

HOLY SPIRIT

The person of the Holy Spirit

February 5, 2023 - Pastor Jason Carter

John 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

We have heard of the Holy Spirit, but do we know how to engage with Him?

If Jesus Himself states that it's good for us that He leave so the Spirit (advocate) can come, we should trust that the Holy Spirit is worth knowing! We should know Him, engage Him, hear Him, and be led of Him.

Our goal is to be a disciple who make disciples - the essence of this is to be a lifelong learner.

There is no shortcut to knowing God

- Invest in your Christianity and your walk with God.
- In true Christianity, **there is no quiet quitting.**
- God is inexhaustible, incomprehensible, and infinite. We are finite, limited in our understanding.
- Remember, there is mystery to God.
- We must learn in our walk with God to live in tension between what we know and what we do not understand. **Learn to leave room for tension and mystery, faith and knowledge.**

Make it a priority to know the Holy Spirit. One of the roles the church plays is to *position* you to receive the revelation from God on your own.

- Are you receiving revelation for yourself? If not, why?
- How can you learn to live in the tension between faith and knowledge?
Between tension and mystery?

The Trinity consists of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three work together as one.

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

- This is a great picture of the role of the Holy Spirit. Wherever there is a void or lack of life, God's Spirit wants to engage to accomplish the will of God the Father.
- The Holy Spirit hovers where there are places that are empty, needing life and transformation. He is the re-animator of all things.

Mark 1:9-11 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

- Jesus affirms the Holy Spirit's place in the Godhead, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We learn to live with the *tension* and *mystery*, the *faith* and *knowledge* that comes from pursuing an infinite God

Holy Spirit's role on the Earth

John 16:7-12 But in fact, **it is best for you that I go away**, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

- Holy Spirit is still a restraining force on the earth. (2 Thessalonians 2:6)
- God still works through the conscience mankind and people still have a choice.
- He convicts the world of sin. He will "expose" or "bring to light".
- God chooses to see us through the sacrifice of Jesus and doesn't look at us the way we might look at ourselves. We are righteous because of Him.
- His judgement is based off our reception of Christ's sacrifice. We don't have to be afraid of death, hell or the grave because Jesus paid the price.
- God speaks through creation to those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1).

The Holy Spirit is our advocate

John 14:26 But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

- An advocate is one who defends or maintains a cause or proposal; one who pleads the cause of another.

The Holy Spirit is advocating **to** God through prayer and advocating **for** you.

He lives within us.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.

Allos: Another of the same or similar type

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- Can God put His spirit into something unholy? No, we receive the holiness of God when we receive Christ, and the Spirit is within us.

He witnesses to us

John 15:26 But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

- The Holy Spirit will ALWAYS point back to Jesus.

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

The Spirit intercedes for us according to God's will

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

- The Holy Spirit prays for God's will to take place in our lives.

He speaks

2 Sam. 23:2 The Spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his words are upon my tongue.

Acts 8: 29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."

Acts 10:19 Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men have come looking for you. Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them."

Condemnation pulls us away from God, but the *conviction of the Holy Spirit* pushes us back towards Him.

The Spirit of God can be resisted

Acts 7:51 You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did and so do you!

- The Holy Spirit convicts us and puts us back in relationship with God. He brings life. Condemnation pulls us away from God, but the conviction of the Holy Spirit pushes us towards Him.

He can be grieved

Ephesians 4:30-31 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

He reveals

1 Corinthians 2:10 These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

God's Spirit empowers people

Zechariah 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."

The Spirit is creative

Psalms 139 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb... you watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was over there in the dark of the womb.

- We have been knit together with all the details of a tapestry.

Psalms 8:3-6 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

The enemy wants to remind you of all you are *not* and all you have done wrong. The Holy Spirit wants you to know who you *really are* in Christ Jesus.

Talk to the Spirit of God. If you don't know what He does, how can you engage Him well? If you want to learn how, ask. Engage the Holy Spirit as you pray and live.

- What lies does the enemy speak to you?
- How can you identify the lies and replace it with the truth the Holy Spirit speaks?
- How will you begin to engage the Holy Spirit in your life?