

The Holy Spirit - Week 1

He who leads us to Christ.



[slide-1] We are just about to embark
On a big series for us as a church.
A series on the Holy Spirit:
He who leads us to Christ... and I wonder

[slide-2] What are you expecting?

One of the great thrills about meeting people is that people
Constantly challenge/change our expectations
Whether you're starting work with new person
When you see a friend or family member in a different setting,
You discover a side of them you've never seen before.
People aren't always who we think they are

[slide-3] When I first met my wife...

She worked in the city, as a lawyer, she was older than me/still is
I found her very intimidating... But actually in getting to know her...
My expectations were changed... She wasn't the woman I expected.

Or when I had second daughter... I think I just expected her...

To act the same as my first child.... But as it turns out...
it seems they are different people!
I really thought they would be the same!
People constantly change our expectations

[slide-4] So what are our expectations when meeting God?

Because a Holy Spirit is a series about getting to know God.
And the Holy is a person within God.
So learn across this series not to speak of the Holy Spirit as 'it', but as He
You will notice the bible use the personal masculine pronoun
Used to show the Spirit's personhood
Similar to that used for God the Father and Son...
This is a series about God is and who He is
And what He is doing in the world today
Have a brief moment with the person beside you...
What do you expect from a series like this...

For many of us... there is an expectation/anticipation of excitement

We love the Lord God, and we want to know him better...
So here is a series that will lead us to worship of our God, Father, Son & Spirit
In fact maybe some of us feel we've been missing out on the Holy Spirit
The Holy Spirit is not often the focus of our attention
And we are hungry to know more of him, to speak more about Him...
To understand his role in the world and our lives

But there is probably also a mood of caution...

We meet one Christian or church that thinks that about the Spirit
And another Christian or church that thinks that about the Spirit
So it makes us reluctant or sceptical about talking about him too much
Because sadly we to recognise that the topic of the Holy Spirit...
Has caused confusion, disagreement, sadness between Christians/churches

[slide-5] In fact even early church history there was disagreement over the Spirit...
One of the reasons the Eastern and Western church split
Was over the Holy Spirit...
The Eastern church said... The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father alone
The Western church proceeds from the Father and the Son
And much of the modern church thinks... huh?!

[slide-6] In more recent years there has been division within Protestant churches
That is between reformed-evangelical and Pentecostals churches.
And sadly it is these disagreements within Protestant Christianity
That have largely shaped what modern Christians theology on the Spirit

So if you asking a Christian the role of the Spirit... all kinds of questions arise
What ways does the Spirit speak to me?
What about tongues, prophecy? What about baptism in the Spirit?
Slain in the Spirit? Praying in the Spirit? Gifts of the Spirit?
Guidance of the Spirit and we could go on.

Well brothers and sisters, friends, whatever our expectations may be...
Let's allow the Holy Spirit to let him reveal himself on his terms
Many in our age want t co-opted the Holy Spirit to make Him say...
All kinds things all kinds of things they want to say
But let us not make the same mistake!

So instead of having a series working through hot topic/ debates
Our aim is to let the Holy Spirit speak for himself
For the author of the Bible is the Holy Spirit

[slide-7] So we've sought to put together a series... to let the Spirit set the agenda
Here's the plan for the next five weeks
Week 1 The Spirit and Christ's promises (OT & Gospels)
Week 2 The Spirit and Christ's mission (Acts)
Week 3 The Spirit and Christ's word (NT letters)
Week 4 The Spirit and Christ's likeness (NT letters)
Week 5 The Spirit and Christ's church (NT letters)

[slide-8] And our prayer is that God's Spirit would lead us ...
To live for the glory of Jesus alone
To embolden us in our witness of Christ
To trust and obey the word of Christ
To make us more like Jesus
To unite us as Christ church

So friends, let's approach this series kind of like
The disciples at the end of the gospels....
You know after Jesus had promised them his Spirit.
"They returned to Jerusalem with great joy... praising God
So let's approach this series with anticipation of praise of our God

[slide-9] So friends let us begin our series by praise & prayer... together
Father God, You that you given us the greatest of gifts.
You have given us your Son,
You have given us your Holy Spirit.
Holy Spirit, go to work in us by your Word:
Lead us to live for Christ alone,
Embolden us for mission,
Open our hearts to trust and obey
Bear your fruit in our lives
And unite us as Christ's church.
This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

So let's move from our expectations to... The Bible's big expectations:

1. [slide-10] Old Testament expectations

When we turn to the scriptures

We often find God's agenda is different to what we expect
We might expect to find dictionary definition that says
'The Trinity' or 'The Holy Spirit'... and then a series of dot points below.
But that's not what we find at all.

So as we open the OT what can we say about the Spirit?

Well not as much as we might expect,

[slide-11] Theologian J.I. Packer puts it this way

"The Spirit's distinct personhood can and according to the New Testament
Should be read into the Old Testament,
but (teaching on the Spirit's personhood)
cannot be read out of it" [slide-12]

See rather that immediately revealing all the riches of God, Father, Son & Spirit
The Old Testament in an unfolding story
And the Old Testament's primary focus in...
The promised coming age of God's King. God's Messiah. God's Christ.
The Old Testament looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom.

The book of 1 Peter sums up the [slide-13] Old Testament like this, 1 Peter 1v10

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets,
who spoke of the grace that was to come to you,
sought intently and with the greatest care,
¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances
to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing
when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah
and the glories that would follow.

¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you...

So in the Old Testament prophets (by the Spirit of Jesus) looked forward to...
The coming of God's Messiah...
For it is only alongside the age of the Messiah
That the age of the Spirit would come

[slide-14] So prophet Moses looked forward saying.... Numbers 11:29 said....
I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets
and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"
Moses longed for a day when the Spirit who rest on God's people.

But Moses never saw that day
Instead God's Spirit rested only for short time.
Especially in the time of the judges we hear of God's spirits come on...
Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and King Saul
But with each God's Spirit came and went

[slide-15] The first hint of difference came with King David
When the prophet Samuel anointed him like a king in... 1 Samuel 16:13 it says
"The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him from that day forward"
See David was different. He God's Spirit rest on him in some way

[slide-16] But David was no perfect king.
When he committed adultery with Bathsheba he says God...
"Take not your Holy Spirit from me"

So all the kings that followed David... there is no mention of the Spirit on the kings
Instead David was promised that from his family tree would come....
A king who would rule forever

[slide-17] And a moment when it looked like David's family tree was nearly dead
The prophet Isaiah says 11v1
¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse(David's dad),
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.* See also Isaiah 42:1

See Isaiah looked forward to a king on whom the Spirit would permanently rest
But at times in Isaiah makes it difficult to figure out whether....
He is talking about the Spirit resting on one person or a whole people.

[slide-18] The prophet Joel 2:28 also speaks of the Spirit resting many..
"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on **all people**.
Your sons and daughters will **prophecy**,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions

Or [slide-19] Or Ezekiel speaks about the Spirit on a people, Ezekeil 36:27-28
²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you,
and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers,
and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

[slide-20] So the context that OT most speaks about the Spirit
Is in the context of speaking of the age of coming age of the Messiah
***So the coming age of the Messiah
Will also be the coming age of the Spirit***

So when the last Old Testament prophet finally arrived....
Heads should of starting to turn.... 🌀 the age of the Christ and Spirit are near

So who is the last Old Testament prophet? (my favourite trivia)

John the Baptist. John was the last OT to prepare the way for LORD/CHRIST

[slide-21] And John her just came with a water baptism
John said the one to come after him would baptise with the Spirit
Which mean the age of The Spirit was close

So along come Jesus of Nazareth... and at his baptism... the heavens opened
The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove came and **sat on him.**
It's a strange picture to us of a pigeon on Christ's head
But it is a symbol that this awaited Messiah, the Spirit will rest on him

And at the beginning of his ministry he got up in a synagogue

[slide-22] Unrolled Old Testament scroll to the prophet Isaiah ch66 and read...

"The Spirit of the Lord is **on me,**
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor....

Sat down and said this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing

[slide-23] So with the Christ here, the age of the Spirit was arriving....

And some Israelites of old just didn't get it....

Like a fella called Nicodemus in John 3

He didn't understand that to come into Christ's kingdom....

You needed to born-again by the Spirit of God

[slide-24] But some other of old they did get it...

Or more specifically a Samaritan women at a well in John 4

She got it. Jesus said to her...

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers
will worship the Father in the Spirit and *in truth*,
for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks....

To which the women says v25

²⁵ "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming.
When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

The Samaritan women understand the age of the Christ

And the Spirit went together

So when is the Spirit going to come? [slide-25] Jesus told them in John 7...

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival,

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said,
rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit,
whom those who believed in him were later to receive.
Up to that time the Spirit had not been given,
since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This is the key. The Spirit was not going to come because...
Jesus first had to be glorified first...
And when Jesus spoke about being glorified...
He was speaking about his death on the cross

See the cross of Christ and the pouring out of the Spirit are inseparable blessings
Some want to say there is blessing 1 of the Xian life at the cross
And then there is a second blessing with coming of the Spirit
But bible holds the Jesus' cross and Spirit together... as one blessing from God

That's why Jesus' most important/extensive teaching on the Holy Spirit is..
The night before his cross in John 14-16
These passages will be the focus of our study in GG's.
Because they are so critical to study deeply... we are going to fly through now

2. [slide-26] **Jesus' expectations and promises about the Spirit**

At the end of John's gospel,
We are approaching the time when Jesus will physically leave...
Now you remember. The disciples had the left livelihoods to follow him
And now... HE'S LEAVING THEM?
What will the world do without Jesus physically in it?
You can imagine them saying... Jesus that.... sounds like a bad plan to us!
Well Jesus is actually convinced that it will be BETTER with him gone

[slide-27] He will say... John 16:7
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.”
Now how can that be true!?
Well let's come to Jesus' 5 promises about the Spirit

As we go I want you to think about... what do you think all 5 have in common...

[slide-28] **Promise 1 – is Jesus will send “Another advocate, the Spirit of truth”**

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another advocate, to be with you forever,
We understand the good leaders replicate themselves
So here Jesus promises send a perfect replacement...
Notice he speaks of “another advocate”
Now some of your bibles won't have the word advocate...
You'll have advocate, legal counsellor, helper, comforter.
The original Greek word is the word... paraclete... not para-kete, paraclete.

It's a word that we just don't have an exact word for in English
So the translations vary. The best candidate is probably: advocate
He is not a counsellor like a psychologist. He is a more legal counsellor..
He is not like a big-hug comforter here. More a strengthener-comforter
Jesus is our advocate. He reveals God and the truth

This week I was driving behind a car with stickers advocating for many things
Stickers advocating for an independent MP
Stickers advocating for refugees
And Stickers advocating "COOMA SO MUCH TO LOVE"
She saying to me... you must go to COOMA... buy coffee in COOMA...
Do other things in COOMA....

Well so far in John's gospel Jesus has been the advocate of the TRUTH.

Finish these sentence with me...

Jesus was the one full of grace and.... **truth**

Jesus said I am the way the way.... **the truth... and the life**

Jesus says to Pilate I have come to bear witness to the... **truth**¹

Well now Jesus says... the Father is going to give you **another advocate** like Christ.
So when we meet the Holy Spirit... we meet the Spirit of Jesus

[slide-29] Notice how the NT speaks of the Spirit...

Luke in Acts speaks of the **Spirit of Jesus** (Acts 16:7)

Paul speaks of the **Spirit of Jesus Christ** (Philippians 1:19)

And Peter speaks of **the Spirit of Christ** (1 Peter 1:11)

[slide-30] So just as Jesus was the advocate for the truth

So now the Spirit will do what Jesus has did v17 **He is the Spirit of truth**

And the world didn't receive **the truth from him Jesus.....**²

So the world will not want the Spirit

**¹⁷even 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.³

Jesus says days will come when people won't see or receive my Spirit

But to those in the upper room.... Jesus says.... v18

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

This promise of Jesus comes to all his disciples, including you and me
Is that though Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven
Those realities are not distant to us. Christ today not distant from us.
Christ is with us by his Spirit. For Spirit who came and rested on Christ...
Will now come and rest upon you so that you know God and the truth

See this is the day Moses... Joel... Ezekiel... looked forward to that day

¹ John 1:17, 14:6 18:37

² c.f. John 1:10-11

³ The Spirit dwells with you now... because I am with you now And not only that... I will remain with you...

When Gods people would closely and truly know God
And by the cross of the Christ that day was near.

But not all that was said in the upper room directly comes to us...
Part of the challenge of your study in John 14-16
Is to figure out whether something is being said to the apostles?
Or directly to us? We often want it to just be about us... but let's see...

[slide-31] Promise 2 - John 14:26 - "He will bring to remembrance all that I said"

We pick it up now chapter 14:26

^{14:25} "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

²⁶ 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.

Promise 2 is a promise for the original apostles with a big implication for us

Now you can see Jesus is speaking specifically to those in the upper room
He will remind **them** of all he taught **them** in their years on the road

Neither is this verse saying then that the apostles/or us
In modern spirituality the modern church we expect the Holy Spirit
To give us private messages and quiet words

Now elsewhere in the NT Spirit we will see the Spirit does give us inward testimony
That we are children of God
But the Spirits words to us are not apart from scriptures

[slide-32] Martin Luther put it this ways

"In these matters, which concern the spoken, external Word,
it must be firmly maintained that God gives no one his Spirit
or grace apart from the external Word which goes before."⁴

The reason he says this is many cult leaders, church leaders, and heavenly prophets
Come claiming new spiritual authority... new messages
We must be so careful to not make these verse do something
The Spirit doesn't want it to do.

[slide-33] Rather here, Jesus will remind the apostles by his Spirit all his teachings

Remember the disciples often didn't understand what Jesus said
John pre-empts Promise 2 throughout John's gospel
See John 2, 12, 20, they did understand. But later John says we **remembered**

[slide-34] Peter who was in that upper room puts it this way in 2 Peter 1:20-21

⁴ The Smalcald Articles (1537), Part III, Article VIII

... knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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 big implication for us is that it gives us confidences...

In the apostle's gospel and, in the scriptures,
Of course, Jesus himself did not write the scripture.
We know Jesus teaching by
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James, Jude
So why can you trust these as the basis of your life?

Well Promise 2 reminds us that in the all scriptures
We authentically have Jesus' very words, gospel and teaching.

So we come to

[slide-35] **Promise 3 - "The Spirit[he] will bear witness about me"** John 15:26 -
15:26-27 "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.
27 And you also will bear witness,
because you have been with me from the beginning.

A witness is someone who speaks in the face of opposition
You get up in court, and you witness to the evidence... before others
So the Spirit will embolden the disciples to speak the gospel
And we see again in v27 this promise is still speaking first to the apostles
Saying *you have been with me from the beginning*.

This promise is that the apostles would have the courage to witness
And indeed, most of the apostles by the power of the Holy Spirit
Died proclaiming Christ across the world

So implication for us... is that when the Spirit is poured on us too
The Spirit will also give us courage to speak of Jesus.
But More on that next week... for now

[slide-36] **Promise 4 - John 16:8 - "He will convict the world"**

16:8 And when he (the Spirit) comes,
he will convict the world concerning sin
and righteousness and judgment:

Jesus continues his lawyer metaphors of the Holy Spirit (lawyers getting excited)
The Holy Spirit is an **advocate**... He is a **witness**...
And here is also a **prosecutor** who **convicts**

And here the promises are not just to the apostles, v8
*He convict **the world*** of sin/righteousness, judgement

Jesus' gives us a short 3 point sermon below.

⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

That is the Holy Spirit convict hearts of our guilt before God

Particularly Spirit will show us disbelief is not a neutral category

It's a personal offensive category

The Holy Spirit shows us how we have all turned away from God v10

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

The focus here is again on Christ

The Spirit will convict the world of Jesus' right-ness.

Jesus will ascend to heaven and the Spirit will show us

Jesus' mercy, justice, power and rule. **And v11**

¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

So the Spirit will convict us of the judgement of God

He will convict us that Satan has no power over us

See ruler mentioned in v11 is satan

And when Jesus said this satan's rule of the world... had about 12 hours to go

In 12 hours Jesus' cross would condemn satan forever

And today the Spirit assures us the devil has no power over us.

[slide-37] Promise 5 - John 16:8 – “He will glorify me”

^{16:13} When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,

for he will not speak on his own authority,

but whatever he hears he will speak,

and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

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

¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine;

therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This in many ways Promise 5 Jesus doubles down on his promises we have seen

Speaking to the apostles in the upper room

He is going to lead the apostles into the truth

He is going to take Jesus' word to the apostles and declare it to them

So guiding that the Spirit is doing in these verses

Is not what has commonly become to understand

The Spirit has not come to guide about where to live, who to marry, job

Or where to get a park at Westfield.

These are modern myths about the Spirit

Those ideas far from Jesus' mind on the night before his death

We will speak more about this in week 3 of the series

Rather the v14 the Spirit will glorify Jesus... how v14

¹⁴ for he will take what is Jesus' and declare it to you.

The Spirit will show the apostles what the cross/resurrection means!

The Spirit will show them that Jesus is bring salvation to the world

The Spirit will show them that God's judgement has began

[slide-38] Friends what do expect the Holy Spirit to do!?

As we look back across those five promises.

What did you think was in common?

The Spirit's role is to lead us to Christ

The Spirit will another **advocate like Christ**

He **remind the of apostles of Christs words**

And **bear witness to Christ**

And **convict the world about Christ**

And **glorify Christ**. What's in common is... Christ

For the days of long-awaited CHRIST had come

And the age of the Spirit was about to begin

Now as we stand back over the OT and GOSPELS

Perhaps we expected the Spirit to be a bit more focused on us!

What I hope we've seen is that Holy Spirit wants our attention on JESUS

[slide-39] For what the Holy Spirit seeks to do in your across this series
Is to make JESUS' more glorious, bigger AND at the centre of your life...
The Spirit wants Jesus death, resurrection....
The centre of your world and eternity. For a Spirit-filled life is a Jesus-filled life

Christian can you see why the Spirit is dwelling with you?

It's because God's Christ has come.

It's because God's Christ has died and paid for your sins

It's because God's Christ has risen so that you might turn your life to him

God is not distant from you...

And God gospel purposes are not distant from you

Because you have God's Spirit

So friends may Holy Spirit convict you of the truth of who CHRIST really is

[slide-40] On Friday night... went to Chris & Rachael's wedding reception
At Old Parliament House
And at the back window you have this perfect view of Parliament House
And I think Parliament house looks even better at night than in the day
Because of floodlights... they make it look grand and glorious
Well floodlight are like work of the Holy Spirit upon our Lord Jesus
"The Holy Spirit's focus is not on himself but supremely on the Son..."
The Spirit has a floodlight ministry

[slide-41] J.I.Packer put it this way...

It is as if the Spirit stands behind us,
throwing light over on Jesus,
who stands facing us the spirit's message to us is never
'Look at me, listen to me, come to me, get to know me.
But always "look at him and see him and see his glory
get to know him and hear his word
go to him and have life... get to know him and taste his gift of joy and peace"

[slide-42] The musos are going to come up... we will finish in prayer
Our prayer today is our new song – Help us see Christ.