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**Series: People In Step With The Spirit**  
**Message: The Holy Spirit and Jesus**

**Transcribed Message**  
**September 23, 2018**  
**Matthew 3:16-17**

As I studied this week, I saw that the only way to improve on the topic before us would be to expand it just slightly. We look this morning at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus, and as I said last week, what an incredible topic. What an incredible study to look at the life of our Lord and then look at the ministry and the impact of the Holy Spirit in His life. I say the only way we could improve on that would be to expand it by one and look at the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, because then we would have the full wonder and mystery of the Trinity in view.

We said in our introductory lesson many weeks ago that as you look at the work of the Godhead throughout human history, you can break it pretty much into three parts. You can begin with the work of the Father and that takes us from the creation to the incarnation. Then you can see the preeminence of the Son obviously while He is on the earth. The Old Testament largely occupies the previous section of the work of the Father. The Gospels largely occupy the preeminence of Christ. Then from the ascension to the second coming, you really have the Holy Spirit who steps into that place of the preeminence. So you realize that all three of them are involved in every one of those areas and each of those time frames. But each one of them seems to have a unique role in each one of those areas as well. So to focus on the life and ministry of Christ and the Holy Spirit's presence and work in His life is really to be able to look at something that should be a great encouragement to each one of us.

It has been said, and I don't know who said it first, but KB has said it in one of his songs that from the womb to the tomb to the throne. From the womb to the tomb to the throne. All of the activities of Jesus occurred in the power of the Holy Spirit. For those of you that don't know, KB is a rapper. This morning this is what we want to look at. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, relied on the Holy Spirit every moment of every day. How can we do any less than that and follow that example? Just think about that. From every

moment of every day the Lord Jesus Christ lived under the dominance and the control of the Holy Spirit.

For those of you that need a cup of coffee to get going in the morning, you know you get up and you just can't wait to get that first cup of coffee because it really is what does awaken you. It's called a java jolt for a reason, right? It kind of gets your juices going. It gets you awake and ready for the day. If you don't do coffee maybe you down a couple of five-hour energy drinks or maybe you head over to 7-Eleven and get a 30-ounce Mountain Dew. I don't know. I hope there isn't anybody here that does that last one. But I want to give you a theological jolt this morning. We've had our coffee. We've had our wake-up drink. Now I want to begin this morning with something that's kind of like a theological jolt to us.

I want to begin by having you think with me about this matter of the relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit by looking at two seemingly contradictory points. This will just kind of get us started this morning. Two themes that are developed primarily in the Gospels. When you see them, you might wonder which one is it. The truth of the matter is it's both. The first one is this. Jesus as we said lived His life in submission to the Holy Spirit. We could say that's the summary of our lesson this morning. Jesus living His life in submission to the Holy Spirit. Jesus following the lead of the Holy Spirit every moment of every day in His life. The Spirit enabled Him in fact to accomplish the mission that God had given Him to do. I think you can say from that if He did not do that He would not have accomplished the mission that God gave Him to do. So it is while Jesus is in submission to the Holy Spirit that He is able to do and accomplish the will of God. Jesus lived every day and every moment of every day in submission to God's Spirit.

We might stop at that point and ask why? Why in fact is that necessary? Why is that point made in Scripture that Jesus lived this way? Couldn't He have lived a perfect life? Couldn't He have done everything that He is called upon to do? Couldn't He have performed all the works, the teachings and the miracles that God intended for Him to do out of His own divine nature? I think the answer to that is yes, He could have. He could have done all those things because He is the Son of God. He could have done and accomplished those things out of His own deity. But remember, Jesus came to this

earth and He came as the God man. He came as God but He came and took to that deity perfect and true humanity. He didn't diminish in any way His deity but He added to that deity true humanity. He did that because as the last Adam, as the second Adam, He then becomes for us a perfect example of how it is that we are to and can live this life that we've been called to.

If He had done all of these things in the power and the energy of His deity, we would look at that and say how can we ever live the Christian life? But Paul says in Philippians 2 even though He was God he didn't think it was something that was necessarily to be grasped and held onto in terms of His voluntary control of that and He laid that aside to become a servant. He didn't lay aside deity. He laid aside His voluntary control of that and He submitted Himself to the Holy Spirit and to the Father in doing so. He accepted the limitations of humanity so that He would be for us this incredible example.

Point 1 – Jesus in submission to the Holy Spirit. Point 2 – Jesus's authority over the Spirit. You have these things that seem to contradict each other yet they're both taught in Scripture. There is submission in Scripture and there is authority. In John chapter 16 (you're going to be very familiar with this passage before we're done) in the Upper Room we have Jesus teaching more about the Holy Spirit than anywhere else in all of the New Testament. Perhaps the second passage to it would be Romans 8 where Paul speaks a lot about the work of the Spirit. Jesus says in John 16:12 – “I still have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you into all the truth for He will not speak on His own authority.” He is not going to speak of His own authority. “but whatever He hears He will speak and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me,” Jesus said, “for He will take what is mine and He will declare it to you. all that the father has is mine. Therefore I said that He will take what is mine and He will declare it to you.”

This is similar language to what you find in terms of the relationship of the Father and the Son. Remember Jesus said He didn't come to do His own will. He came to do the will of the Father. In the garden and that wonderful expression He said Father, not my will but Yours be done. In almost a similar kind of picture, you have Jesus saying the Holy Spirit is going to in be under my authority and He is going to remember to shed

light on me. Look at in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter verse 26: “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.” So the Spirit is this floodlight that is shining on Christ. He isn’t coming to be preeminent in the sense of drawing attention to Himself. He is preeminent in terms of the work of God but He is going to be shining the glory of the light on Christ and He's going to be passing on to us what it is that Jesus wanted Him to pass along to us. So here you have within the Trinity this beautiful picture. You see within the Trinity there is love. There is harmony. There's authority. There's submission. There is unity. We're Trinitarians for a reason. In this doctrine that is so mysterious and so beyond our capacity to grasp, there is still great spiritual truth that corresponds very much to how it is that God wants us to live our life.

What does He want for Covenant Community Church? He wants us to live in the context of authority and submission, harmony, unity, love, all of these things. What does He want for you in your life? In the relationships that you're in? Primarily as you think in terms of family and marriage and other relationships – what does He want to see there? He wants to see the evidence of the Godhead at work in your life, that there is authority as there is submission. Yes, there is harmony of course. There's unity. There's love. all of these things are a picture for us of this relationship. So here it is. Both/and. There is submission and there is authority.

Let's drill in a little bit deeper and look at Jesus's closest companion. Of course that's going to be the Holy Spirit. There are three different phases that we'll look at in the life of our Lord that will illustrate this I think very clearly for us. We're going to start at the beginning and the beginning in this case is taking us to the Holy Spirit and to the birth of Christ. Let's go to Matthew chapter 1. In Matthew 1 and verses 18 through 20, we're given this picture of how it is that the Holy Spirit is involved in the life of Jesus from the very beginning of the birth. “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is

conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” Right at the outset of the beginning of our Lord's humanity, of the beginning of our Lord's human nature, we have this absolutely staggering, almost incomprehensible, inscrutable revelation about what God is going to do by means of His Holy Spirit in the life of this woman named Mary. As God so often does, He gives a revelation to His people and He tells them what it is that He is doing and that's what happens here for both Mary and Joseph. God comes and gives them this word regarding the conception of the one that Mary would call Jesus.

Here's what is clear. We know first of all that the Holy Spirit is the agent of conception. That's almost all we can say about this. There's some things that we can add to this, but there is a mystery here that goes beyond our capacity to fully grasp. In this quiet work of the Spirit, we have the beginning of the human nature of our Lord. Jesus does not have a human biological father. He is going to have a human father Joseph. Because He has Joseph as His human father, He is tied into the line of David because Joseph is a part of the line of David. but Jesus is conceived in the womb of Mary. We wrongly refer to it as the virgin birth. It really is a virgin conception. We're not going to change the language of history but the reality is Jesus's birth is as natural as any other baby's birth. It was his conception that was absolutely staggering.

Mary is confronted with this and she says how? You read the unfolding text. She is not as Sarah did mocking God with the idea that Sarah at 90 years old is going to have a baby. Mary, I think, is actually asking God how. She is stepping out in faith and saying how is this going to happen? She is intensely practical. She's not married. She's not in any kind of a sexual relationship with any man. How is it that I'm going to have a baby? How is this possible? The question that she asked of course is answered as well in Luke chapter 1 verse 35 – “And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I'm a virgin?’ And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.’” This word come upon. It speaks of something that is sudden. It speaks of something that is irresistible. The Holy Spirit is going to suddenly come upon Mary and form this new humanity within her. The power it says of the Most High will overshadow you.

Do you know what that language is? That's the language of the Old Testament when the Shekinah glory of God came down and engulfed the Tabernacle and the Temple. That's the imagery that the angel Gabriel gives to Mary that this is how this is going to happen. It reminds me of in some ways of Genesis 1 when we have this darkness and we have this unformed substance and we read about the Holy Spirit hovering over this unformed mass. That is exactly what we have here.

We know secondly that the mother of Jesus is Mary. The mother of Jesus is Mary. The result of this mysterious work is that the human nature of Jesus was conceived in Mary. Be very precise here. Because a person is not being formed in Mary in the sense of a new person. The human nature of Jesus is being formed. The second person of God has always existed. To that deity there is going to be joined perfect true humanity. The person of Jesus already exists. It is His human nature that is being formed in Mary and joined to this Christ. That's why Isaiah says in Isaiah 53 – “For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.” The Son is given because He is preexistent. Mary has this incredible revelation and this incredible mystery that she is now being brought into.

The church of Rome teaches that Mary was sinless. Of course the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says just the opposite of that. Mary herself says that she needs a savior. In her great response to this in the magnificent response of Mary in Luke 1, she speaks of Jesus as being her own Savior. So it is not that she is sinless and therefore Jesus is sinless. Jesus is not born sinless because Mary was sinless. Jesus is sinless because the Holy Spirit is the one who created this human nature inside of Mary.

Let's make a couple of observations about this incredibly remarkable beginning in the life of our Lord. First of all, Jesus was filled with the Spirit from conception all through His life. Isaiah 11 says that. Isaiah 42 speaks of that. I believe that the moment of conception, just as it was with John the Baptist, from that moment on Jesus was filled with the Spirit for all of His life.

Secondly, Jesus received the Spirit without measure. John says in John 3:34 “For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure”. Jesus in His humanity has all the fullness of the Spirit. He has all the blessings of the Spirit. I would imagine that He has all the gifts of the Spirit given to Him.

because from the moment of conception on Jesus is going to be controlled, dominated, filled with and in submission to the Holy Spirit of God.

Then thirdly, Jesus was subject to development in His human nature. This is fascinating. I wish we had a bunch of time to develop this. Jesus is subject to development in His human nature. We know that in the first 30 years of Jesus's life there is hardly anything said. We would love to know what was going on in this little boy's and young man's life, but we don't get to see that. We get one little snapshot which I think probably is a picture for us of what His life was like. 12 years old, right. He's in the Temple. 12 years old and He's interacting with the religious leaders of His time. He's asking them questions that I bet they couldn't answer even already then. He's answering them in ways that are just blowing them away. He's 12 years old. We read about this in Luke chapter 2. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. One thing we can say is that any spiritual growth in Jesus's life or in our life is a direct result of the work of the Holy Spirit of God. In Jesus's humanity this idea that Jesus developed in His humanity is directly linked to the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. We understand what it means to grow in stature. He's growing physically as every child does. But think for a minute about the fact that Jesus in His humanity grows in wisdom and He grows in favor with God and man. That says to us that as a six-month-old baby Jesus did not in His humanity look up into the eyes of His mother and think to Himself, "I wonder if she knows I made all of this. I wonder if she realizes that I'm the one who put all the stars in the heavens." He's not thinking that in His humanity as a six-month-old. Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man so that He underwent the normal development of every other human person. The Holy Spirit was the one who was helping to form within Jesus's humanity this spiritual development.

The one thing that might've been tough would be to have been in a young moms group with Mary. I mean that's a tough assignment. Being in a teenage parent support group with Mary and Joseph. I mean that would be hard. At some point when Mary said, "Hey, do you want to know what Jesus said this week?" The group would have answered a big "no" all at once. How many of stories do we need? Well, I'm going to tell you anyway. He memorized the book of Isaiah yesterday. Oh, great. You know,

whatever that was. Joseph said you wouldn't believe the perfect work bench He made this week in the shop. But all of those realities were a part of Jesus's formation by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is working in His heart, conforming Him more and more to what it is that God intended to do in the life of this incredible one we call the God man.

The official baptism of Jesus. It is really the launching point into His ministry. Let's note that secondly. The baptism of our Lord. For 30 years we don't really hear anything and then Jesus steps into the scene at 30 years old. We see the baptism of our Lord and launching Him into ministry. If you go back again to Matthew's Gospel, chapter 3, and look at the 13<sup>th</sup> verse: "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" The Spirit, like a dove, in some way comes and ushers Jesus into His official public ministry. He is filled with the Spirit from conception but this is the launch, the installation if you will of Jesus into ministry. This official announcement is the Holy Spirit comes upon Him and the Father speaks His approval and Jesus steps out into ministry. The Holy Spirit is with Him from conception. The Holy Spirit is with Him to equip Him to go forward into ministry.

Do you know what happens next? From the baptism, we move to the temptation. This is rather compelling because the anointing power of the Spirit is upon Him at baptism, launching Him into public ministry and the very next thing we read in the Gospels is He must draw on that power because now He is led we read by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Mark doesn't use that same word. Mark uses the word that He is driven by the Spirit into the wilderness. So we go from the baptism of our Lord and the public declaration that "This is My Son" to immediately following that the Holy Spirit of God leads Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days of testing. Mark says He doesn't just lead Him but He drives Him into the wilderness, such was the testing time that our Lord encountered. Jesus faces every temptation that Satan can throw against Him. In every

one of those temptations by the power of God's Spirit Jesus is victorious. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot feel with and sympathize with our infirmities, but He was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin, the writer of Hebrews says in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter and verse 15. What an example Jesus is to us!

He encounters the lust of the eyes. The lust of the flesh. The pride of life. Satan says here it is. It is all yours. Take it. You don't need to have God at the center of your life. You have physical needs and desires. Fulfill them. All of those things that you and I encounter, Jesus encountered. The Holy Spirit enabled Him and equipped Him to get through all of those things.

Then you notice thirdly the miracles and teaching of our Lord. The miracles and teaching. We can just ask this question again. Did Jesus do His miracles in the power of the Spirit? Or did He do His miracles from His own divine nature? Yes. You could say yes to either one. It's both. In fact, the Scripture tells us it's both. There were times when Jesus performed a miracle and there is indicated to us that He did so in the power of being the Son of God. Then many times we read that Jesus performed miracles in the power of the Spirit. I want to go back to Luke chapter 4.

If you look at Luke chapter 4 and verse 14: "And Jesus returned in the power of the spirit to Galilee." So He comes out of the temptation experience and the first thing we read is Jesus returned in the power of the spirit to Galilee "and a report went out about Him throughout all of the surrounding country. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all". Verse 18. This is an incredible section. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." This is Isaiah 61. Jesus is in the synagogue. He asks for the scroll of the book of Isaiah. He is launched into ministry. He has been baptized. He has gone through the temptation experience. He has begun His public ministry of teaching and miracles. He reads from Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Now watch. What does He do? "And He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' And all spoke well of Him and marveled at

the gracious words that were coming from His mouth.” Jesus, filled with the Spirit, opens the passage to Isaiah 61 where it says that He would be filled with the Spirit. These things are being realized right in your presence.

If there's ever any doubt, what Paul says or what Peter says in Acts 10 says this in verse 38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all over oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” From the moment of His conception, Jesus is filled with the Spirit. All through His earthly life. That short three or so years, He is walking in submission to the Spirit even as the Spirit is accomplishing and doing the very works that Jesus said He would come to do. That is the essence, my friends, of the incarnation. The self-emptying that Jesus undertook. Remember He did not in any way diminish His deity. He added to His deity true humanity. In the act of the incarnation, Jesus laid aside while on the earth in this God man position, He laid aside the use of those divine attributes at His will. He submitted that to the Father and to the Spirit. That's why Jesus might say something like even the Son of Man does not know when God will return. But what is He saying? Jesus, You're the one who is going to come back. You don't know when You're coming back?

That is an expression of His humanity. His humanity is saying I'm submitting to the will of the Father. In His deity He obviously knows that because in His deity He is omniscient. He knows all things. But He undertook for us the limitations of humanity so that we would have a savior with whom we could identify, realizing that He was just as we are. He walked perfectly in the Spirit. He displayed all the fruit of the Spirit. He used all the gifts of the Spirit in all of His life and ministry.

This brings us then to the Holy Spirit and death and resurrection. This is the last section. The birth of our Lord and those early years of which we're told very little. His life and ministry. Then we come to the Holy Spirit and the death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ. Let's begin with Jesus's death. When you think about the death of our Lord here is one of the most inexhaustible themes in all of the Bible. It is from Genesis 3:15 all the way through to Revelation 22. That's the whole story line. The redemptive work of God bringing glory to Himself by providing a way for humanity to come back into a relationship with Him. I underscore that for this reason. We have this

inexhaustible theme all through Scripture and yet probably to our surprise there was hardly anything at all said about the Holy Spirit and the death of Christ. There's Hebrews chapter 9 verse 14. Yet that passage is read by Bible teachers both speaking of the Holy Spirit. Some think it is the Holy Spirit. Some think it's Jesus's human spirit. So even that one passage is debated as to the clarity. I ask you why is that? Why is that if Jesus is living every moment of every day under the submission to the Holy Spirit, why is it that we don't have anything beyond that potential one or two verses? I think the answer is this. Obviously Jesus was continually filled with the Spirit all the way to the cross and beyond. I think it is because the focus primarily in Scripture is on the voluntary nature of the death of Christ, and so underscoring the fact that Jesus Himself said that He came to give His life a ransom for many, underscoring the fact that that He said I lay down my life of my own. Nobody takes it from me. I think these verses that speak of how He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross. The Holy Spirit in recording for us the work of Christ on the cross pulled Himself back if you will in the revelation of God's Word so that prominent in our reading of the Scriptures is truly that Jesus did this voluntarily for us. Let there be no confusion about that at all.

The same thing can be said about the resurrection. The same thing can be said about the resurrection. There is very little reference to the Holy Spirit. There are a few references, but they are not totally clear. I ask you again why would that be the case? Why, when we look at the resurrection of Jesus, why wouldn't the Holy Spirit be mentioned repeatedly as He is in other aspects of the life of Jesus? In this case, I think the answer might very well be because it is God the Father who is emphasized with regard to the resurrection. Why is that? Why is the Father the one who is prominent in the passages that are speaking of Jesus's resurrection? I think the answer in this case is because it is the Father's affirmation that the work of the Son is exactly what He intended. It is God's Amen. It's the Father's Amen to the Son's work. Jesus, who is the sinless Son of God, relied on the Holy Spirit every moment of every day. I don't know how it's possible for you and I to miss the lesson that we can't possibly live the Christian life by doing anything less than the perfect God man Jesus did.

What do we take away? Let me ask you this last question. What does the Holy Spirit want to do in your life and in mine? What does He want to do in our life? I believe He wants for you and I to experience the very thing that Jesus did. I think He wants for us to reflect the life of Christ in this place of total dependency on the Holy Spirit, enabling us to live the life that God has called us to for the glory of God. That's the aim that God has for each one of us. What is the chief end of man? The chief end of man is to glorify God. It is to live for Him. It is to exalt Him. How can you do that? The only way you can do that is to live life under the control and power of the Holy Spirit. Paul says in Galatians walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Now we have to first be in a relationship with God. We have to be in a personal relationship with God to experience this filling, this control, the submission to the Holy Spirit. That comes to us by what we just talked about. It comes to us by the perfect life of Jesus, by His death on the cross for our sins and His being raised again in glorious triumph. God has given to us that good news and has told us there's nothing more that we can do. We simply believe that what Jesus did is enough, and God will give to us the gift of eternal life. We would love to have a conversation with you on that if you have further questions.

Let's pray. Father God, thank You so much for the life of our Lord. Thank You so much for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Father, what an encouragement it is for us to see that Jesus Himself depended upon the Holy Spirit. So how much more, Father, do we need to? So we ask as the people of God that You will do that good work in our lives, that You will fill us with Your Spirit, that we can in fact live life for Your glory and draw attention and honor to You in all that we do and say. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.