

Spirit

1

Introduction

We have looked at God speaking Creation into existence. It was perfect! There was no death, pain, or suffering. All was perfect until man made the choice to sin.

It is man's sin that cut us off from God and there is **NOTHING** man can do to erase that sin.

2

Introduction

Last time we looked at how God made the choice to love mankind and cursed man with death so man could be redeemed. Jesus, who was God in flesh, stepped into human history to die in man's place. He paid the debt for our sin and rose to life on the third day. Jesus paid it all, but it is man's responsibility to accept the Gift of Salvation which He offers.

3

Introduction

Jesus spent some time with his disciples after the resurrection and then ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father.

The disciples were told to remain in Jerusalem. Jesus was going to send a special gift so they could do the will and work that Jesus called them to do.

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Acts 1:8-9

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

5

The Holy Spirit is Given

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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The Holy Spirit is Given

The giving of the Holy Spirit to the church as a special and dramatic event. It had both visual and auditory confirmation. The disciples spoke in known foreign languages so that all those gathered in Jerusalem could hear the Gospel message in their own language.

In 1 Corinthians 14:21-22, Paul quotes a prophecy about foreign tongues written in Isaiah 28:11.

In the law it is written: “With *men of* other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord. ²² Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

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The Holy Spirit is Given

Today many have a false view of the Spirit. They teach that one has to pray to receive the Spirit. This is a false doctrine.

The Bible states:

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

One receives the Holy Spirit into their lives at the moment they place their faith and trust in Jesus. You have all of the Spirit. The question is, “does the Spirit have all of you?”

8

The Holy Spirit is Given

There are many reasons that God has placed His Spirit in us. It is a **seal** that declares we belong to God. The Spirit is God's declaration that He dwells with us. We should find comfort in Hebrews 13:5

*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"*

The Spirit was also given to be the instrument of our **transformation into the Image of Christ**. Adam was created in the image of God, but that image was distorted by sin. The Holy Spirit is undoing that damage and one day we will stand before God perfectly conformed to His Image as He intended.

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The Holy Spirit is Given

The Spirit was the power that resurrected Jesus from the dead. That same Spirit of Power lives in you to transform you from death to life.

Romans 8:11-13

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

To help us understand the process, let us look at some of the names given to the Spirit

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Breath

One of the many words applied to the Holy Spirit is “pneuma”. This is the word that is used for the Theological study of the Spirit – Pneumatology. The root word means wind or Breath but is usually translated as Spirit.

To understand this concept, if you are alive, you have breath or Spirit. If you are not breathing... well you probably are not alive. We have looked at the creation of man and learned that Jesus breathed into Adam the breath of life and Adam became a living soul/spirit.

11

Breath

When Adam sinned, his body remained alive (for a time), but his Spirit died. Remember that death means separation. When Adam sinned, his true essence (Spirit/Soul) was cut off from God.

This is what the Bible means when it states that unbelievers are “**dead in the trespasses of sin**” (see Ephesians 2:1-3).

12

Breath

For the believer we are made alive by the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but **made alive by the Spirit.**

In a real sense, God placed His Spirit (Breath) in us to restore us to Spiritual Life with Him!

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Helper

The Holy Spirit is also called our Helper (Parakletos).

This word literally means one who is called to one's side, especially to help. It also means an intercessor, an assistant, or one who pleads the cause of another before a judge.

John 16:7

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

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Helper

We are not to remain in our old sinful state. Jesus died so that we can leave our old sinful flesh behind and to be conformed into the Image of Christ (Jesus). This is impossible on our own. One might be able to conform on the outside (legalism), but only God can change our inside. This is where the Spirit steps in. The very power that rose Jesus from the grave, now lives in the believer transforming them little by little to be more like Christ each day.

How is this done?

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Helper

John 15:26

But when **the Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

We overcome our sin, not by focusing on our sin, but on Jesus. The Spirit's job is not to bring attention to Himself, but to point to Jesus. We become the object of our focus. Notice that our Helper is the "**Spirit of Truth**". Our world is filled with so many lies, the Spirit helps us by directing us to Biblical Truth. The Bible is known as the "**Sword of the Spirit**". The more we study and know, the more the Spirit can bring to mind during struggles and temptation.

16

Intercessor

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*..

This verse is used incorrectly to justify the speaking in “unknown” tongues. This is not the point of this verse.

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Intercessor

During the Last Supper, Jesus turns to Peter and states...

Luke 22:32-1-32

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”

Satan is our adversary. He wants to destroy all believers, but God has put His protection around us. However, God does allow us to be tested. He knew Peter would fail but notice that Jesus prayed that Peter’s faith would not fail.

18

Intercessor

Scripture is teaching us that the Holy Spirit makes intercession (praying) for us. I just want to avoid the temptations and trials of life, but God leads me through the “valley of the shadow of death” because He wants my faith to grow and to be strong in His strength.

I do not know what tomorrow brings, but I know who holds me in His hand. It is a comfort to know that the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Himself make intercession for us.

This means that They have their eyes on us.

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So What ...

There are many other names given to the Holy Spirit which we simply do not have time to get into today.

I encourage you to dig deeper into God’s provision of the Holy Spirit.

In closing, let me remind you that we now have two natures, and they are at war with each other. The one who is the strongest will be the one you feed!

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