

Life in the Spirit Series Part 2 The Holy Spirit With Us and In Us

Tonight we are in part two of our series on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

A) Last week in our Introduction to this series our big idea was this: The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person who Helps us.

B) Focused on the 3 statements: The Holy Spirit is a Person - not a force

C) The Holy Spirit is Divine - He is the 3rd person of the triune Godhead

D) The Holy Spirit HELPS US.

Tonight in Part two we are going to begin to look at how the Holy Spirit helps us.

A) Once again I want to give you 3 statements about the Holy Spirit - to form our big idea for tonight

B) The Holy Spirit is AFTER US.

1) The Holy Spirit will be IN US.

2) The Holy Spirit SEALS US.

C) **BIG IDEA FOR TONIGHT: The Holy Spirit is a Divine person who is after us to bring us to Christ, comes in Us when we embrace Jesus, and who seals us for the day of Redemption.**

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—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. John 14:16,17

The Holy Spirit is After us. - John 14:15

A) Jesus said the Holy Spirit is with you - Do you realize the Holy Spirit was with you before you got saved?

B) The Holy Spirit was with you before you got saved.

C) That's how you got saved, because the Holy Spirit was with you.

1) What do you mean, PR he was with me?

D) He was hanging around to make you feel really bad so that you would do something really good, 1) and that is come to Christ.

Before we came to Christ the Holy Spirit was pursuing us.

A) You might say He was chasing us.

B) The Holy Spirit has been called by some the Hound of Heaven.

1) Maybe you have heard a pastor use that term before. - The Hound of heaven?

It's a term that comes from a poem written in the 1800s by a man named Francis Thompson.

A) He wrote a poem called "The Hound of Heaven." - The poem is his testimony

B) Thompson had been a medical student. He dropped out of medical school,

1) he got addicted to opium, he was in deep depression, -he even tried to commit suicide.

C) In the Poem Thompson describes how he tried to get as far away from God as possible. -

1) But the Holy Spirit the Hound of heaven - pursued him and chased him to bring him to salvation.

D) In the poem - Thompson describes the Holy Spirit chasing him in this way.

"But with unhurrying chase, and unperturbed pace."

I am sure that some of you can relate to that. -

A) You were running from God and he just kept coming after you.

B) He was determined. He was unrelenting to chase me down and get a hold of your life.

C) That's the work of the Holy Spirit. He is with the unbeliever - Pursuing you to bring you to Jesus.

Turn to John 15:26 - Jesus gives us some further insight into how the Holy Spirit Chases after us. Jesus, said in John 15:26, "He," the Holy Spirit, "will testify of Me." Or another translation says, "He will tell you about Me." Or another translation, "He will speak plainly about Me."

A) That is, one of the works of the Holy Spirit is to open the heart of the unbeliever to salvation, to Christ Himself.

B) So it was God, the Holy Spirit, that awakened your need to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

C) That feeling you got, that thing that was happening inside of you before you said yes to Jesus, **that was the Holy Spirit all along,**
1) the Hound of Heaven chasing after you.

D) Jesus gives further insight to this process in John 16:7

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away," something I'm sure the disciples did not agree with when he said that. **"For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come,"** now watch this, **"when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and righteousness, and of judgment. Of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."**

Jesus said the first thing the Holy Spirit does is convict the world of sin.

A) So when the Holy Spirit is with you, you're running, He's walking right after you. He's chasing you,

B) And every time He gets close to you, you start feeling weird about you.

1) You start getting convicted about your own sin.

C) He convinces you that you're a sinner. That's the idea of this.

1) He will convince people in the world that they're sinners.

See Before anyone can ever figure out that they need a Savior, they have to realize that they are a sinner.

A) Unless you realize, you are in bad shape, you'll never look for a Savior.

B) As long as a person thinks: I'm good enough, I'm religious enough, I'm holy enough,

1) they will never look for help.

C) Jesus said only those who are sick need a doctor and you have to admit that you're a sinner.

1) So it's the Holy Spirit's job to convict the world of sin.

That is one of the things that we need to be praying for in relation to our unsaved friends and family.

A) That they would experience a conviction of sin -

Aa) like praying Holy Spirit hound of heaven - sic em in Jesus name.

B) Listen it is not your Job to convict them of sin - it is the Holy Spirit's Job to do that - REPEAT.

C) In Fact Whenever Christians try to be the convicts, it doesn't come out as convicting.

1) It comes out as condemnation.

Like 13 year-old Elizabeth who was congratulated because she sold, 11,200 boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

A) One girl, Elizabeth, 11,200 boxes.

B) She was on the news and people said, how did you do it? You know what she said?

1) She said, you got to look people in the eye and make them feel guilty.

C) That's what happens when we do it. We lay trips on people that make them feel guilty and condemned.

1) Don't try and play Holy Spirit with kids, spouse

D) See When you leave it to the Holy Spirit, HE drives a person down to the place where

1) they see their deep need of a Savior and they desire forgiveness.

Remember in our study in the book of Acts chapter 2 we saw Peter preach that sermon on the day of Pentecost- 3000 got saved.

A) It says that as he was preaching - the people listening were cut to the heart

B) That is the convicting of the Holy Spirit. He convicts people of SIN

C) NOTE one more thing here: Sin is singular - not plural -

1) It doesn't say the Holy Spirit will convict people of sins, but of sin.

D)It's not like He's going to come along and say, that was wrong, that was bad.

1)It's not like He's going to convict people of individual sins like stealing or lying or speeding.

E)Definitely not speeding right? Who is ever convicted of speeding? Until the red lights come on.

1)**My story - Keep up the good work!!!**

The Holy Spirit doesn't convict us of individual sins - your conscience does that.

A)God has given us a conscience - our conscience convicts us of individual sins

B)If we ignore our conscience it becomes hardened –

1)and the more we resist the conviction of our conscience it becomes seared

C)Burned - nerve endings lose all feeling - seared = past feeling

D)So God has placed in each of us a conscience that convicts us of individual sins -

1)of right and wrong - really

But the Holy Spirit is convicting us of one particular sin - and that is unbelief

A)Notice again what Jesus said: He will convict the world of sin - "Because they believe not on Me."

B)The Holy Spirit convicts people that their unbelief is a sin and they want to do something about that sin of unbelief.

C)It is interesting that many people do not consider unbelief as a sin - they see it as a mark of intelligence.

1)Well, I'm just so smart. I'm just so intelligent. That's why I don't believe.

D)I'm just smarter than all you silly Christians.

1)**I don't have a crutch like you have.**

Jesus said its sin.

A)In fact, it's the worst sin of all, because it's the sin of unbelief that prevents people from being forgiven for every other sin.

B)So the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, "because they believe not on Me."

C)Now let me just say a word to you.

1)If you are closely related to an unbeliever, you're married to an unbeliever,

D)you have an unbeliever living in your house, you're around an unbeliever a lot.

1)If that's true, you make sure you get special prayer before you go home tonight.

E)And I mean that seriously. Let us bear that burden with you.

Because one of the hardest things to do in life

A)Is to share the same space with an unbeliever under the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

B)See when a person is convicted of their sin, but they haven't surrendered yet to Christ,

1)they are miserable to hang with.

C)They'll say the meanest things. They'll do the harshest things.

D)A person under the conviction of the Holy Spirit can be a tyrant, can be hostile.

1)Conviction is a good thing, but if you're living around somebody who has it, it can be a hard thing.

E)So please let those in your group pray for you tonight.

So the Holy Spirit is with you chasing after you to convict you of your need for Jesus.

A)But notice what else Jesus said the Holy Spirit is convicting us of before we are saved.

B)V.10 Jesus said He'll convict the world of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and you see Me no more."

C)So The Holy Spirit convicts people of righteousness.

What does that mean? He convinces people that they are not good enough in their own righteousness.

A)They're not good enough in their own good deeds, religious works, righteous behavior, isn't good enough.

B)When Jesus was on earth he was the standard of Righteousness - he was the perfect man

C)But now that he is gone - the world has created their own standard of righteousness

1)And you know what it is, typically?

D)It's typically this. I'm not perfect, but I'm not as bad as some.

1)I am not perfect but I am better than that guy.

E)So if they were to map out righteousness, it would sort of look like a thermometer or a gauge.

At the very bottom would be like the worse possible person in solitary confinement

A)for doing the most heinous crimes ever in the world.

B)So that's the bottom tier, all the bad criminals.

C)Then you go up a little bit, up to 20 degrees or 20% or 40%, you get a little bit better people,

D)It's always fun when they say that, say where are you on that scale?

1)Just point to a number. Just curious.

Now at the top of the scale it is perfection. - All of us know that we are not perfect

A)But at least I am not on the bottom of that scale - in fact - I think I am in the top 75% - I'm ok

B)But do you know what the Bible says about our righteousness? It's like Filthy rags before God.

C)The Holy Spirit is the one who convinces a person that their righteousness,

1)whatever they measure that by, isn't good enough.

D)They fall short of God's standard

One day Jesus blew the minds of the people he was talking to when he said this: Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the most religious people you can think of, scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of God.

A)In the minds of the people the religious leaders were the gold standard of righteousness

B)Jesus was said: They are not righteous enough

C)In our study in Acts - looking at the Life of Paul - who before he came to Christ - was a Pharisee -

1)He described himself as a Pharisee of the Pharisees - serious about - I lived according to the law - blameless

D)Nothing - outwardly anyone could accuse me of.

Anyone who knew Paul would say: He was a righteous Dude.

A)But Paul would say - although I looked good on the outside -

B)But on the inside I was struggling with Jealousy and Covetousness

C)The Holy Spirit was convicting Paul of his lack of being righteous

D)Paul would later write that he came to know -

1)There is a righteousness that is apart from the law - comes through faith in Jesus

I could never make myself righteous -

A)But the blood of Jesus does for me what I could not do for myself

B)So the Holy Spirit is with us prior to coming to Christ - convicting us of our sin of unbelief

1)Convicting us that we are not righteous enough

C)And one for thing: He is convicting us of Judgment - because the ruler of this world is judged.

That is What the Holy Spirit does, with an unbeliever,

A)He shows them, not only are they a sinner and that Jesus has perfect righteousness for them,

B)But if they push his righteousness away and say I don't want to receive Christ, I don't need Christ,

C)the further conviction is that there is a judgment that is coming

1)and they are standing right in judgment's path.

And Jesus says that is proved by what happened to the ruler of this world.

A)When Jesus died on the cross, and Rose again

Satan's fate, his doom, was sealed. It was set.

B)So The Holy Spirit is convicting people of the reality - There is a Judgment that is coming –

C)It is appointed unto man once to die - after that is the Judgment -

1)WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY SON?

D)No neutral ground - For me or you are against me

E)So it is a good thing when someone is worried about Judgment - worried about - Hell

1)The reason I came to Christ - I was so afraid of going to hell!

So that is the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives -before we are saved.

A)He is pursuing us and seeking to draw us to Jesus.

B)Once we stop running and surrender - and embrace Jesus -

1)the Holy Spirit then comes **inside of us.**

C)Jesus said to his Disciples in John 14 He shall be in you. - Happens at Salvation

D)The Spirit of God comes to live in your heart
1)Water bottle analogy

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson.

E)Sins forgiven - forgotten - New creation - declared righteous – AMAZING

We will talk more in our next two studies about what the Holy Spirit is doing inside of you-

A)conforming us to Christ - producing - fruit

B)But I want to finish with one thought tonight

C)When the Holy Spirit comes inside of you - You are sealed with the Holy Spirit

D)Ephesians 1:13,14

Paul then declares: **¹³In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were**

sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Tonight note – 4 things concerning what it means to be sealed with the Holy Spirit

#1 A Finished transaction: Even today when legal documents are processed they are stamped with a seal to signify completion

A)You are sealed - signifying - it is finished - salvation is complete there is no need to add to it!

#2 The Seal: The Mark Of Ownership

A)This analogy was easily understood by the believers in Ephesus.

B)In that particular time in history, the city of Ephesus was one of the major sea ports of Asia.

1)Merchandise would come through Ephesus from everywhere in the world.

C)Once the merchandise was packed for shipping they would **SEAL** them by putting a wax seal on the container containing the merchandise

1)Then they would put an imprint of their signet ring upon the wax.

D)This was their **mark of ownership**. The goods would be placed on the ship and sent off

E)When they would arrive the servants of these merchants would go to the docks

1)And **identify** their masters goods by means of their **SEAL**

The Holy Spirit is God's Seal upon our lives to prove His ownership.

A)You see, Jesus **purchased** you from the slave market.

B)You were once a slave to sin and in the bondage of corruption, but now you belong to Him.

#3 THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE

A)God has promised to His children a rich inheritance.

Eph. 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.
Romans 8:16-17

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

B) Living trust or a Will - gets notarized - this is a genuine legal document

C) The Seal of the Holy Spirit is the notarized mark on our lives that we are the legitimate recipients of the inheritance

#4 Seal speaks of authentic:

A) The wax seal on a letter was like a signature or - personal letter head -

B) King's seal- Authentic {Could be broken or opened}

B) The presence of the spirit in a believer's life proves His faith is genuine!

1) The presence of the spirit will result in fruit! (2 wks

Nobody can be indwelt by the Spirit of God and keep that Spirit to himself. Where the Spirit is, he flows forth. And where there is no flowing forth, he is not there. Will Temple

C) But let's take this idea of the physical seal one step further – when the signet ring was pressed into the wax – left an impression – picture

D) So The seal transferred an IMAGE upon the wax.

Point for us - The Holy Spirit stamps upon the hearts of God's purchased possession the very image of God.

A) He leaves the stamp of His character upon our hearts and lives.

B) NOTE: THAT is PROOF of redemption. God's mark of ownership is the expression of Jesus Christ in our lives.

C) Our lives marked by a Christlike Character seen in all seasons.

So we have learned tonight - the Holy Spirit is with us - pursuing after us prior to salvation

A) Once we surrender to Jesus - He comes to live inside of us - Indwell us

B) And we are Sealed with the Holy Spirit - indicating we belong to God - One