



# CORE VALUES

Pittsford Community Church

## Question:

**“Does the knowledge that your sins are forgiven, in itself, impart to you and new capacity to live a different kind of life from the life that you lived before you were redeemed?”**



**“I’m going to submit to you that the knowledge that your sins are forgiven adds absolutely nothing to your spiritual capacity to be a different kind of person. It might create in you, quite literally, a holy ambition to be different out of gratitude and love, and a sense of duty to the one who died for you...”**



**“But the knowledge that he died for you and that your sins are forgiven because he died for you, does not impart to you any new spiritual caliber of living...It would be a salvation that made you fit for heaven and left you hopelessly inadequate for earth.”**

- Major Ian Thomas



***“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’”***

- Acts 19:1-2



***“On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”***

- Acts 19:5-6





## The Holy Spirit: Who He Is

### 1) The Holy Spirit is God





***“Now the earth was formless and empty,  
darkness was over the surface of the deep, and  
the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”***

- Gen. 1:2



***“Go, therefore, and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”***

- Matt. 28:19



## The Holy Spirit: Who He Is

- 1) The Holy Spirit is God
- 2) The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a force



***“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”***

- John 14:16-17a



## The Holy Spirit has:

- A mind - *Rom. 8:27*

- A will - *1 Cor. 12:11*

- Emotions - *Eph. 4:30*



***“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.”***

- John 16:7



***The Holy Spirit in us is, alone, what empowers us to live like Jesus.***



***“I didn’t come to God to be happy. I knew a bottle of wine could do that.”***

*- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*





***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”***

- Gal. 5:22-23



***“God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on everything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on himself.”***

*- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*



## Question:

***“Why, when we come to Christ, are we not given cups without holes? Cups that don’t leak?”***



**Question:**

***“Why, when we come to Christ, are we not given cups without holes? Cups that don’t leak?”***

**Answer:**

***Dependence***



***“I will not leave you as orphans;  
I will come to you.”***

- John 14:18





## **Holy Spirit Dependence**

We value the power of the Holy Spirit to renew people, and to equip us for co-laboring with Christ. This is a spiritual work, and we acknowledge that we are powerless to act without full dependence on Him - being directed by the scriptures, prayer, and personal revelation. Therefore, we desire this activation of the Spirit by seeking and listening to Him on both personal and corporate levels, and by acknowledging and exercising the unique spiritual giftings with which He has equipped each of us for service (Eph 2:10, Eph 4:11-12, 1 Peter 2:9, Matt 10:1).

Sunday Sermon

11/20/22

Series: Core Values

Passage: Acts 19:1-7

Title: Holy Spirit Dependence

Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ tells this story of a famous oil field called Yates Pool. During the depression this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates wasn't able to make enough on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family (like many others) had to live on government subsidy.

Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would pay his bills. Then a crew from an oil company came into the area and told him there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a well, and he signed a lease contract.

At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. In fact, 30 years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed it still had the potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day.

And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he purchased the land he had the oil. Yet, he'd been living on relief. A multimillionaire living in poverty. The problem? He didn't know the oil was there even though he owned it.

Many Christians, though we are rich, live in spiritual poverty. God has given us his Holy Spirit, but we don't know or understand what we've been given.

20<sup>th</sup> Century preacher, Major Ian Thomas, talks about the necessity of the Holy Spirit in the everyday life of the Christian.

He asks: **“Does the knowledge that your sins are forgiven, in itself, impart to you and new capacity to live a different kind of life from the life that you lived before you were redeemed?”**

In other words, does forgiveness alone empower a Christian to live the Christian life? Once a person is forgiven, is it simply a matter of conforming our lives into a pattern of saying the right things, believing the right things, doing the right things? Can we be dependent on Jesus Christ for our forgiveness and then live functionally independent of God in victory and power to his good pleasure and glory? The answer is no.

Major Thomas continues saying, **“I'm going to submit to you that the knowledge that your sins are forgiven adds absolutely nothing to your spiritual capacity to be a different kind of person. It might create in you, quite literally, a holy ambition to be different out of gratitude and love, and a sense of duty to the one who died for you. But the knowledge that he died for you and that your sins are forgiven because he died for you, does not impart to you any new**

**spiritual caliber of living...It would be a salvation that made you fit for heaven and left you hopelessly inadequate for earth."**

Enter the Holy Spirit.

There is a lot that we could unpack about the Holy Spirit in Acts 19. But the part I want us to focus this morning on just the first 7 verses. Look at verse 1 with me. ***"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?'"***

Paul meets up with a group of disciples. And when Paul encountered them, he immediately knew something was off. He like, "There's no power here." These disciples are doing the right things, but they're missing the power that comes with salvation. They are missing the Holy Spirit.

So he asks them, "Do you have it?" They're like, "No."

They had been baptized by John into a baptism of repentance. We often define repentance in two parts: Confess and turn. But another way it can be understood is a change of mind and heart. ***"I was going this way, and now I understand that this is the wrong way, so now I'm going this way."***

In the case of John's baptism, it was a decision by a person to change their mind and heart about living according to God's law. It wasn't a baptism of salvation, but it was a baptism of repentance.

You see, along the way this group of disciples heard about Jesus, and decided to begin living as best they can according to his teachings. Not a bad thing. But in that they did not have the Holy Spirit. And Paul says, "You need to be baptized into Christ." You need to understand all of who Jesus is and what he has accomplished to, not only forgive your sins, but to reconcile you to God and attach you to life.

And when that happened. They were filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit.

**Question: Do you know who Jesus is? Do you know the story of God's salvation? Do you know his sacrifice for you on the cross? Do you know the life he's made available to you through his resurrection? Have you placed your faith in him as your Lord and Savior? Because if you have, you also need to know that you have been reconciled to God and that he has placed his power, his Holy Spirit, inside you.**

A Spirit that dispenses supernatural giftings, a Spirit that emboldens proclamation of the Gospel, a Spirit that is capable of miracles, capable tearing down supernatural strongholds, and setting captives free. Just read through verse 20. It's pretty awesome stuff. But there's no power without relationship. In verse 13 there is the story of the sons of Sceva. Jesus is not an incantation, he's a person. God's power is not unlocked because we say the right words. Without the Holy Spirit, which is granted to us through faith in Jesus Christ, there is no power, no authority, no ability to overcome evil - whether it be in our own lives or in the world. It's all about dependency – our connection with God, the Holy Spirit.



So for the rest of our time this morning, I want to focus our attention on the Holy Spirit: His person, our need, and his work.

### **First, Who He is.**

Some 290 verses in the N.T. refer specifically to the Holy Spirit. So the Bible actually has a lot to say about who he is.

First, He is God – the third person of the Triune God Head. Without getting into the mystery of the trinity too deeply, we believe, as does orthodox Christianity, that the Holy Spirit is coequal, coeternal and coexistent with the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit operates in perfect harmony with the Father and Son.

In Genesis 1:2, we see that the Spirit is present at the creation of the world.

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says, ***“Go, therefore, and make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”*** One singular name – three persons.

The Holy Spirit is God – the third person of the trinity.

Second, the Holy Spirit is a Person, not a Force or Power.

In John 14:16 Jesus says, ***“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”*** (John 14:16-17a). Jesus spoke of Him as a Person not a Force. We see in scripture that the HS has a mind (Rom. 8:27). He has a will (1 Cor. 12:11). He has emotions (Eph. 4:30).

The Holy Spirit is a person, sent by the Father and Jesus as a Helper, Counselor, Comforter, Advocate, Teacher – to empower, to convict, to teach, and to lead the world into truth. And in his coming, He carries in him all the power and presence of God.

That’s who he is.

### **Now why we need him.**

Jesus said, ***“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.”*** (John 16:7)

Why is it that it’s for our good that Jesus goes, and the HS comes? Let’s go back to our quote from Major Ian Thomas, ***“To be forgiven adds absolutely nothing to your spiritual capacity to be a different kind of person.”***

Write this down: **The Holy Spirit in us is, alone, what empowers us to live like Jesus.**

You ever get frustrated trying to live the Christian life? Trying to be good enough? Trying not to sin? Trying not to let your emotions get the better of you? Trying to love your neighbor like God commands? Trying to keep your heart in the right place? Trying not to burn out? Trying to care about all the things he cares about? Trying to be a good witness? Trying to breakthrough tough situations? Hard hearts? Closed doors? Trying to find peace? Comfort? Strength? Relief? Life? Joy?

Do I need to go on? You ever get sick of trying? Good. God's transforming you through the renewing of your mind about this truth: **We cannot live like Christ in our own strength.** That's not in your ability. God is bringing you to the end of yourself. He's showing you the need for dependence on the Holy Spirit in your life.

I often use this illustration because it is such a useful picture for us. It's the 4 cups representing our heart's longings: the need for love, the need for acceptance, the need for worth, the need for security. Our problem is that, because of sin, our cups have hole in them. And because of the holes, we are never able to fill our cups. Even if we succeed in a moment, the truth is that that cup doesn't remain full for long. My dad, telling me he loves me at age 8 doesn't help me today. An atta boy on a sermon I preached in May doesn't help me in November. And we are left constantly striving to fill our cups again.

I love this quote by C.S. Lewis, **"I didn't come to God to be happy. I knew a bottle of wine could do that."**

Why do we need the Holy Spirit? Because he is the source of living water. The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is like taking the holey cups of our hearts, setting them underneath the faucet and turning the water on full blast. The only way we find our filling is by attaching ourselves to an unending source.

Look at the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control. These are the fruits of the Spirit. Question: As Christians do we have the Spirit? Yes. If we have the Spirit, God has already given us the fruits of the Spirit as well. I believe with all my heart that this verse is taught wrong. These are not attributes that God wishes to grow in us. These are attributes he has already made available to us. We often pray for God to give us more joy, or to make us more loving, or to give us more peace, or to increase our patience level. But here's the truth, God can't give us more of something he's already fully made available to us.

Eph. 1:3, **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."**

Paul says to the Philippians, **"Rejoice in the Lord always! Let your gentleness be evident. Don't be anxious...the peace of God will guard your hearts."** He doesn't pray for them to have more fruit. He encourages them to lay hold of what God has already given to them!

One more, one of my favorite verses in all of scripture because it's so potently applicable to us.

**Is. 26:3, "You KEEP him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts you."**

Don't pray that God makes you more loving, pray that in circumstance that you need to show love that God would enable his love in you. Don't pray for more self-control, when self-control is needed pray that God would enable his self-control in you.

The key is keeping yourself under the spicket, instead of striving to fill our own cups. **"I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."** Every day, in every moment, in every circumstance God has made his fullness available to us through the Holy Spirit. Are we depending on him to fill our cups?

And the truth this morning is that some of you, your cup is bone dry. You know you are lacking in love, acceptance, worth, security. You know that there are holes in your cup. Your efforts to fill your cups aren't working. Hear me: you need to come under the spicket.

I love this quote by C.S. Lewis, **"God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself."** (Mere Christianity). I could have a perfectly good vacuum cleaner, the best vacuum cleaner in the world, sitting in my living room - unplugged. And as long as it remains unplugged, it can never accomplish any of what it was created for. But if I plug it in, that electricity empowers it to function as it was designed. That's the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let the God who created you, who knows every hair on your head, who sees you in your striving, who loves you with an understand deeper than we could ever imagine, and who died so that you could live - fill you and establish you in his power. The Holy Spirit points us to Christ, reveals Christ, reminds us of Christ, and shines the spotlight on Christ.

Because it's only in Christ that we can be filled by Him and find our fullness - fully loved, fully accepted, fully valued, fully secure.

Would you trust Christ for your salvation, and allow God's Holy Spirit to fill you this morning?

The rest of us may be already Christians, but perhaps you haven't fully understood the role of the HS in your life. Maybe we do ok with dependence in some things, but struggle in trusting him with others. We are lacking love, or joy, peace in our life. We struggle with anger, lust, self-control. We never quite live in the victory we feel should be available to us.

**Question: Why when we come to Christ are we not given cups without holes? Cups that don't leak anymore? Answer: dependence.**

Listen: God keep us with holey cups to teach us to be dependent. The point is that we with our holey cups are meant to go under the source. We are not flawed because there are holes in our cups. God could have taken care of that easy. The holes are kept there by God to keep us coming back to the source. Relationship. Dependence.

Over the past year and a half, the Lord has brought me on a journey that has profoundly shown me the deficiency of my own striving. I am only moved to a place of freedom, victory, I am only filled, as I stay under the spicket.

That's why we get so revived when we come back from a retreat, or hear a really good sermon. Our cups have been splashed with a little bit of that Living Water.

But listen: **my sermon was never meant to soak you for the entire week. Retreats aren't meant to fill you for another year.** It is pride that says, "See! My cups are full."

I've been through enough retreats, enough sermons to know that, by Monday, that cup is running dry. If that's the case, you're getting splashed, but you're not in the water. Jesus says, **"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."** (John 14:18).

Do we understand that God has come to us in the Holy Spirit? In closing, I'd like us to look outward to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. Because God is at work in the world, and he calls us as a church to join him as co-laborers in that work. But to join him in that work often costs us something. It might even make one of the holes in our cup bigger. So we ask him, "Well, are you going to turn the spicket up?" He says, "No, I want you to trust me." "Well, does that mean you are going to backfill it? If I'm sacrificially generous, if I give \$100 does that mean you'll give me \$200?" God says, "My grace is sufficient for you." You say, "But I'm going to lose something!" "My grace is SUFFICIENT for you."

But too often we are the spiritual multi-millionaires content to live in poverty because we don't understand or depend on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives or in the work of God's kingdom.

Jesus tells us, "Apart from me you can do nothing." God calls us to engage the world fully dependent on Him. A spiritual work cannot be accomplished by human effort, but only in connection with spiritual power and spiritual authority of a God who is able to do exceedingly more than what we could ask or imagine.

That's why here at PCC we have as a Core Value: **Holy Spirit Dependence.**

**Because we value the power of the Holy Spirit to renew people, and to equip us for co-laboring with Christ. This is a spiritual work, and we acknowledge that we are powerless to act without full dependence on Him - being directed by the scriptures, prayer, and personal revelation. Therefore, we desire this activation of the Spirit by seeking and listening to Him on both personal and corporate levels, and by acknowledging and exercising the unique spiritual giftings with which He has equipped each of us for service (Eph 2:10, Eph 4:11-12, 1 Peter 2:9, Matt 10:1, John 15:4-5).**

**Amen.**