

# HOLY SPIRIT

## The Persistence of the Holy Spirit

February 19, 2023 - Pastor Rafael Aristy

### Our mission and vision at Good News Church:

#### WE LIVE TO SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH JESUS

We are a family committed to seeing lives changed. We connect people to God and others, make disciples of Jesus, and are Spirit-empowered people who live out the Good News in our world. And, we are each determined to fulfill our unique purpose in God's mission to everyone, everywhere, every day.

### The Person of the Spirit

The 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.**

### The Passion of the Spirit

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. The Holy Spirit also takes up residence within us and 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. 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.**

### The Persistence of the Holy Spirit

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."

We are **SAVED** as we believe in the **TRUTH**, but what truth? When we believe a lie long enough, the truth will sound and look like a lie, but God's word gives us the absolute truth.

**Romans 10:9** "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

When we *believe a lie* long enough, the truth will then sound like a lie.

**Titus 3:3-7** "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one

another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

Sanctification: hagiasmós - the process of advancing in holiness; use of the believer being progressively transformed by the Lord into His likeness (similarity of nature).

The Holy Spirit doesn't just sanctify at the time of surrender to Jesus; it is an ongoing process of sanctification. He makes us more and more like Jesus as we draw near. Our feelings or emotions may lead us to ungodly beliefs or actions, but the work of the Spirit changes our hearts and leads us to godliness.

- Our emotions tell us to “get even”, but the Spirit helps us forgive.
- Our flesh tells us to lie in order to get what we want, but the Spirit enables us to speak the truth.
- Our feelings lead us to blame others, but the Spirit empowers us to own our part.

This is the **PERSISTENCE** of Holy Spirit making us more and more like Jesus!

- What does progressive transformation look like to you?

- How does it feel?

- When it isn't easy or fun, how do you continue to move towards the Lord?

Through Jesus Christ our Savior, the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us generously. It is overflowing and more than enough.

- This is not only so that we can be sanctified. It is not only so that we can speak in tongues, prophesy or be guided by the Lord. It is not only to have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. These are wonderful and valid reasons, but not the only reasons.

**Titus 3:7** “so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs.”

When we are an heir, we carry the family name and the responsibility of that name. Our name means something. It represents who we are. When we accept Jesus, His name becomes ours and we not only receive the benefits but the responsibility as well. **There is purpose in being an heir.** We can use it as a blessing to others, representing the name of Jesus to the world.

- We carry the blessing and prestige of being in the family of God, but also the weight and responsibility of that name.
- As an heir, we represent the family wherever we go and in whatever we do.
- If we go out into our community and act foolish, that represents all of us, but if we go into our world and act like Jesus, that points the world back to Him!

When we accept Jesus, His name becomes ours. We receive not only the benefits, but the responsibility of His name. ***There is purpose in being an heir.***

This is not always an easy task. It can be very difficult at times, but we have the Holy Spirit and if we will allow Him to do what he does, He will consistently and persistently make us more and more like Jesus.

**2 Peter 1:3-4** His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has

given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

"His divine power"- This is the same word we find in Acts 1:8 when Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

- **Dunamis:** ability to perform; for the believer, power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities.
- "Power through God's ability"
- It is HIS divine power, NOT ours! **We need to stop trying to win the battle in our own strength.**

"His divine power has given us"

- This is something that has already happened, He has already given us this power.

**Don't live life like a featherweight when you're a heavyweight!**

"His divine power has given us everything we need to live a godly life."

- Holy Spirit lives in us, therefore we have everything we need to live a life that's pleasing to God. He makes the impossible POSSIBLE!

**By His divine power, WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!**

By His divine power,  
*we have what it takes!*

"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises."

### **Promises of God**

**Forgiveness of sins** - Acts 10:43, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, 1John 1:9

**Holy Spirit baptism** - Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:8

**Answers prayers** - Matthew 7:7-11, John 14:13, Romans 8:32, 1Peter 3:12, 1John 3:22

**Love of God** - John 14:21

**Comforts us** - 2 Corinthians 1:4

**Mercy** - Luke 1:50

**Great rewards** - Matthew 5:12, Colossians 3:24

**We are children of God** - John 1:12

**Give us rest** - Matthew 11:28

**Provision** - Matthew 10:29-31

**Physical healing** - Matthew 8:17, Acts 28:27, James 5:14-15, 1Peter 2:24,

**All things for your good** - Romans 8:28

**A victorious church** - Matthew 16:18

**Eternal life** - Matthew 19:29, John 3:15, John 6:47

**Peace** - John 14:27

**Freedom** - John 8:32,36

**Wisdom** - James 1:5

These promises are an invitation to His divine power through His divine nature. We can choose to be more and more like Jesus; He is persistent and patient. Through the persistent work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, He will fulfill to us the great and precious promises with a purpose behind it all.

"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature."

His divine nature is the essence of who He is; it is His make-up! Through His promises, we have an invitation to participate in, to take on, and to become part of His divine nature.

We have been **washed, sanctified,** and **justified** by the Spirit of God.  
We have become an **heir** who carries the **responsibility and authority** of our family name.  
Holy Spirit has given us **everything we need** to live a life that pleases God.  
And we have received the **wonderful promises** that invite us to partake in who He is.

The Holy Spirit doesn't tire of going after us.

- He won't stop convicting us.
- He won't stop leading us.
- He won't stop making us more like Jesus.
- He will **NEVER** give up on us.

Remember that there is no Jr Holy Spirit, or a smaller version of who He really is. We can't settle for anything less than what God has for us!!!

- What did you hear in this message?
- Think of your own transformation journey. Where and how can you see examples of the Holy Spirit's persistence and leading in your life?
- What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you and how can you respond?