

“God – The Holy Spirit”

John 14:16

Introduction

- Tonight we continue our series we have entitled “ground work – laying a foundation for faith.”
 - The reason we are doing this is it is so important that every one of us are able to give a reason for the things we believe.

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” – I Peter 3:15

- We are supposed to understand what we believe and as the verse above states, we are to consider, ‘why’ we believe it.
 - Why do we hold the convictions that we do?

We looked first at God – His Existence...

- So often we are told that smart people believe in things like evolution and weak-minded people believe in God.
 - But as we saw there are some great reasons to believe that something out there exists greater than you.

Next we look at God – His Word

- If we are going to study theology, the study of God, then we need to have some logical reasons we believe He exists and we need have a reliable source to learn about Him.
 - And although there are 27 books considered ‘religious’ in our world, all teaching different things about god – only one is backed up with consistency of scripture, archeological evidence, fulfilled prophecy, external sources, and scientific facts.

Then we considered that God is the Trinity

- He is one God, but One God that exists in three persons.
 - God the Father.
 - God the Son.
 - God the Holy Spirit.

Then we considered God the Father.

- And we looked at His attributes or as we called them His perfections because He does not just love, but He is everything love is and nothing that love is not.
 - We see this in His perfections, also in His names that He chooses to be called, and they reveal so much of who God is to us.

Last week we considered God the Son.

- That He did not begin with Matthew 1 and Luke 2 but He has always existed in eternity past with God the Father. He was involved in creation as seen in the Old Testament with the title so often used, “The Angel of the Lord.”
 - But as the NT opens God the Son took on flesh and lived among us – still fully God, but now fully man.
 - And He did this to be able to be a sympathetic High priest, being tempted in all areas that we are, except without sin. He did it to reveal what God was like to man, and most importantly that He came to die for our sins.
 - He died on the Cross of Calvary and He arose three days later – and we looked at how you can defend that to people, and give a reason for the things you believe – you can get those studies online.

Today we move on to consider the final part of the Trinity and that is God the Holy Spirit.

I want to read to you a quote by A.W. Tozer, a great Bible scholar of the last century, he said, speaking about the Holy Spirit and the church today...

“In most Christian churches the Spirit is entirely overlooked. Whether He is present or absent makes no real difference to anyone. Brief reference is made to Him in the Doxology and the Benediction, further than that, He might as well not exist. So completely do we ignore Him that it is only by courtesy that we can be called Trinitarian. The idea of the Spirit held by the average church member is so vague as to be nearly non-existent, and this has resulted in a distortion of Christian doctrine and an impoverishment of Christian life and work” – A. W. Tozer

- We want a true and clear picture of the Holy Spirit, so we need to understand who the Holy Spirit is and how He is supposed to work in our lives.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

His Person

- And what I want to examine this morning is His person (who He is, who He is not) and His purpose (What the Holy Spirit does).
 - Lets start by clearing up some things about what He is, and what He is not.

The Holy Spirit is not an “it”

- We can sometimes speak this way.
 - “Oh I love the Holy Spirit” – I want more of it in my life” – that is a wrong understanding.

The Holy Spirit is not a force, or a special power.

When I was a youth pastor I was doing discipleship with a young man one day and during that time the new Star Wars Movies were coming out, the kid said to me, I love how Stars Wars is just like Christianity. This I have to hear, I see a lot of Eastern Mysticism in there – how is it just like Christianity? Well this young man said, you know how the Jedi learn to use the force and it enables them to do cool stuff. We learn how to use the Holy Spirit for cool stuff in our lives. It’s like the force.

- No its not...

The Holy Spirit is not a force, or a special power.

- He is not a scary power that invades your body and takes over your mouth and actions.
 - No, no, no

He is as much a person, as you and I are.

- For example many, many times in scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as “He.”
 - And as you look at scripture you will see that He has many characteristics you would only find in a person, not a force.

Character traits of the Holy Spirit.

He shows intelligence – I Cor. 2:10-11

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.” – I Corinthians 2:10-11

He shows feeling, He can be grieved – Eph 4:30

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” – Ephesians 4:30

He has a will – I Cor. 12:11

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” – I Corinthians 12:11

He can be lied to – Acts 5:3

“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit” – Acts 5:3

Now these are not things that a force or an it does.

- It is the actions and the attributes of a person, a being.
 - But understand the Holy Spirit is more than a person.

The Holy Spirit is God.

- **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.” – John 14:16**

Understand the context of the situation - Jesus says as He is going away – the disciples are all bummed – “what are we going to do?”

- Jesus says relax “I am going to send you another helper.”
 - **The word “another” there means another of the same kind**

This is understood in English– **I went out to dinner a few nights ago with my wife; she had these wonderful garlic mash potatoes and asked if I wanted a bite. Sure I do and so I did. Then I wanted another. When I said I wanted another I didn’t mean another type of garlic starch, no, I wanted another of the same kind.** – That is the idea of the word.

The Holy Spirit was another just like Jesus – He was, He is God. He is part of the Trinity.

- The scriptures declare that to be so.
 - Paul writing to the Corinthians in 2nd Corinthians ends his letter by saying, **“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen” – 2 Corinthians 13:14**

- Paul gives the Holy Spirit the same place as Jesus, God the Son, and God the Father.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

His Purpose - The Ministries of the Holy Spirit

#1 – He convicts the world of sin.

- Telling you don’t do that, don’t go there.
 - Get right with God – give your life to Christ.
 - People call it the angel on their shoulder, but He is far more than that.

#2 – He seals us for the day of redemption.

- Paul tells us in the Ephesians 1 that the Holy Spirit is the seal of your inheritance - You are becoming more and more like Him - That is the Spirit saying this is real and more is on the way.

#3 – He leads us into all truth.

- In John 14, Jesus tells us another purpose of the Holy Spirit is to lead us into all truth - Bible study doesn’t have to be boring – you can and should ask the Lord to speak to you through His word.
 - What does this mean and how does it apply to my life?

#4 – He empowers us for life and ministry.

- He makes us into the men and women we need to be.
 - He supplies the power to do so.
 - And that is why Jesus said to His disciples, before you do ministry, go to Jerusalem and wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - How does that happen?

For more of a definition we need to go to Ephesians 5:18 – read it

When you look at the verb phrase “be filled” is interesting and continues to give us insight into exactly what Paul meant and what the Baptism of the Spirit really is, how the Spirit changes us.

- **“Be filled” is a plural verb in the present, passive imperative tense.**
 - In my limited knowledge of Greek and Greek verb structure, let me try to explain to you what that is teaching us.

#1 – It is imperative – meaning it is a command.

- Paul is not saying this might be a good idea to be filled with the Spirit; he is commanding this to be a reality in the lives of those who claim the name of Christ.

Many of you met Phil McKay the pastor in Costa Rica, he use to be my assistant pastor, and also coached the football team. I will never forget the day I brought a kid late to practice. We get out of the car and He is yelling at this kid, then made him run. I pulled Phil aside and said, "I made him late, go easy". Then you run. At first I thought he was kidding, then I realized he was not – it was a command. – What Paul is saying is the same, its not a suggestion, its a command.

Understand this – Paul is serious.

- Neither He nor the Lord is angry like Phil McKay was – "you will be filled by the Spirit!!!!"
 - But He is sharing with you what you need to do and take seriously.
 - We can take this as a great suggestion, good idea.
- It is not – it is imperative to your Christian walk, it is imperative to your marriage, to your raising of kids, to being able to obey your parents...
 - You must be filled with the Spirit.
 - It is a command.

#2 – Not only is it imperative, but secondly it is plural – meaning this applies to everyone.

- Paul is not giving a command to only those in leadership.
 - This is not just for the select few.
 - It is God's heart for every Christian to be filled with the Spirit.
- Some of us have a problem with rules, like they don't apply to us.
 - It's like my wife at Disneyland with the Buzz lightyear float.
- Again we can fall into this apathy that these truths are good for pastors, or when I'm on the mission field, but a Spirit filled believer is for other people.
 - But if you have that attitude toward these things, the enemy is fooling you.

(People)_____ - it is God's heart that you are filled with the Spirit – every one of us!

- It is imperative – a command.
 - It is plural – it is a command to everyone.

#3 – In the passive, present tense – meaning it is a continual need to come to Him for...

- Being filled with the Spirit and Baptized with the Spirit is not something you do once and then your done.

It is something you need to keep doing.

- **This phrase "be filled" could be translated, "being filled" – it is something we continually do.**
 - There are those times, those meetings when someone says, "Do you want to be filled with the Spirit" – and you stand up, and you sense something or maybe not.
 - I have time every morning when I pray – God I need less of me, more of you – fill me to overflowing with your Spirit.
 - I need to be a different man.
 - I need your heart for the people around me.
 - Fill me, baptize me – I need everything you have for me.

I thought I had all of the Spirit I needed at conversion?

- You did – then why do I need to be filled and baptized with the Spirit?

To understand you need to understand, Jesus spoke of there being three distinct relationships that the Holy Spirit would have with man. For each of them there is a Greek preposition in Scripture –

The first two come from John 14:17

“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

- Jesus teaching on the Holy Spirit says that He dwells “with” you and will be “in” you.

And there we have the first two prepositions that teach us the Holy Spirit's relationship with man today, after the cross.

The first preposition is “with” or the Greek word – “para”

- **It means along side.**

- Now this is true of all people in the entire world. The Holy Spirit is with them as well as along side them.

- He is fulfilling His ministry to them.

- Convicting them, trying to influence them.
- You attend a Christmas play or Easter and something inside says I need to do something about my spiritual life.
- That is the “para” relationship of the Holy Spirit.
- He is with, “para”, every single one of us.
- Now that is not true of the next relationship the Holy Spirit can have with man after the cross.

The second preposition is “in” or the Greek word – “en”

- **And that word means “in”**

- You see at the moment of Salvation the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts.

- And that word “in” doesn't just mean in the room – like you are in here – because there will come a time when we will kick you out and you will leave.

- This “in” was spoken of in the context of when they put you in a coffin.

- You are not going anywhere.

- And when the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your hearts He is there to stay.

But there is one more preposition in the New Testament that deals with the Holy Spirit's relationship to man and it is found Acts 1:8.

“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.” – Acts 1:8

The third preposition is the word “upon” or in Greek “epi” –

- **And it has as its meaning the idea of overflowing you, controlling, baptizing, shaping and molding, making you into another man or women.**

Like Peter, like John and James, the Spirit makes us different men and women.

- It is why the idea of being filled with the Spirit is paired with becoming drunk in Ephesians 5:18.

- It is not that Paul is trying to get everything in as he ends his sermon.

- He is comparing the two.

- That just as alcohol abuse can turn you into a different person for the worse, so the Spirit can turn you into a different man or a different women for the better.

We think of being filled like Thanksgiving dinner.

- Luke 4 uses the same term to show that when Jesus was telling the Pharisees He was the Messiah of not just the Jews, but also of the Gentiles, they were filled with wrath.

- And it turned these religious leaders into murders.

- So being filled with the Spirit can turn haters and people who are bitter and lustful and lazy into men and women of God.

- So it is of the upmost importance that we are filled with the Spirit, not quenching the Spirit – because we can quench the Spirit of God in our lives!

We can quench the Holy Spirit.

“Do not quench the Spirit.” – I Thessalonians 5:19

- The Holy Spirit has been given to lead us, to empower us for life and ministry.
 - But we can quench His very fire in our lives.
 - Often times the Holy Spirit is compared to fire –

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” – Matthew 3:11

- And I find that comparison helpful for the same way the Holy Spirit is quenched in our lives is the same way a fire is quenched in our physical lives.

Fire can be quenched for basically two reasons. The first being:

- **#1 - the introduction of foreign materials, such as water or baking soda or using a fire extinguisher.**
 - Fire is not designed to operate under these conditions.

When I was in High school I belonged to the elite group known as the campfire brothers. We were real men because we could build a fire using only what we found in the forest and of course matches but we brought this one guy along who didn't know what He was doing at all. He got large pieces of wood and tried holding a match to them – no good. He tried smaller sticks, no good. Pine needles man, it's cold – he did it, success and then it began to rain – no good!!!

- Water was introduced but water and fire don't mix.
 - And so too when we allow the things of the world to mix with our lives.
 - Maybe there is something there that needs to be repented of.

Some things are obvious and some aren't.

- Hebrews Chapter 12 talks about laying down the sins and the weights that so easily ensnare us and hinder our walk.
 - Sins are obvious – you are on drugs – addicted to pornography - cheating on your wife – don't wonder why you're not walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Hello – McFly – there is sin and that sin needs to go – today.
- But sometimes what is hindering us – what outside agent we are dealing with is not so obvious.

It can be a weight like fear.

- You are not willing to trust God with your life, not totally.
 - It can be something like comparison.
 - You are always comparing yourself to other people – why do they have that and I don't – I want that.
 - That can be a weight.
 - And it can quench the work that God wants to do.

Fire can be quenched for the second reason.

- **#2 - Lack of fuel**
 - Fire needs fuel to burn and when there is none the fire goes out.

I watch my grandpa make many of fires as a kid. Newspaper was the key. So one day when he wasn't around I jammed the fire place full of newspapers and then lit a match. I had a fire all right for about a minute. It burned bright and then nothing. Why – lack of fuel.

So it is with our walk with the Lord. God has given us fuel, things that recharge us in our walks and more specifically things that the Holy Spirit uses to empower us in our lives.

- Things like His Word.
 - David said “I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” – Psalm 119:11

- The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God in our lives.
- Things like prayer and fasting.

So what can we do instead of resisting, grieving and quenching the Spirit that there might be fruit in our lives????

Turn with me to one more passage this morning – Romans chapter 8:5-9

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.” – Romans 8:5-9

- Paul tells us that you will be walking, led filled with the Spirit of God if He dwells in you.
 - Now you might say – well there it is.
 - You have already told us that the minute a person gives their life to Christ the Holy Spirit comes in them - That is true.

But you see a close examination of the word Paul uses here, “dwell” means – “to be at home with.”

- Paul is literally saying, “When the Spirit is at home in your heart.”

And remember don’t misunderstand me – Paul is not saying you are saved if the Spirit is in a home that has nothing to do with you.

- But as far as you walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, not quenching or grieving the Spirit – this is so important.

The Spirit must be at home.

- You ever go and stay over at friends or relatives and you just don’t feel at home.

I had this friend when I was in High school, great guy loved him to death – but I hated going to his house. His dog was allowed to go to the bathroom in certain areas of the house, and the smell oh man. – My friends couch pulled out into a bed and it had this bar right in the middle I never slept well. Loved the guy, hated staying in his house.

And I wonder how the Holy Spirit feels about residing in me?????

- Oh this right, it’s wonderful, this is the way it should be.
 - Or – “love the guy, but I’m not a home here.”

Friends this will not happen if we are resisting, constantly grieving, and quenching the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- But if we follow verse 5 we are setting our minds on the things of the Spirit.
 - Giving Him fuel.
 - Not quenching Him with things that should be in our lives.
 - Praying daily – God fill me a new and fresh with your spirit, led me, guide, empower me to serve you, obey you, learn of you.

When that is happening.

- The Spirit will not be resisted.
 - Or grieved or quenched.
- He will be followed.
 - He will be blessed.
 - And He will be on fire.

Again in the words of Tozer ... “and this leads to a distortion of Christian doctrine and an impoverishment of Christian life and work.” – A.W. Tozer