

HOLY SPIRIT

The Passion of the Spirit

February 12, 2023 - Pastor Jason Carter

Holy Spirit is a unique person of the Trinity who wants to bring life from death. He was sent as a helper, guide, and comforter. We should be in relationship with Him. If Jesus Himself states that it's good that He leave so the Spirit (advocate) can come, we can trust that the Holy Spirit is worth knowing! We should know Him, engage Him, hear Him, and be led of Him.

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.**

Genesis 1:1-3 **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.**

The Holy Spirit acts in our lives in different ways:

He sanctifies us, which means to be set apart for God's special use and purpose.

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?**
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 **And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

The Holy Spirit takes up residence within us.

- Luke 17:20-21 **One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you.**

We all need God's boundaries.

- Paul said the law was good because it pointed out our sin, but it could not save us from it. The law could not forgive us of sin, transform the heart or redeem us. It could only point out where we erred and where we are not supposed to go.

Our sin grieves Him.

- Ephesians 4:30 **And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.**

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. When we misstep, the Spirit is who reveals to us our wrongdoing while pointing us back to Christ. This is a gift that draws us closer to the Lord.

- John 16:8 **And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.**

When we accept Christ, we are made holy. **The sacrifice of Jesus is greater than our behavior, so stop paying interest on sin!** The greater truth is that we have been washed, sanctified, and justified by Jesus.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- Romans 4:7-8 **Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.**

- **Is believing that you are truly forgiven, being made holy, or set apart hard for you? Why?**

- We all have a past.
- We all have sinned.
- We adopted the influence of those around us.
- We inherit sin patterns. We saw it and then emulated it.
- There are layers to our heart. We have patterns, practiced thoughts and behaviors.
- We were taught some things incorrectly. Our parents or caregivers gave us a model/picture that was incorrect and evil at times.

Often, we simply pursued things that were wrong. We wanted it and did it. We knew we were not to do some things, and we did them anyway. All of these create mindsets and strongholds.

Sin creates layers. Lies create layers. Life creates layers. We, in interpreting circumstances, create layers. We all believe some truth and some lies. The Holy Spirit desires to lead us all into **all truth**, but what happens if a lie is all you have ever known?

There are times a lie has become so deeply ingrained in our life that it creates deep layers over our hearts. Sometimes we are unaware. Other times we know we believe a lie but do not believe we can change. Some of us have allowed the layers to remain because we think to deal with them would be too painful, produce fear of the unknown, or feel like failure. Some of it may be for protection. We needed the lie for survival but now we are imprisoned to it. It feels like our reality and what we have known is being turned upside down. In the short term, it may seem easier to live in the lie than confront it, but **the first step to transformation is awareness.** We need the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth in order to walk in the freedom and true transformation that the Father has for us.

Example:

- A parent dies or leaves and the child does not understand why.
- They blame themselves and it leaves a wound, both with God and with others.
- The mindset of poor identity and little value sets in. The person begins to make choices that represents their belief that they don't have value, or that they don't care about consequences.
- Relationships may be built but stay superficial because trust is an issue.
- They might give up, walk out, or quit because **they have interpreted a lie and accepted it as truth.**

The first step to transformation is *awareness.*

In some way, **this is all of us.** At some point, we all believe a lie and it becomes part of who we are. It affects our decisions, the way we view God, others, and life. **It becomes an unconscious guidance system.** Then, when the truth comes through the Holy Spirit, it does not sound or feel like truth and our hearts are not receptive to it.

Back to the example:

Jesus says: 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

Individual: 'I am not falling for that, everyone leaves.'

Jesus says: 'I love you no matter what.'

Individual: 'You're going to leave me just like my dad did.'

Jesus says: 'My grace is sufficient for you.'

Individual: 'I'm not good enough.'

The Holy Spirit is consistent and will keep on dealing with our hearts. We might want to believe but are desperately afraid that the truth is too good to be true. We may hold on to this layer, thinking it will protect us from pain, but in actuality, it is keeping us from receiving the truth.

This is true for every aspect of our lives. God has truth and the Holy Spirit will reveal it to us. We may not receive it initially, but He will continue to bring it to us.

- What awareness do you need to have?
- What is the layer over your heart that the truth of God needs to penetrate so you can live in freedom?

The enemy will use guilt against you. He will use your lack of understanding of the Bible against you. He will use your wrong perception of God against you. **It is why we must understand God's truth, renew our minds and put that truth into practice in our daily lives.**

We have been washed (**forgiven**), sanctified (**holy and set apart**), justified (**acquitted**).

Romans 8:1 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Conviction is a gift. Condemnation is not. Know the difference. Condemnation pulls us away from God, while conviction pushes us towards Him.

Romans 7:21-25 "So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Romans 8:2-6 "because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."

Our behavior does not make us holy. *Trusting in the sacrifice* of Jesus does, and our behavior follows.

We become what we repeat. All of us have patterns and behaviors that we engaged in before Christ, or thought patterns that go against scripture. The Holy Spirit wants to bring the life of Jesus to those voids in our life. Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Awareness is the beginning of change and comes through the truth of God's word. The Holy Spirit makes us aware and sanctifies us. He consistently works on the condition of our heart, our attitudes, our perceptions, and our mindsets. God's Spirit will always draw you closer to the Father; He will never shame you.

Our behavior does not make us holy. **Trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus makes us holy and our behavior begins to follow what we believe.**

We need to learn to recognize the Holy Spirit's voice as part of the sanctification process.

- The Holy Spirit desires for us to hear the Lord's voice.
- The Bible says that the sheep know the voice of their shepherd (John 10:27-28).

- We all must practice and learn the skill of hearing God's voice. There are things that block or limit it. Sometimes it may be because we can't identify His voice or leading. It might also be because we have too many other voices we are listening to.
- In order to know His voice, we **must** hear it the way it is meant to be received rather than the preconceived idea we have in our minds.

Remember: **the voice of God sounds like the Word of God**. We become familiar with His language through reading the Bible. It's important to learn to discern the tone, otherwise we may mischaracterize God's intent. Remember that the conviction of the Holy Spirit always points us back to Jesus, so ask yourself:

- Did this scripture bring life and truth?
 - Did this scripture bring hope and edify and build up?
 - Did this scripture draw me or others to Him?
 - What does this scripture tell me about God's rules or His character?
- Whose voice are you listening to? Is it condemning? Or is it challenging and convicting?
 - How can you practice listening to the voice of God?

Different Ways God Speaks

- Bible
 - Counselors/Advisors
 - Decisions/ Fruit
 - Holy Spirit
 - Seeing
 - Hearing
 - Sensing
 - Perceiving
 - Still small voice
 - Community
- How have you heard God speak to you?
 - Who do you want to become and how are you getting there (Bible reading, specific prayers, discipleship relationship)? Share some growth and celebrate with each other some evidence of the process you are in with Holy Spirit.

Our prayer should be:

Forgive me Lord. Remove the layers from my heart and help me to see, walk and know the truth of who you are. I align myself with Your words. I align myself with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. May I learn to hear your voice and obey.