

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

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SPEAKER

Brian Frost

SERIES

God In Us

PART

1

TITLE

The Promise Of The Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE

John 14:15-17; 16:1-5



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Well, providence, it's great to see you this morning. And if you're at home or at the beach or at the mountains, on this weekend, we're glad that you have also joined us livestream. If you're a guest with us, it's always an honor to have guests and so I hope this time will be encouraging to you.

In your hand, if you have a Bible, if you want to turn with me to John chapter 14. If you don't have one, there's lots of Bibles in the chairs near you. And if you don't have one of your own, please take that home as a gift. That's why they're there, for you to take.

We'll be in John chapter 14. We're also, just for a few verses, and then we're going to be in John chapter 16 also, just one page to the right. But what I want to encourage you to consider this morning is just how amazing and gracious it is that the God over the entire universe, that He desires to draw near to us, to you.

And if you've really ever thought about that, you look up to the sky and you see all the stars and you see the expanse and you see all the people. Even the psalmist writes, "Who am I, in spite of all that I see, that you would have any regard for my life?" It's amazing that He cares for us.

The fact is, is that ever since mankind ran away from God and sinned, God is graciously and progressively drawn close to man. In the Old Testament, we find that God revealed himself to humanity, to his people and yet the common place, if you can... It's hard to sort of describe this, but the common place was not necessarily in or with, it was around and beyond.

He was holy. He would intervene in people's lives and He would intervene and help the whole people. But for the most part, God was transcendent. It felt transcendent, other world, outside, sort of demonstrate with lightning and clouds. And throughout the Old Testament, God promised a better day that would come.

And in the fullness of time, God sent His Son, the Christ. They gave him the name, Jesus, which means, the savior. He came to the earth as a man, and as a man, He was able to be with us. He walked with us, He ate with us, He talked with us. With His disciples, He camped. He was with us. And remarkably Jesus, the Son of God, promised a better day to come.

When He would leave the earth, He would ascend to heaven and He would ask the Father to send His spirit to come and live, live not around us, beyond us, or above us, or even with us, but in us. The God of the universe could draw no closer than to you than to draw closer enough to be in you. He cares about you. He wants a relationship with you and He does so today through His spirit.

Now, there's a whole lot of confusion about the Holy Spirit. And so today we begin a new series about the Holy Spirit and it's called, God In Us. And I want you to know that if you're here this morning and you're skeptical, you look at it and you're like, "You know, this Spirit, it just seems so mysterious.

And that mystery, it just makes me kind of lean back on my heels instead of on my toes. I'm not sure if I want this," as opposed to, "No, I really want this." If you're skeptical or perhaps you're fearful. Fearful, because it is mysterious. Fearful because there's things that we don't know.

We talk about the Holy Spirit, we're talking about God, who He says to us, that His ways are higher than our ways, is higher than the earth and to the very heavens. There's such an expanse. And so it can cause fear. But another thing it can cause is previous hurt.

And some of us maybe have been in experiences in our life. They were done so in the name of the Holy Spirit, that confused us, that broke us, that embarrassed us, that shamed us, that did something to us that wasn't what we considered good.

Maybe you're on your heels at the thought that we're going to look at the Holy Spirit from the scripture and what I simply want to ask you to do this morning is to simply be open to what I can show you clearly from His word.

Let me pray, Father in Heaven. We bow before You. And we ask that You would help us to see that the Holy Spirit is not only a gift, the Holy Spirit is critical to every part of the Christian life. And we desire to know You. We desire to understand more clearly. And so would You help us, even now, as we open up Your word to use this morning.

For some of us, it may be something that we've studied all our life, but for some, this may be the very first installment of understanding of who the Holy Spirit is. And so would You use this morning to encourage and teach all of us from Your word. We ask for help. And we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

In John Chapter 14, this is right before Jesus is going to go to the cross, a day before, He's with His disciples and He's teaching them and notice what He says in verse 16 of Chapter 14. He says, "And I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper to be with you forever. 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." Let's skip down to verse 25, "These things I've spoken to you while I am still with you," this is Jesus speaking on the earth. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance, all that I have said to you."

And now John Chapter 16, starting in verse five, "But now I am going to Him who sent Me. And none of you ask Me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart." Now you can only imagine, these men have been with Jesus, the son of God, and seen and heard wisdom and love demonstrated in its fullest forms.

And He says, “I’m leaving and you can’t go.” And so they’re sad, really sad. But notice what He says next, verse 7, “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.

When he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. Concerning sin because they do not believe in me. Concerning righteousness because I go to the Father, you will see me no longer. Concerning judgment because the ruler of this world is judged.

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify me. For he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

All that the Father has is mine. Therefore, I said, that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” A few truths that I want to work through this morning. The first is so hopeful and it’s such good news. And that is that the Holy Spirit was long promised.

This is not some late installment, God’s plan of redemption. This is something that was promised as far back in the Bible, as you can imagine. In fact, we can just start, in the beginning, that’s where the Bible begins. In the beginning, verse 1, God created the heavens and the earth.

And do you know what we find in verse 2? In verse 2, it says that, “The spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” There he is, the spirit of God. And throughout the rest of the Old Testament, or at least through much of the Old Testament, he was working, he was visible.

He was seen, but oftentimes, it was more like the Holy Spirit was... If there was a stage and there was a curtain, a lot of the Old Testament, he’s sort of behind the scenes. Every now and then, these pivotal moments, really important moments in the story of redemption, the Holy Spirit comes out and he does something amazing, its bam, and all of a sudden, he goes, “All right, I’m leaving for a while.”

And he goes back. He’s not really leaving them, he’s just not as visible as certain moments and with certain people. And yet, a promise was made and promises started to emerge within the scriptures. One of these is an Isaiah Chapter 44 in verse 3, God says, “I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground.” And these are people living in the desert. That sounds attractive, doesn’t it? We’re in the desert. Everything’s dusty, there’s nothing. And all of a sudden, you’re going to pour water in such a way there’s going to be streams and rivers, in the desert. And then he describes what he means by that.

And he says, “I will pour my spirit upon your offspring and my blessing on your descendants.” Now notice

the future tense of all these things. First of all, he says, "I will. I will do this." This is something in the future. And then he gives offspring and descendants. This is later, its to your children and their children and their children. And then all of a sudden, you fast forward a little bit and you get to Joel, Joel Chapter two, verse 28. It says, "It shall come to pass afterward," not today, but afterward, "That I will," not now, but "I will pour out my spirit," not just on a few people, but, "On all flesh..."

We find stories in the Old Testament, such as with Joshua, we find it with Joseph. We find it with Daniel to where someone's describing them. And it says something unusual about this one. The spirit of God is within this one. Well, that's interesting. But notice what it says. He's going to pour out his spirit on all flesh. Everyone's going to get to participate. What an amazing day that will be. And so what we find is these terms, he keeps using the terms, pour out. It's like pouring a picture of water. And you think about this picture of pouring out. He's saying the holy spirit is going to be poured out and literally a new day would dawn.

So many of us, we imagine, and we imagine correctly that the Old Testament points to the birth of Jesus and the death of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus, because that's our salvation and the whole Old Testament, it does, it keeps pointing to Jesus. But it's interesting, simultaneously it points to the day when Jesus would even return to heaven and send his spirit to the earth and his spirit would move and live among Jesus's people. And so, we get to Matthew Chapter 3, John the Baptist is baptizing people, and this is what he says, I want you to guys to know something, "He who is coming after me is mightier..." He is not here now, he's coming and, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

And suddenly Jesus Christ shows up on the scene. He's born, he grows up, he lives and all of a sudden, Jesus presents himself. It's time for his ministry. He goes down to the water. He's baptized by John. He comes out of the water and John says, and it appeared like a dove, that the spirit appeared like a dove and came and rested upon Jesus. You fast forward 30 months. And Jesus is attending six months before his death on the cross, a festival called the Feast of Booths. Booths, we don't think of booth like a tent, but that's what it meant. It was a tent. And the feast was something that the people of Israel would come back for a week and celebrate God's faithfulness to their forefathers, protecting them and providing for them when they came out of Egypt and had to march around and live and survive for 40 years in the wilderness. It was a time when they would all gather in Jerusalem, even though they all had homes and they would come and they would literally set up tents to remember God's faithfulness.

Well, on the very last day, the Bible calls it, the Great Day of the Feast, the Great Day. On the Great Day, the high priest would take a bucket, walk down the hill to the pool of Siloam. He'd fill up the bucket with water, he'd turn around and he would begin marching back up to the temple. And as he was marching back up to the temple, we're told that the people, the throngs of people that gathered in Israel, in Jerusalem for this festival, is they would be standing on either side. And they were singing from Isaiah Chapter 12 that says, "With joy, will you draw waters from the well of salvation?" And then the high priest, when he made it all the way up to the temple, to the altar, he would take the bucket, pour it out over the altar as a symbolic anticipation

of the day when God would fulfill his promises through Isaiah and Joel, that God would pour out his spirit upon their thirsty and dry and desert-like souls.

The Bible says in John Chapter 7, “On the last day, on the Great Day, when the high priest took that water up, Jesus Christ was there.” And it says, “He cried with a loud voice, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. And whoever believes in me as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this, he said about the spirit whom those who believed in him were to receive. And all of a sudden you fast forward six more months, Jesus is one night before he’s going to go to the cross.

And what does he say in Chapter 14? “I will ask the Father and he will give you another helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.” In Chapter 16, verse 7, “It is to your advantage that I go away,” we’ll talk about why in a minute, ‘For if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.’ He’s promised. And if it’s true that the Holy Spirit is long promised, then Providence, let’s gladly receive what comes from God.

Have you ever noticed, that we just can’t have nice things? Because when God puts nice things in front of us, we tend to break them. We tend to get imbalanced with them. Well, God, let me just by comparison on this balance, God gave us two amazing things. He gave us his Spirit and he gave us a Bible. And we look at these two things and Christian experience, church experience, even today, it’s amazing what happens, is we tend to get imbalanced with these gifts. And so, there’s some Christians in churches this morning, and they’re like, “We’re Bible people,” and they’re a little resistant to even sermon series on the Holy Spirit. And one of the reasons that they’re resistant is due to the fear of some kind of strange frenzy that perhaps they’ve seen on TV, or perhaps experienced personally, where it just seems totally out of step with what the Bible says, “Let everything be done with decency and order.” And that’s confusing.

And so it puts us on our heels. And some of us even now are like, “Man, I don’t know where he is going with the Spirit. We’re Bible people around here.” It’s interesting, there’s other Christians who love Jesus. And they’re like, “Man, we’re all about the Spirit around here,” and they kind of resist the Bible and doctrine and central truths to teach. And one of the reasons they do so is for fear of dead orthodoxy. They look around at churches who are Orthodox, which means that they have correct doctrine and yet everyone’s dead. No one’s happy about what they know. No one wants to sing about what they know. It’s time to sing and everyone looks like their dog just got shot. And then all of a sudden now, let’s read the Bible. Let’s be all happy about the Bible.

By the way, you looked great singing this morning, you really did. But let me just encourage you with something. God is good. And therefore what comes from the hand of God is also good. This is why when Jesus was on the earth and he says, “Look, if you who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, don’t you understand that the Holy Spirit will give what? Will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” What does he mean by that? He wants to give us his best. You say, “I need encouragement.” He doesn’t give you

encouragement. He gives you the encourager.

I need help. He doesn't give you help, he gives you the Helper. I need comfort. He doesn't give you a little comfort dust. No, he gives you the comforter. He gives his best. And he wants us to keep these things in balance, which is why Jesus said in John Chapter 4, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." We want to be a people that thinks correctly because he's given us a Bible and that feels correctly because he's given us his spirit. And so whether you are fearful of all this, and I know some of you are. I can see right now, you're on your heels. I think you spent as whole sabbatical at some charismatic church where they throw around the Holy Spirit like a baseball.

And then there's others of you who are so excited, like Holy Spirit, finally, you're planning to go home and dust off your show for it and your tambourine. And you're going to, Finally, we're going to get this thing going around here. And let me just encourage you. Whether you feel fearful or whether you want to lean in, let me encourage you to do this. Slow down, trust God and be willing to receive whatever would come from his good hand. The second truth I want you to see is the holy spirit is God. The Bible teaches us that there is one God. He is the Lord. And there is no other. Deuteronomy, six, four, the Lord, our God, the Lord is one. And this one God has revealed himself in the pages of the Bible through three distinct persons. Now we talk about persons, right? Like, Hey, there's three of you, three persons. What we mean when we use the word persons is that each one of them demonstrates characteristics of personhood. They're all personal. And so, for example, in verse 16 and 17, just notice, this is Jesus speaking. The son of God, I will ask the father and he will give you another helper to be with you forever. Even the spirit of truth. God, the father, God, the son, God, the spirit. We have a term that we coin called Trinity, tri three, unity, one. We don't worship three gods. There is one God, one God.

And there's three persons. All of the same essence, the Father he's God, the Son of God. The Son is God, the Spirit is God. And yet the Father is not the Son. He's not the Holy Spirit. God sent His Son to the earth out of love. Jesus came up to heaven and God sent His Spirit. He didn't send himself. He sent his Spirit. The son is not the father nor the spirit. And the spirit is not the Father nor the Son. And when you open up the scriptures, you can find this teaching about God, one God, three persons in subtle ways. And in explicit ways. Subtly, we can find a passage like Genesis one. God said, let us, now God's talking to himself. Let us he's. Hey, there's three of them, right? There's one. I know it's really hard. But notice the pronouns. They're plural. Let us make man in our image after our likeness.

So, when God is speaking about Himself, He uses plural pronouns. End of quote. Now all of a sudden the person who's actually commenting. Who's explaining the story. He says the image of God. He created him singular. In other words, when humanity looks at God and it was like, there's one God, when God speaks to himself, he says us and we. And so, if you don't understand the Trinity, you look at this exchange in two different verses and you're like, well, is he one or plural? One with three persons, more explicitly. Jesus comes to us after he rises from the dead. And he says, go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them,

not in the names, plural, but singular. The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And so three persons of the Trinity, which means that the Holy Spirit, we term it is the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is God. And there's places such as an Acts, Chapter five, where he makes it absolutely explicit. There is a man and his wife who sold some land, lied to the church about it, how much it was. Peter, when it's all uncovered, he confronts them and notice what he says, why is Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? You have not lied to man, but to God, the Holy Spirit is God, you keep reading through the scriptures and you find that the Holy Spirit is ascribed attributes. That can only be true of God. For example, in the text that we read, it says that he's going to be with us forever, which means He's eternal. He's going to teach us all things, which means he's omniscient. He knows the things to teach. Omnipresent, in Psalm 139, where shall I go from your presence?

Where from your spirit, if I go to heaven, you're there. If I go to Seol, You're there. And so the Holy Spirit within the scriptures is ascribed attributes of the God, head of deity. But not only that, the spirit of God does what only God can do. We go, what are things God can do? Well, He was, how about creation? Let's start there. Well, Job says the spirit of God is the one who made me and all of a sudden you go, okay, that's interesting. What about being born again? What about becoming a Christian? Well, Jesus says, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. So the Spirit is involved in anyone's conversion. Which is a God moving thing in somebody's life. How about the scriptures? The fact that we have the Bible and second, Peter, it says for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The very fact we have a Bible is because the Holy Spirit was active in bringing us that Bible. How about the resurrection of Christ to the hope that we will be resurrected to heaven after we die? Well, Romans chapter eight says if the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, who raised Jesus from the dead? Roman says the spirit did, and he raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit he dwells in you. And so if it is true that the Holy Spirit is God application. Let's humbly worship the Holy Spirit.

If He's God, He deserves our regard. He deserves obedience. He deserves, you see, as a member of the Trinity, he is worthy of worship. He's worthy of deference. He's worthy of attention. He's worthy of obedience. When he prompts our heart, He is worthy of repenting of sin. He's worthy when he prompts us to obey His voice, He's worthy. But I use this word right here. Very importantly, the word humbly, you could modify our worship in a number of ways, right? I could have said passionately worship, fervently worship, why humbly worship? And I think the reason is because the Holy Spirit by nature is remarkably humble. And this is what I mean, one of the signs or evidences that we know that we are worshiping. The Spirit, honoring him is if we are following his lead and his pointer finger to worship Jesus Christ, you notice what it says in verse 14, He will glorify me for, He will take what is mine and declare it to you.

And this is one of the characteristics that you can always tell of the Holy Spirit. If by illustration only, we said

that I'm the Holy Spirit and this TV was the son of God was Jesus. The Holy Spirit by default of his character never stands in front of Christ and says, look at me, look at my little circus. Look at my rewards, pay attention to me. Be amazed at me, terminate your meeting in such a way that you walk out the doors. And you're absolutely mesmerized by me. Never does the Holy Spirit do this. Instead, he stands behind Christ and He says, look, I'm going to convict you to worship Him, pay attention to Him, regard Him, worship Him. What this means is that any worship gathering that terminates with everyone's attention on the Holy Spirit is a gathering, not led by the Holy Spirit.

A gathering is led by the Holy Spirit when everyone leaves and they're not mesmerized by the pastor or the singers or the chairs or the lights, but they're walking out into thinking. Jesus is amazing. Just imagine what He did for us. And so we worship the Spirit by regarding His worth, and following His lead to love and glorify Jesus. Because that's what the Holy Spirit loves. That's what he loves to do. The third truth I want you to see is the Holy Spirit is personal. It's personal, many times when we talk about it, in fact, we even use the theological words, the first person of the Trinity and the second person of the Trinity or person, it's an interesting thing, sort of gets us confused. And sometimes we start to imagine something. That's not what I mean by person. What we mean by a person is this is a part of God that demonstrates personhood and He's exceptionally personal to us.

And so sometimes when you open up the scriptures, the Bible is trying to use metaphors. God uses metaphors to help us to understand something that's too big for us to understand. And so He uses metaphors. We're like, it's kind of like this. And so, sometimes the metaphors we find within the scriptures are things like He's like a dove rest on Jesus. That He's like a wind that blows and has an effect upon trees and upon people's hearts. He's like a fire that burns. He's like a hammer that bruises. He's like water that refreshes the desert. He's like oil that fills the lamps so that it burns. And sometimes when we start to imagine these kinds of things that we don't ascribe personhood to, we think of the Holy Spirit in impersonal ways. He is like oil.

All of those says, He's not oil, he's like oil. It didn't say the Holy Spirit was a dove. It says He was like a dove. And the Bible goes out of its way to help us understand that the Holy Spirit is personal. The first way is he describes the Holy Spirit with personal pronouns. For example, He says, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you in all truth. He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me. It doesn't say it will glorify me. He's not an it, it's he. Not only does He use personal pronouns, something else that He uses is personal qualities. We look at someone who has knowledge and a will and a voice. And we're like, that person has personhood they're they can be personal with those things. They can remember things. They can understand things.

They can speak things. They can decide things. What does it say about the Holy Spirit? Well, first of all, he has knowledge in first Corinthians two, no one comprehends the thoughts of God, except the Spirit of God. He comprehends not only that He has a will. The Bible says that when we come to faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit gives us a spiritual gift so that we have something that we can utilize to contribute to the mission

of the people of God. And he says all these, and these would be the spiritual gifts. All these spiritual gifts are empowered by one and the same spirit who apportions to each one individually, as he wills. It's His decision who teaches and who serves and who administrates and who has this gift and that it's His decision. That speaks of personhood. So speaks in Revelation, Chapter two and three, He keeps addressing churches and He says, he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Not only does he have personal pronouns and personal attributes, the Spirit is subject to personal treatment. He can be hurt.

It's where it says, do not grieve the holy spirit of God. He can be quenched. He can be blasting. He can be outraged. Hebrew says, how much worse do you think will be deserved by the one who has outraged the Spirit of grace. He can be irritated and he can be outraged. He can also be followed. He says, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Don't you just love that. I mean, is there another idea that's more personal in terms of relationship than to keep in step with someone? It means they're walking with you. You think about this picture of steps in the snow, right? You think about the holy spirit. He walks. We can walk ahead of him. We can walk behind him. We can rebel against Him and say, I want to chart my own course, but we can walk in step with Him. And not only does the Holy Spirit subject to personal treatment, the Holy Spirit acts personally. In the verses that we read earlier, in verse 16 of Chapter 14, that says that He is with us forever. Some of you are with somebody right now. That's personal. I'm with them. They're right there. I will be with someone later this week, He says He's with us. We also read that in verse 26, that He teaches us. He reminds us of what He's already taught us. Chapter 16, verse 13, 14 says, He guides us, he declares to us and he glorifies Jesus. In addition to what we read in these passages, we also find that He hinders, He opens doors and closes doors on people. In Acts Chapter 16, it says that the apostle Paul and his missionary entourage attempted to go to Bithynia. But the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

Some of you didn't get the internship and it wasn't a surprise to God. In God's economy there are right things to do and wrong times to do them. They wanted to go to Bethany to tell people the gospel about Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit says, not now. Each one of us we've had these ideas. We're walking down a path like, this is it. All of a sudden they're like just closes. You're like what gets, He moves that way. He also assures us. He says the Holy Spirit himself bears with us, with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Have you ever been comforted and just say, God, would you just remind me once again that I really am going to go to heaven? And the Holy Spirit just reminds you of whether it was a moment, whether it was what you believe. And he just assures you in your heart was the Holy Spirit giving that confidence. He's the one who empowers our life. Acts one eight says, but you'll receive power. The Holy Spirit will come on, has come upon you. And you'll be my witnesses. And so, if indeed the Holy Spirit is personal application. Let's lean into knowing the Holy Spirit.

I believe that many people think of the Holy Spirit, like the force in star wars. It's this impersonal thing. And some people totally ignore it. Don't want anything to do with it. Other people are sensitive to the force and then others you're looking like, wow, man, the force is strong with this one over here. They raise their hand,

the songs and speak in tongues and prophesy. And they're like the Jedi of the church. They figured out the force, but the Spirit is not impersonal. He is personal. And what this means, you got to, this is so important. We get this as a church. This is typically where people get wonky. When it gets to the Holy Spirit. This means that we can be known by Him and we can know Him. If I were to say to you what we want to hope and want to pray, we want more of the Spirit around here.

That's a hard thing to internalize. For some of us' like, oh, wait a minute. My Bible says that when I trust Jesus Christ, I get the Holy Spirit. And I believe that's true. I don't believe we get additional installments with good behavior. Here is my Spirit. He lives in us. He dwells in us. He seals us. And so, sometimes when you start talking about the Holy Spirit, some people will come instinctively and they say, wait a minute. If I have the Holy Spirit, why do you want to talk about having more? I don't want more. And what we mean by that instinctually, which is actually wrong is we're viewing the Holy Spirit as a commodity. That you can have a quantity of Him, as opposed to a person that you can relate to and love more tomorrow than you did yesterday.

I've been married 25 years. And when I say I have Tabitha, I don't mean own or what I mean is I can't be any more married to Tabitha than I'm married to Tabitha. Okay? I love her. We're committed to one another. I have a ring. I wear it gladly. That's the reality and yet I could tell you this. I love her with all my heart. And we just spent two months together, almost every hour. And it was the best. And the fact is that installment of time and trust, it led me to be able to tell you this. And it's true is that I know her more. Do I have more marriage than I did? No, but I feel like I have more of a relationship with her. And so, it is in such a way with the Holy Spirit.

We're not suggesting, I'm not suggesting that we pray. God, give us more, because we only have a little. Help us to experience more day by day by day of what you've already given. That I would be able to be more perceptive to your ways that I would be more sensitive to your conviction, that I would be quicker to regard your displeasure in my behavior. That I would care more about you. That I would love you more when loving you more. I'm going to love Christ more. The last truth that I want to show you, which I believe is the most hopeful encouraging of all is the Holy Spirit has a home. He has a home. In the Old Testament, God primarily met with His people in the temple.

And because of that, that's not the only place, but that's primarily. Because of that, going to the temple was seen as synonymous as the presence of God. Where are you going? Well, I'm going to the temple. That's why there's songs like Psalm 84, better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere. It's better to be near Your presence. And so the courts is the courts at the temple. But they promised, and God promised even in the old Testament. Whereas predominant way of interacting with people was at a space called the temple. That one day Emmanuel would come, which is God with us. And you would be able to interact with the presence of God, not just in this building, but anywhere you are with Him. On the roads, at meals. And therefore

people were with God in living rooms and under trees and in boats.

And so, we see through the gospels, people having the opportunity to interact with Jesus all over the place, the presence of God. And then Jesus says, I'm leaving. And they're all bummed. Like, man, this was such a good thing. And He says, but I want you to know something. It is to your advantage that I go, why would that be an advantage? Because had He not gone, He would be today, I assume, living in Israel and not Raleigh. He would be in your hospital room, but not in yours. And the reason is because, He only had two feet when he was walking around Israel, He was in Bethany when He was in Bethany. He wasn't in Jericho, one place and not both. So, He goes to heaven. The Spirit comes down the Spirit lives, where? Was it a temple? No. It's a new temple.

First Corinthians Chapter three. What does it say? Do you not know? Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you. Now, anywhere you go, God goes with you. You go to the hospital room to visit somebody. God is with you. You stand at a graveside. God is with you. You go to school and you have a test and God is with you. He's in you. It's to our advantage. And some of us might say, man, how is this different from some of the expressions of the Holy Spirit, where you filled people in the Old Testament? And he did. Let me give you a few examples of this. And first Samuel Chapter 16, verse 13, it says the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. So a Holy Spirit was moving in David's life, but then something else happened.

It's really interesting. Then very next verse. It says this verse 14, it says, and this Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul. So you look at that and you go, wait a minute. He was in David and he left another man. Well, this bothered David so much that when he had his worst weekend of his life, like broke all the commandments. Afterward, he confesses his sin. He repents and he writes a Psalm and at Psalm 51. And do you know what one of those verses says, cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. I saw you do it with Saul. Please don't do it to me.

And so, how is it for us different today than it was at this point in time? And the way that it's different is Ephesians one 13 says when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation and believed in Him, you're sealed with the promise Holy Spirit, you're sealed. There's two ways it's different today. Today, it's not just for a priest, a particular prophet, a particular poet. It's for all who put their faith and trust in Christ. And it's not just for those who have good behavior, that he remains upon them. He seals permanently everyone who trust in him. Now why, how is that possible? What happened in between what we saw in the Old Testament and what we get to experience where now we're sealed with the Holy Spirit, what happened? And what happened was Jesus. Jesus came to the earth. He lived without sin.

He went to a cross and there He died for our sin. He was buried in a grave. Three days later, He rose from the dead and then He gives us an invitation. And He says, if you will put your faith and trust in Me, then all that

I deserve and my righteousness will fall upon your account, all that you have deserved in your sin will fall upon me and the cross. You trust me, I will forgive you, take away your sin. We talk about this all the time. I will then give you my righteousness and give you eternal life. Now think about this for a second. Why is the Holy Spirit permanent for those who are in Christ in a way that the Old Testament, they feared that the Holy Spirit was going to leave them. The reason is because, when God almighty now looks upon His children and He wants an accounting of our righteousness.

He doesn't look at the goodness of our weekend. He doesn't look at the morality of our best days or our worst days. He turns to the right. He looks at His son, Jesus Christ. And He sees that His righteousness is the same yesterday, today. And forevermore that now surrounds us, wraps us. It is our identity, it is our account. We have a righteousness outside of ourself is permanent. And therefore we have a Spirit who fills us, dwells in us and He does so permanently. And what that means is we can grieve the Holy Spirit as Christians today, but He won't go.

Some of us feel as grief right now, but if you were in Jesus Christ, He's going to make you uncomfortable. He's going to convict you of sin, righteousness, and judgment so that He brings you back to obedience and repentance. But he's not going to leave you, for you have a righteous standing that is not dependent upon your performance. It's dependent upon the performance of the Son of God. And so the Holy Spirit was promised. Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is personal and the Holy Spirit is chosen, to dwell in the hearts of all who put their faith in Christ. And therefore, for those of you who haven't let me encourage you to trust Christ and be filled with His Spirit. So let's pray, Father, I pray that as we consider these truths, that You would take these moments and do what You desire to do, God in this moment of silence, that we're about to have.

I pray for those who are convinced maybe for the first time that Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead. There's eternal life in Him to take this moment and confess their sin to You, to confess their belief in You and to confess You as Lord of their life, as You forgive them and seal them with a promised Holy Spirit. And for those of us who have trusted You and who for whatever reason, have an idea about the Holy Spirit and the life of the Spirit, that maybe is a little out of touch with what you desire for us to know and experience in life. Would you use not only today in these truths, but the future weeks to help us to experience the fullness that you have available. So God, as we take just a moment now of silence, would You help us to remember, maybe something that's just particularly important for us, maybe it's something we need to practice something to apply to our life. So, would you speak to us now, Father in Heaven, as we desire to build our life upon you, would you protect us from missing out on any good thing You have for us, Help us to trust You, to trust Your heart. Help us to be open for maybe a new day in our own life. God, would you help us to build our life upon you? We love you. And we sing to you. Now. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen. Would you stand? Let's sing together.



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