love is that of humans and animals?
- Do we believe the joy to be found is in this world?

**If we had a close relationship with the Holy Spirit, we would know that:**

- We’re not alone, God literally is with us forever.
- He’s not going anywhere: forever means always.
- He is the One Who produces the best form of love there is.
- He is the One Who produces the best form of joy there is.
- He is willing to fill us with all His fruits until our cup runneth over with them.

***Man is not meant to be alone***, apart from other humans, otherwise God never would have added Eve to the relationship. Adam had God, but God wanted Adam to have companionship. We do have each other and when we love one another we fulfill Jesus’ second commandment.

***Yet we cannot skip the first commandment.*** As a matter of fact, the second is not possible without the first.

LOVING GOD & PEOPLE. And the first does not happen separately from the second. In other words NO: you cannot love God and not love people. When you and I are filled with God’s Spirit, we can’t stop ourselves from loving others. It’s only our flesh that doesn’t like other people. There’s that compartmental thing again....

SENT SPIRIT. Jesus needed to ascend to Heaven in His resurrected glory form, approach Father God, and ask Him to send His Spirit to come down here and live inside of us. ***If not for the Holy Spirit, our relationship with Father and Jesus would be from a distance.***

## **It's not from a distance. It's up close and personal.**

WOUNDED? PARAMEDIC. I know many people feel spiritual wounded, tired, injured, and sick. If you're feeling that way then let me give this analogy: you've been in a car accident and are injured. Bones broken, blood draining, and massive pain. Suddenly the ambulance shows up, and a paramedic leaps out. He drags you from the burning car, staunches your wounds, gives you some pain relief, and compassion flows from him. He says "I got you and you're going to be OK." After he gets you in the ambulance, he's holding your hand, looking into your eyes, and smiling. He continues to reassure you that he's with you, not going anywhere, and will take care of you.

DREAM—BOMB DIFFUSER. I once had the most glorious dream about the Holy Spirit. I was part of the bomb squad who'd been called to a large office type building to find and diffuse a bomb. I had a headset on and my boss—the Holy Spirit—was speaking to me through the headset. He guided me every step of the way: "turn right, go down that corridor, up the stairs, go left, 3<sup>rd</sup> room down." I got to the room and he directed me to a normal looking wall, instructing me to remove a panel that was hidden only moment before. I removed it and there was the bomb...and I realized I had no idea what I was doing. Other than watching movies where they cut the red wire, I was clueless!

WALKING SIDE BY SIDE. The Holy Spirit gave me step by step instructions and I successfully defused the bomb! Then He said to meet up with Him, and once again gave me specific directions through this large building to His position. When I saw Him I was stunned...He was all blue and alien looking...yet still had a somewhat human appearance. He was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen and I couldn't stop looking at Him. We began to walk next to each other and our arms were around each other. Next thing I know our hips connected, our legs, our sides, our shoulders—not in a romantic way, *but as we walked we were blending together and become one.*

## **JUST AS JESUS SAID WE WERE.**

SEPARATION = DEATH. As we walked and blended together, I remember experiencing a love so overwhelming that I knew I would literally DIE if He ever separated from me, even for the briefest of moments.

**And that is true for me and you. We would die without Him in every way.**

**John 16:12-15 (ESV)**

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

<sup>13</sup> 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.

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

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

**Verse 13:** The desire of the Holy Spirit is to point to Jesus, Who is the Truth. He operates and speaks with the authority of Christ and will speak to us whatever Father and Jesus tell Him too. He will also tell us about the future: prophecy.

**Verse 14:** He glorifies Jesus and doesn't glorify Himself. That is another reason I don't direct worship at the Holy Spirit but to Father and Jesus. **Part b:** taking what belongs to Jesus and declaring it to us is more than just telling us about it. What belongs to Jesus belongs to us, because we are joint-heirs with Him. That's why elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus says to ask Father for anything in His name, and it will be given. We are sons and daughters of our Father.

**Verse 15:** With God's Spirit inside us, we are His earthly representatives. We tell other people that this world belongs to Jesus, that He is coming, and His Kingdom with Him. Victory, honor, riches, glory...everything belongs to Christ for He is King!

END. I end with these two verses, one from the beginning of John's Gospel and one from the end:

#### **John 1:32-34 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> And John [the Baptist] bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

IMMERSED. God the Holy Spirit descends and lights upon Jesus...and remained. Jesus was immersed—Baptized—into the Spirit and the Spirit lived inside of Him. It was only after this that Jesus was declared God's Son and authorized to immerse others in God.

#### **John 20:19-23 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

<sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

SONS OF GOD. When the disciples received the Spirit themselves, they became sons of God and were now authorized to do the same to others.

Let's not just need the Holy Spirit, let's want Him.

Listen to Him. Talk to Him.

We are here for Him and He is here for us.

He truly is a Person, a wonderful comforter.

**OUR BFF!**