The Holy Spirit - Week 3
The Spirit & the word



Aim: To see Spirit of God and word of God are bound together in the Christian experience from beginning to end. So let the Spirit and word lead you to trust & obey Christ - 4409

[slide-1]Father God, we ask that as we hear your word now
By the power of the Holy Spirit you would…
Give us ear to hear, minds to receive, eyes to see our Lord Jesus
So that we would spend all our days trusting and obeying Him
We ask it in Jesus name, Amen.

[slide-2]**Intro: Different understandings of the Spirit**
One of the great puzzles for those looking in on Christianity is…
Whilst many hold the name Christian
There are different understandings of the role of Holy Spirit
How is it Christians who all love God and love Jesus and love the Bible…
Have such different conclusions to the role of the Holy Spirit in the Xian life?

You might have seen a diagram like this[slide-3] before that
Maps out four authorities of how Xians appeal to truly knowing God/Christ
To truly knowing truth by: Bible, Tradition, Experience, Reason.
And the Christian variants map like this:
Bible (reformed evangelical churches)
Tradition (Roman Catholic and Orthodox church)
Reason (liberal churches/free thinking in line with modern issues)
Experience (Charismatic Pentecostal, high church)

The question how is do know how the Spirit works?
Some to say Spirit and tradition and inseparable.
He is the Spirit of the church after all
So to know the Spirit's will is to go to church leaders Pope's/leaders
We could start this talk by taking you on a tour of church history.
Hear snippets of what Irenaeus, Augustine, the Cappadocian Fathers, the Creeds, Luther, Calvin, Whitefield, Wesley and so on
We'd have great fun, I think I'd frustrate you
Thinking I'm largely reinforcing my own position

Some say Spirit and reason are inseparable
After all the Spirit created the world and it's logic. He is the Spirit of order
We have big discussion with philosophers like David Hume, Kierkegaard
We could have a blast doing podcast chats about C.S Lewis big thinkers
And again, we've be provoked… but in the end that would be an intellectual exercise, that does help us get to know the true and living God

Some, say it's the Spirit and experience that are inseparable.

After all God is sovereign and in charge of everything.
So could spend out time sharing personal stories.
Some of yours, some of mine some from books,
I could tell you stories I've heard about angels down telephone lines
Dreams I've heard dreams of blinding light either from Jesus or satan
Or books I've read of ppl who claimed to be to heaven and back
Stories really, I couldn't fully explain to you. But we'd be blown away together
We just wouldn't be sure what to do next…
And why I have these stories you don't… or why you have them but not me.

I do want to be tender with our experiences
Many of our experiences are things to praise God and shaped who we are
And in the modern world… for me to come across
Questioning your experiences… that's a crossing a line in our cultural
It's question who they are.

See the dilemma? Who is right? How do we really know God?
How do we know what the Holy Spirit is concerned with in this world?
How will the Spirit really help us live the Christian life?

[slide-4] So today to meet God we turn to the Spirits word
And there he teaches us..
That Spirit of God and the word of God are inseparable.
That the Christian experience from beginning to end is about both…
The Spirit of God and the word of God together.
And that is soooo precious to life and faith.
Because without the Spirit and word together our Christian lifes are dead!

The outline today [slide-5]
God's Spirit and God's word do four things
They one **create new life**, two **assure us**, three **equip us…**
And four **lead us to truly, personally know God**

[slide-6] Here are some illustrations as we set off…
The Holy Spirit and the word of God are like two powerful fighter jets
You know when two ***powerful*** jets go alongside each other
And when one pivots right both pivot right… one left both left (Piper's)
Some of you training to fly planes… you gotta say let's fly like the word/Spirit

Or the Holy Spirit and word of God are like a saxophone and a saxophonist
The saxophone can't be played without breath of the saxophonist
Or there is no point have a saxophonist without a saxophone.

Or the Holy Spirit like a person and their words. Because He is a person who speaks.
See imagine (if you can you) that you disagree with something I say…
Now if I were to reply… oh that wasn't me "they were my words"
You're not going to buy that. Who I and and what I say go together.

So let's start the at beginning…[get your bible out not-screen] [slide-7]

1. **God's Spirit and God's word <u>create</u> new life (conversion)**

The first mentions of the spirit in the Bible are is in Genesis 1:1-3

> **1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
> **2** The earth was without form and void,
> and darkness was over the face of the deep.
> And the **Spirit** of God was hovering over the face of the waters
> **3** And God said… let there be light

Right away the Spirit and the word are together

The Spirit of God hovers over disorderly/ chaotic waters.
The Spirit is almost like God's baiting breathe about to create the word

Now the Old Testament is written in Hebrew language

And the word translated Spirit in many of our bible is the word – ruach
The ruach hung over the waters
Ruach simply means God's breathe or wind or Spirit.

So the Bible begins with God's breathe over….

God is about to powerful and orderly speak…

It's like that moment when you have to give the biggest speech of your life
And you take a breath and you go…
So the Bible begins with big anticipation…
This is one of the greatest speeches God ever gives.
Breath… v3 and God said let there be light

So the scriptures begin with God powerfully creating new life by his Spirit and word

[slide-8] So then come across to Genesis 2v7… where he gives his life to humanity

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground
And how did he do it? Well he
Breathed into his nostrils the breathe of life and ..
And by the word and Spirit
the man became a living creature

[slide-9] Or look with me at Ezekiel 37[1]. Ezekiel has a vision of a valley bones

It's a vision of God's people who are spiritually dead as a nation
And God says to Ezekiel…. 37v3 son of man can these bones live?"
And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."
A clever answer from Ezekiel Then (God) said to me,
"Prophesy over these bones, and *say to them,*
O dry bones, *hear the word of the LORD.*
5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:
Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
So God's word and breathe go together again to…
Make a new creation, resurrect God's ppl of old.

[slide-10] Flip now to **John 20:21** Jesus risen from the dead, to the apostles and says

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[1] **Ezek. 37:3** And he said to me, "Son of man, [a]can these bones live?" And [b]I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."
Ezek. 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
Ezek. 37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause [a]breath[2] to enter you, and you shall live.

So Jesus gives these disciples a pre-pentecost moment
Jesus is doing what God did in Genesis and Ezekiel
Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me even so I am sending you
And when he had said this he breathed and said to them
Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any
They are forgiven them, if you without forgiveness it is withheld
See because Jesus has died for sins. And rose defeating death.
Jesus is about to begin a new creation about.
So his word and Spirit…
He breathes to show he has brought about new creation…

He gives them a new mission of speaking the gospel of forgiveness"
God will use them to create new life by the Spirit.
And will warm the world that those who reject Jesus are not forgiven[2]

[slide-11] So let's travel to Thessalonica, 1 Thess 1:4-5 and Paul says…
As you turn there was pointing out to me this week…
That when you turn to those events in Acts 17 it's a short account
There aren't miracles in Thessalonians.
But something supernatural does happen
Our gospel came to you not only in word but also in power
And in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction
The Thessalonians heard the gospel as it really was…. As God's living words.
The only power on view is Paul persuading them of the gospel
And they came to Christ turning from idols
[slide-12] So let's come down the coast on a map
But backwards in your bibles to Corinth…. 1 Corinthians 2
Where Paul does the same as Thessaolocina.
He is all beaten up from them.
So again Paul didn't do anything special. He was weak, trembling, 2v1
[1] And I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters
I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God
with lofty speech or wisdom. [2] For I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
[3] And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,
[4] and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of
wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
[5] so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men
but in the power of God.
Now some say that the demonstration of the spirits power was miracles
But that seems to go against the context…
He didn't come and do anything impressive
He just did nothing except preach Christ crucified
And by the word of the cross powerfully/supernaturally created new life.
V4 is speaking about conversion. People in Corinth became new creations

[2] So in Acts 16:14 we hear about Lydia's conversion Granted Spirit is not directly mentioned
The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul
See God worked in Lydia's heart not to give her a new word
But to pay attention to Paul as he gave God's gospel

So come to 1 Corinthians 12:3… how do you know you have the Holy Spirit?

> [3] Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God
> ever says “Jesus is accursed!”
> and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

You know you have the Spirit when you trust the gospel.
When you trust your life to Jesus the Lord… you will receive the Spirit
[slide-13] See God’s word and God’s Spirit ***together*** to ***create*** new life.
When you receive God’s gospel, then you receive God’s Spirit.
When God’s Spirit comes and dwells in you, God’s word dwells in you.

So when you become a Christian…
Some will have an emotional/teary experience. And some won’t.
But everyone who comes to Christ will receive new life changes.
The call is not to go looking for an experience of conversion…
The call is to hear the word of God as it is actually is word of God
To encounter Jesus and give him your life
Recently I’ve had opportunity to a bunch of weddings
At the last wedding you went to did the groom or the bride cry?
I’ve got to say… I’ve noticed a lot of crying grooms
The brides seem to hold themselves together just fine.
Many men are a mess at least at the start.
But then some men here will feel guilty, oh did I have cried?
It doesn’t matter. The power is in the promises not your tears

So… the Christian life may or may not begin with tears….
But it always begins by receiving God’s gospel and Spirit.
The question to ask… is do you trust Jesus as your Lord and saviour?
And if you do you can stop worrying and start living with your King.

Which leads us to a second truth in the NT…

2. [slide-14] **God's Spirit and God’s word assure us**

One of the most common acute challenges for new believer is assurance
That is, many wonder hang on am I really a Christian?
But I am still sinning… am I really a Christian?

But it’s not only new believers but all believers
Jesus teaches us all that the normal life is trial, endurance.
When we are tempted… we think, did God really tell me the truth?
When we suffer we ask… we think, does God still love me?
When we sacrifice for Jesus… we ask, is this really worth it?

Well one of the key works of the Spirit is to apply to work of the cross to us.
See Romans 8:14 (it’s got a parallel in Galatians 4, that’s for later)
Sisters you are about to called sons… it’s an inheritor…. Men bride of Christ

> [14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
> [15] 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!”
> [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

[17] 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.[3]

Believers in our minds often have internal court cases.
Our heads think… I'm a dud christian… if I even am a Christian.
Well the Spirit comes into your court case… drops a briefcase on the table
And reminds you of the promises of the cross.
You are justified by faith in cross. You have new life
The Christian life… means opening the word and the letting the Spirit testify

[slide-15] Or come with me to Ephesians 1:3…
Where the letter begins with a list of assurances
1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
Who has blessed us in Christ with **every** spiritual blessing
Christians don't have…
Half blessing, occasional blessing, second blessings
You've got ***every*** spiritual blessing. So glace down…
You Chistian you are chosen, loved, predestined, adopted, redeemed,
You are lavished with grace, you know the purposes of God… or
And [13] In him you also, **when you heard the word of truth,**
the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him,
were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
[14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,
to the praise of his glory.

See the Spirit works to assure you of everything you have in Christ
Sometimes we think there is the work of Jesus at the cross
And then the Spirit comes a new/rouge work…. How to find houses/spouses
But in these passages we see that the Spirit of God….
Assures us of what Jesus has done at the cross
The Father is often the planners and sender
The Son is achiever
The Spirit is the applier. He applies the work of the cross to you
To make you inheritors of promises of the cross.
He is your personally guarantee, signed, sealed delivered. Christ is yours.

[slide-16] Remember we saw recently in Romans 5:5-6
Talking about Christian suffering
That the Spirit pours his love into our hearts.
That is he reminds us whilst we were still sinners Christ died for us

[slide-17] Or let me show you this little gem in Romans 15:13
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace…. **in believing,**
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
See in the sin, suffering and sacrifice….
We turn to believe the word of God about Christ.

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[3] Or Galatians 4 says the same
[4] But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" [7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God

And his Spirit gives us God's love, joy and peace found at the cross

So the Spirit and the word go hand to re-create us, to assure us… Point 3.

3. [slide-18] **God's Spirit and word <u>equip us for every good work</u>**

See some teach that there are two classes of Christians.
There are Christians who have the Spirit and ready for good works
And there are Christians missing the Spirit with no good works

But the scriptures all are fully prepared for a life of good works
Because all have the Spirit and all have the word.
No christian left behind!

[slide-19] Let's see in the scriptures.
So OT promise in Ezekiel 36 to all believers to come…
26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.
And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh
and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit within you,
and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
See when all believers receive the Spirit
All will be equipped from the heart to obey the Lord Jesus. Law in heart.

[slide-20] So the NT says the same…. Come to Ephesians 6:8
Paul is tells us all Christians get equipped with Messiah/gospel armour.
Shout out some of the armour….
salvation, truth, faith, gospel readiness, righteousness… and we get
6v18 The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God
There a close link from word to Spirit

Point is if you want to be equipped for eeeeeeevery good work?
Unhealth the Spirits sword and open the bible. To begin the day scriptures.

[slide-21] So flick to golden verse…. 2 Timothy 3:16 (it's got a parallel in 2 Peter 1)[4]
All Scripture is breathed out by God
Notice the breathed out language there…
For **scripture** is the Spirit inspired word of God
It gets call the inspiration of scripture… the work Spirit is in inspiration
And that Spirit breathed scripture is…
[and] profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction,
and for training in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
So then the Spirit and word equip us EVERY possible good work
God says you are ready to face literally ANYTHING across all your days

[slide-22] So we're coming up to our fourth and final point….

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[4] 2 Peter 1 says we are equipped the same…
It's like the Spirit is on the tip of Peter's tongue
But he doesn't mention him direction
3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory
and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, So by Gods Spirit power and ptomises
We us everything we need for godliness

So far we've seen the Spirit and word
Work together christian experience beginning to end
Salvation, assurance, every good work… Like two jets…

But now I want you to imagine in light of you've seen in scripture… the two split
What if two jet pilots say… let's do the all work and spirit
And then the second jet just flies off… Why would it matter if that happened?

4. [slide-23] **The Spirit and word mean we fully know God in Christ…**

See across the world there wide spread of teaching that is counter to this
Here is a teaching I've heard around Canberra
(originates in the US Pentecostals Hicks and Hagin[5])
It's that God has two words… the ***logos*** and the ***rhema***

The teaching looks at two Greek works in the New Testament for word…
Logos and rhema
So there is the logos… the written word of God, the Bible
And there is rhema, a spoken, personal present word from God
That is spoken specifically to an individual by the Holy Spirit

And so can be two types of Christians,
Written word logos Christians and spiritually alive rhema Christians
And that Christians ought chase the rhema voice of God

There a similar but different teachings like this you can may have encountered
I've listen to some training on how to listen to spontaneous thoughts/images
Often the rhema work is applied to word about
Who to marry. Where to work. Where to live. The number of children etc
And for every encouraging good story I've heard
The pastoral causalities of this continues to rise.

It's not that God doesn't care about those decisions
He teaches the way to make those decisions…
Is by responding to God's Spirits BIG gospel.
Some make out the Spirit leads to spouses
The gospels can leads us honouring Christ in singleness
There a many single/widow in our midst, who are not missing out in Christ
Some make out the Spirit leads to jobs with more money
Jesus lived life getting no money
The gospel calls us to away careers/money for the kingdom… to

So yes scriptures do you use logos and rhema
But never as two different categories of God's word.
The words are use them interchangeably
And there a many other words like ἔπος/epos – utterance, φωνή phōnē. voice.
In English saying a speaking and talking are separate words of God.
As if you can only know God… if you learn rhema

[5] It originates Roy Hicks and Kenneth E Hagin

But God wants to know he has spoke to us fully/riches/completely in christ

Turn to Hebrews 1:1-2

God's by his Son and Spirit have done everything to fully know God

[slide-24] 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

That is, in the past God spoke in all kinds of ways

He spoke in burning bushes and wrote on walls, and spoke through donkeys

But today… we can know God fully through the word of his Son

That is the word of gospel… we completely know God's word.

To know the Son… is to know God fully

[slide-25] That's why when Jesus rose from the dead on the road to Emmaus

He didn't go onto to teach them new utterances

He rose and spoke the scriptures of old now fulfilled

And the disciples hearts burned… in the scriptures… they encountered Christ

[slide-26] So the same 1 Corinthians 2, what is the wise word God gives?

1 And I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters
I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God
with lofty speech or wisdom. What is the wisdom of the ages?
2 For I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

So now come down to v7 Paul says

[slide-27] 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God,
which God decreed before the ages for our glory.
8 None of the rulers of this age understood this,
for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory….

Paul is saying that the gospel Christ crucified was once hidden wisdom

But now God's gospel has been revealed!

How? [slide-28] V10 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.
For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person,
which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God
except the Spirit of God.

See we humans in our own cleverness couldn't get God's plan for the ages

But the Spirit of God… who is God… He knew God's plan

And now we by Spirit know his gospel plan too… for

[slide29] 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who is from God,
that we might understand the things freely given us by God.
13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom
but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are
spiritual.

See when we hear the gospel, we just don't hear human words/wisdom

By the Spirit ***we hear the gospel of God as the lens for all of life***

We can spiritually how to live for Jesus

Now you haven't received the Spirit… it won't make sense[slide30]

Not that the Bible intellectually make sense… but spiritually
14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God,
for they are folly to him,
and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
Here's the reality for the Christian of those who trust the cross…[slide31]
15 The spiritual person judges all things,
but is himself to be judged by no one.
The spiritual person has Christ him, no one can change their course
16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.

That is to say… by Spirit and we know God at the cross
We truly know God and Christ[6]
We now how to live in this word because of Christ

Friends why does it matter if the Spirit flies off to another work?
Because it says the word of Christ and his cross and not enough for life.
It says his Spirit is not enough. His scriptures not sufficient.

[slide32] But if the word and spirit are together
It means God's promises are sufficient for your life
It means we don't have the anxieties of trying to hear what God says

Now its not to say God never in sovereign power do different/ miraculous things
Or give a dream, or to walk on water… or to put something in your mind
He can do it

But we are not great diagnoses of our inner thoughts
Was that thought…. my thought or God's thought.
Or satan temptation, or another spirit?
So 1 John 4:1 says… beloved do not believe every spirit
rather rest the spirits to see whether they are from God
for many false prophets have gone out into the world

So then it very important to listen…
… to listen what God Spirit has promised in the gospel
….to know what surely expect in your Christian life
….to trust how he actually reveals himself today

[slide33] You know today is actually a special day in the Christian calender.
Today is Reformation Sunday.
When in 1517 October 31 Martin Luther began his challenge
That by the Spirit of God the word of god came back to centre of the church
But the word of Christ still today as our full final authority is still contested

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[6] This was Timothy's experience growing up(2 Tim 3:15)
How from childhood you have been acquainted
with the sacred writings
which are able to make you wise for salvation
through faith in Jesus Christ
So then… the Spirit given to us… makes us hungry to learn the word of God
He teaches there isn't a short-cut to deeply diving into his scriptures

So friends today again we see the need for our own personal reformation
Do we believe that Spirits Word is enough…
Even in and over our experiences

For the Christian experience from beginning to end…
Is one where te Spirit of God and word of God together go to work
And His Spirit has given us ***everything*** in Christ.
He has **totally re-created** us Christ
He gives us **every assurance** in Christ
He is **equipping for anything** in Christ
Because it his Spirit we **fully, trely know** God in Christ

[slide35] Prayer points on screen
We are about to sing Your Word
And when we sing Your word…
And everytime you sing the word YOUR
Think of God's Holy Spirit…