

The Holy Spirit, what do you know about Him? When was the last time you thought about Him? How is it that we do not think of Him much? We spend much time talking about the Father and the Son, but seldom concentrate much on the Holy Spirit. I believe we can agree that to neglect talking about the doctrine of the Father would be a terrible thing. And I also believe that we can agree that if we neglect talking about the doctrine of the Son Jesus Christ, it would be a terrible thing too. So, what about the Spirit and the doctrine of Him? English Puritan Richard Baxter states, "As you could not have been reasonable creatures if the Father had not created you, nor have had any access to God if the Son had not redeemed you, so neither can you have a part in Christ, or be saved, except the Holy Spirit do sanctify you." Little seems to be said of the Spirit, so I would like to spend a little time exacting, pursuing, and making much of the Spirit today.

He is not obscure in the Scriptures. We see Him mentioned in Genesis 1, the first book of the Bible in the 2nd verse, and all the way thru the Bible to the last chapter in Revelation, in Rev.22:17. He is mentioned close to 300 times in the New Testament, and 18 times in the great 8, Romans 8. The Bible is so chock full of texts about the Spirit, that we could spend the whole 45 minutes today just reading the texts. We want to seriously consider what we know about the work of the Blessed Spirit. I think today is an appropriate Sunday to talk of the Spirit, on this Palm Sunday, as Jesus has much to say of the Spirit just hours ahead of His impending death on the cross.

3 things to accomplish today.

- 1.) Who is the Spirit, and what has He done, and what is He like?
- 2.) How was it that the Spirit of God was introduced to us in the Word of God, primarily in John's gospel?
- 3.) 3 ways of application to what we will learn for both those with and without the Spirit.

There is an utmost importance in the work of the Holy Spirit in Holy Scripture. There is so much to declare, we will but scratch the surface. But He is due the glory and importance as being equal with the Father and the Son. He is a person of the Godhead, mentioned many times right along side the Father and the Son. He is not an inanimate object but a person. Jesus continually refers to the Spirit in the gospel of John 14, 15, and 16. He, the Spirit is not an it, not a thing. He is also eternal, not having an end or beginning, Heb.9:14, "How much more will the blood of Christ, who thru the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish. English Puritan Thomas Goodwin says, "The work He does for us, in it's kind, is as great as those of the Father or the Son. Therefore by the equity of all law, a proportionate honor is due to Him."

He has quite a resume:

Luke 3:22, Came at Jesus's baptism in a bodily form like a dove.

Acts 13:2, He sent forth the first preachers to the gentiles.

Rev.2:7, He spoke to the churches.

Rom.8:26, He intercedes in prayer for us.

1Cor.2:10, He searches all things, teaches all things,

John 16:13, He guides us into all truth.

John 14:16, He is another Helper, distinct from the Father and the Son.

Eph.4:30, He has affections, as He can be grieved.

Rom.8:27, He has a mind, 1Cor.12:11, He has a will.

Mark 3:29, Whoever blasphemes Him is in danger of eternal damnation.

Ambrose, an early church Father said, "Two and two making four, does not appear more clear and conclusive, than that the Holy Spirit is a living Divine Agent, working with consciousness, will, and power. If people will not be persuaded by these testimonies from the Scriptures, neither would they be persuaded though one rose from the dead."

So, what do you think of the incarnation of Christ? Luke 1:35, To Mary, the angel says the Holy Spirit will come upon you.

So what do you think of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ? Heb.9:14, He offered Himself without blemish to God through the Eternal Spirit.

So what do you think of the resurrection of Christ? 1Peter 3:18, Having put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.

So what do you think of the Scripture, who's responsible for it? 2Peter 1:21, Men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. J.C. Ryle said, "Be very jealous about the real work and office of the 3rd person of the Trinity. Test the spirits to see if they are of God."

The Spirit is our teacher, sanctifier, and guide. In John 14:26, He will be our teacher, He will be our instructor to be able to understand the Scriptures.

The Spirit is our sanctifier, Rom.15:16, Sanctified by the Holy Spirit, it is the carrying on to perfection the work begun in regeneration. It is becoming Holy, as God is Holy. Let's take a moment on that one, the work of regeneration is ascribed to the Holy Spirit. It does not originate with man, but with God. The Word literally means new birth, in Titus 3:5, The washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit." It denotes that a change of heart, elsewhere spoken of as passing from death to life, (1John 3:14), becoming a new creature in Christ, (2Cor.5:17), being born again, (John 3:5), a renewal of mind, (Rom.12:2), a resurrection from the dead, (Eph.2:5).

The Spirit is our guide. Jesus states in John 16:13, that the Holy Spirit will guide you into all the truth. A guide is one who has great knowledge of something, this guide is the Holy Spirit, He knows the truth, He will reveal the very truths of God to men. No man knows the things of God, except the Spirit of God. (1Cor.2:10,12)

Charles Hodges said, "The works of the Spirit are the works of God. He fashioned the world, He regenerated the soul, to be born of the Spirit is to be born of God. He is the source of all knowledge, the giver of inspiration, the teacher, the guide, the sanctifier, the comforter of the Church in all ages. He fashions our bodies, He formed the body of Christ, as a fit habitation for the fullness of the Godhead, and He is to quicken our mortal bodies, (Rom.8:11)

The Spirit's special office, that which He executes is to convict and convince the world of sin, to reveal Christ, regenerate the soul, and lead men to faith and repentance and to personally dwell in them. It begins with comprehension, man must understand the Bible, for he does not as 1Cor.2:14, the natural man does not accept the things of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." Where the Holy Spirit is at work in man, understanding naturally follows. Then conviction will follow. Man will begin to

see what God desires and what He does not, what pleases God and what does not, and what glorifies God and what does not. Man is not constrained by the law any longer, but he is constrained by the Spirit. Comprehension, conviction, and then commitment. The Spirit will help him to get to his desired haven, and that is into the presence of God, where there will be fullness of joy and pleasures forever more.

Have you ever thought why He is called the Holy Spirit? The Father is called Father, the Son is called Son, though both are holy, but why is He called the Holy Spirit? D. Martyn Lloyd Jones says, "He is described like that because He is Holy. But that cannot be the true explanation because the purpose of a name is to differentiate someone from others, but God the Father is Holy, and God the Son is equally holy. Surely the explanation is that it is His special work to produce holiness and order in all that He does in the application of Christ's work of salvation. His objective is to produce holiness, to make us a holy people, holy as the children of God."

As a believer, you could say as the fiery pillar led Israel thru the wilderness, so the Spirit of truth will lead us thru our entire journey ahead. Both the Father and the Son send the Spirit. There is a perfect unity in the Godhead, perfect unity between them, perfect love coming from them. Jesus will send the Spirit it is said in John 16:17, and the Father will send the Spirit as it is noted in John 14:26. Oh, let us not forget as the saints of God our not giving the rightful glory that is indeed due to the third person of the Trinity. He is as indispensable to us, as is the Father and the Son.

Let's look at part 2, an introduction to the Spirit by the Son of God in John 14.

In John 13-16 Jesus is giving many instructions and warnings as His leaving of the disciples' time grows closer. They are nervous to say the least. Picture yourself there as one of them. The One who has meant, and done, and shown them so many things is going to leave them. The New Testament has not been written yet, Jesus has not died yet, He has not been raised yet, He has not ascended yet. In John 14:1, and 27, Jesus says, do not let your heart be troubled. Only He can say this. You see, I cannot say this to you, I have no power to take care of all your concerns, and how to see you thru them all, but Jesus does. In this upper room discourse, Jesus speaks confidently to them, though they are anything but. In a few hours from now, Jesus will undergo an excruciating execution, undergo a horrifying crucifixion, undergo a rigorous humiliation, undergo a first time separation with the Father, undergo a wrathful condemnation from the Father, and thru the imputation of them, the sins of the elect, He will bear in His body on the tree. He knows the disciples will not understand all that is going to happen, but His compassionate, patient, caring words will give them all the hope, confidence, and perseverance they need.

In John 14:15, Jesus says, If you love Me you will keep My commandments. The love for Him will be a response to His beauty, greatness, and glory He possesses. Keeping the commandments is not the same as loving Him. A true Christian loves and obeys. Love is the motive and obedience is the action. 1John 2:3 says, By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. In John 14:31, Jesus says, So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded. Obedience is a result of love. Loving Him is a desire for Him, for He is infinitely desirable, loving Him as our treasure, for He is infinitely valuable, loving Him to be satisfied, for He is infinitely satisfying. And to obey Him, what would that look like? In the gospel of John, we see it, 1:12, receive Me, 1:43, follow Me, 14:1, believe in God, 15:4, abide in Me. These words Jesus shares with the disciples are simple words from

chapter 13-16, but oh to comprehend all these things that the Trinity is involved in, we wade into some pretty deep waters. But let's try, the rivers will not sweep over us.

Verse 16, AND, key word, it must be there, not in NASB, don't let me down now NASB, but that word is in the Greek text, and is important to the continuing text, in that verse 15 is a conditional promise. So it is "And, I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever. So, if we keep His commandments, He will ask. Back in verse 13, if we ask, He will do. So, watch this in verse 13 and 16. If we ask, He does. If we do, He asks. His action is the answer to our prayers, and His prayers are the answer to our obedient action. The Word ASK here is unique to Jesus. Martha uses it in relation to Jesus in John 11, "I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." G Campbell Morgan states, "That word conveys the idea of asking as a beggar, as a pauper, and that is how men always pray. The Word translated pray in some translations, ask in others, is a special one, never used about prayer except in the gospel of John, and always in that gospel concerning the prayers of Jesus. This reveals the fact that the prayers of Christ differed from those of other persons. The Word suggests not the petition of someone that asks for something as a favor, but the petition of One who is on a perfect equality with the person to whom it is presented." And remember, God never says no to God.

Then, the Father will give you another Helper. So the Father will send the Helper, and in John 15:26, it states that Jesus will also send this Helper. Helper---- only John uses this word, 5 times, and is in 1John 2:1, where it refers to Jesus as an Advocate. One who is called to one's aid in a judicial cause, a pleaser or intercessor. G Campbell Morgan notes it also suggests, the Word is Paraclete, and also suggests the thought of an active friendship. He will come, not to plead with God for men--- that is the work of Jesus, but to plead with men for God to intercede with men for God, to intercede with men for Christ, and to win, by His intercession, the whole territory of man's being for the dominance of the living Lord, whom He represents."

Para, means alongside, like parallel, klitos means to call somebody alongside. Called alongside for anything you need, anything you need. An intercessor, Advocate, comforter, encourager, teacher, one to warn, a wiser one, a more powerful one, a more knowledgeable one. No one that in any way is lesser than you.

In the Greek, there are 2 words for the Word another. One is another person, another place, another time. Nothing in the Word tells you anything. In the Greek, the Word "heteros", means another, but it means another of a different kind. Example, Gal.1 if anyone preaches another Jesus, let him be accursed. So, it is another of a different kind. Though here, the Greek word for another is allos, it means another of the exact kind. It says, I will give you Allos Paraklitos. I will send you another exactly like I am, so that you will have the same kind of Helper like the Helper I am. This brings us great comfort, for we are truly comforted by God himself.

Alexander Maclaren says, "He is a person, not merely a vague influence, but a Divine Person who will be by our sides on condition of our faith, love, and obedience, to be our strength in all weakness, our peace in all trouble, our wisdom in all darkness, our guide in every perplexity, our comforter and cherisher, our Righteousness when sin is strong, the Victor over our temptations, and the companion and sweetener of our solitude."

And to end verse 16, Jesus says that this Helper will be with us forever. He will be a permanent companion, these 3 years with the disciples were coming to a quick close, but this

Guest as the same kind, will be with them forever. And this Helper will come based on our love and keeping His commandments and His asking the Father.

So what would the result of that look like in our lives? Romans 8:9, "However, you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God, dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, He does not belong to Him."

The flesh is everything in the world--- minus God. No desire, no taste, no longing for God, just living for the things of the world, flesh, and the devil. Being a natural man, for the natural man does not accept the things of God, they are foolishness to Him, nor does he understand them, for they are spiritually discerned. But for the believer, one who the Spirit dwells in, are in the Spirit, meaning you prefer the things of God, you are swayed in your mind to the things of God. You are controlled by the words of God and constrained by the Spirit of God.

These are a delight to the soul, for you thirst for them, you are hungry for them, they are a portion that will always be enough for you, a taste that will always be sweet enough for you, a desire for God, that He is all you need in heaven, Who is in you, and you desire nothing of earthly value.

To finish, I would like to do some practical, spiritual application.

- 1) Learn to love the Spirit more.
- 2) How not to grieve the Spirit.
- 3) What is meant by being sealed by the Spirit.

Learning to love the Spirit more. For He has done a mighty work, a work only He could do. Born once physically, you had not the power to do, born again spiritually, you had not the power to do either. For that which is born of the flesh is flesh, that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. John continues on in chapter 6:63 to add to what was just said in chapter 3, it is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh profits nothing. My friends, love the Spirit whom the world can not receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. But you know Him because He abides with you and is in you. Remember the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. The 8th chapter of Romans has so many promises for you to be thankful that the Spirit accomplishes for you, particularly verses 11,13,14, and 16.

C.H.Spurgeon said, "Was it not the Holy Spirit who guided you to Jesus? Do you remember the love of the Spirit, when after having quickened you, He took you aside and showed you Jesus on the tree? Who was it that opened our blind eye, to see a dying Savior? Who was it that opened your deaf ear, to hear the voice of pardoning love? Who opened your clasped and palsied hand to receive the tokens of a Saviors grace? Who was it that broke your hard heart and made a way for the Savior to enter and live in it? Oh, it was that precious Spirit, that very same Spirit, to whom you had done so much despite, whom in the days of your flesh you had resisted? What a mercy it was that He did not say, 'I will swear in My wrath that they shall not enter into My rest, for they have vexed Me, and I will take My everlasting flight from them.'"

Secondly, do not grieve the Spirit. What might that look like? Those only who can grieve Him, are only those who are indwelt by Him. Born of the Spirit, born from above, born again believers, Eph.4:30, Paul gives us the command, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit." The Word literally means to cause sorrow, to make sad. It is a real challenge to think of a member of the Trinity of being sad or sorrowful, but remember, this word is what the Spirit Himself caused Paul to write down and record for us. G. Campbell Morgan says, "Whenever He (Spirit) is thwarted,

Whenever He is disobeyed, Whenever He gives some new revelation of the Christ that brings no response, He is grieved. The heart of God is sad when, by the disobedience of His children, His purpose of grace in them is hindered." Remember where we started. If you love Me, you will what? Keep My commandments. If our hearts run after sin, He knows what sorrows will be brought to our souls. Keep your heart with all diligence, for from it flow all the issues of life.

Finally, needing to love the Spirit, and desiring not to grieve the Spirit, let us look at the encouraging jewel put forth by God in we being sealed by the Spirit. Oh, what hope, and confidence, and peace, and security will this bring us if we know it? What a massive outcropping of rock we can hang our salvation and union with God on!

Eph.1:13, In Him, you also, after listening to the message of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise."

3 ways that word sealed is used in the New Testament:

A) Math.27:66, the tomb of Jesus was secured by sealing it.

Rev.20:3, God throws Satan into a pit and sealed it.

So sealing here is locking something up or closing it in you could say.

B) Rom.4:11, Abraham's circumcision was a sign and seal of the righteousness and the faith he had.

1Cor.9:2, Paul says his converts are the seal of His apostleship.

So sealing here is a giving of a sign of authenticity.

C) Rev.7:3, Where the seal of God is put on the forehead of God's servants to protect them from the wrath that will come upon the world. All these meanings are a part of our being sealed with the Holy Spirit.

John Piper says," It is a message of safety and security in God's love and power. God sends the Holy Spirit as a preserving seal to lock in our faith, as an authenticating seal to validate our sonship and as a protecting seal to keep out destructive forces. The point is that God wants us to feel secure and safe in His love and power."

Close with, What think ye of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit? They are altogether beautiful! Altogether lovely, altogether wonderful. Without them, we can do nothing!

