

Life in the Spirit Series Part 3 The Holy Spirit's Work in Conforming Us to Christ - John 16:12-15

Intro: Tonight we are in part 3 of our life in the Spirit series -

A) Focus tonight - How the HS works in conforming us into the image of Jesus

B) Have you ever seen an ad that read something like this *Wanted a partner with capital to develop a new promising Business*?

C) What is basically being said is that the startup who placed the ad has a concept for the business 1) but is hampered by a lack of funds to make it work - make it become a reality - **so they need a PARTNER**

C) In a similar way in the Christian life - it doesn't take long before we realize - 1) we are severely lacking to be and do what Jesus has called us to be and do

D) We need a partner

O Sanders The Business of living a truly Christian life is too exacting in its requirements, too lofty in its ideals, for us to engage in it alone - **We need a partner** “

What we need is a partner with the adequate resources to get the job done

A) We have seen in our study thus far how Jesus told his disciples - **I am leaving - but not leaving you orphans - alone**

B) Not leaving you to fend for yourselves - I am going to send you a Helper - 1) one called alongside to help you - My Spirit

C) Living inside your life - Living in you and through you.

Consider what Jesus said about the HS in John 16

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will

glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:12-15

In these verses Jesus is telling us three things about the Holy Spirit's work in our lives

A) 1st he has a **GUIDING MINISTRY** V.13 **Guide you into all truth**

B) **Guide = to lead in the way** - this speaks of more than just the Knowledge of that which is true

C) speaks of the application of that Knowledge - **How to put the truth into practice & action**

2nd He has a Glorifying Ministry.

A) The Job & purpose of the HS is to Point to Christ and to Glorify or to Magnify Christ -

B) His Ministry is not to point people to Him / make him the focal point

1) He is seeking to make **MUCH OF JESUS**

3rd He has a Declaring Ministry.

A) **He will tell you of things to come** -

B) Our eyes are opened to understand what the Bible declares about Future Prophetic events

C) The Book of Revelation this summer - Not that hard to understand

1) Divine outline 1:19

It is this 2nd aspect his glorifying ministry that I want us to consider tonight

A) The Bible tells us that in the Beginning - Man was made in the image of God

B) But when Man rebelled against God and sinned - **THE IMAGE WAS MARRED - BROKEN**

C) Jesus came to Redeem us - to restore that which was broken in our relationship with God.

When a person turns from Sin and turns to Jesus - the Holy Spirit comes inside of them

A) Begins this work - of Conforming us - Restoring us back into the **IMAGE** of JESUS.

B) News Flash for some of you the goal of the Holy Spirit is not to make you into a better version of yourself

C) He is seeking to conform you into the Image of Jesus - Make you more like Jesus - Romans 8:29

D) Paul put it this way in Ephesians 4:13 that we would grow in our faith and the knowledge of God's Son, so that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete stature of Christ.

Later on in that same Chapter Paul says that the Church is the body of Christ - Jesus in the head.

A) What the Holy Spirit is seeking to do is to help us grow into our head who is Christ.

B) Ever see a kid who's head is too big for his/her body.

C) My Son was that way when he was a toddler - Giant head - big brain - how does he hold that up?

D) Eventually - His body grew into his head

The Holy Spirit is working in us to grow us into our Head Jesus

A) Help us fit into him and resemble him.

B) That we might grow unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

C) This work that the Holy Spirit is doing in an INTERNAL WORK

1) Something he is doing on the inside - it is a heart work - that reveals itself in our actions and attitudes

D) This is the work of the New Covenant

See the Old Covenant was based on outward performance -

A) God said if you can follow my statutes and laws - then I will bless you

B) Then I will do great things for you and in you and through you.

C) But the problem was - Man could not consistently follow and keep the Old Covenant - **We failed**

E) But the Lord would later reveal through the Apostle Paul that was the whole purpose of the Old Covenant

1) To show us we couldn't do it - Reveal our need for a Savior

But God promised through the Saving work of Jesus he would establish a new Covenant -

A) Described it this way. - Jeremiah 31:31

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. **OC We failed**

³³ But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put **My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." - Jeremiah 31:31-34

B) Then God spoke again about the NC this time through the prophet Ezekiel

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. Ezekiel 36:26-27

So the Holy Spirit is doing this work inside of us.

A) As we get into the Word of God - He is etching the truths of God's word on our hearts

B) The Holy Spirit starts to change us on the inside - affects the way that we live on the outside.

C) Priorities start to change - behavior starts to change -

D) People who used to cuss like a sailor - Vocab changes - without even trying

What is happening to us - The Holy Spirit is infusing us with the heart of Jesus - the mind of Christ -

A) Love of Christ

B) Paul put it this way in Romans 5:5 - **The Love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit**

C) Our lives become overwhelmed by the Love of God -

D) The Love of God through the Holy Spirit is affecting our hearts

1) Changing our hearts

E) Then that Love that has been poured into us - starts to be poured out of us

My Point is the Holy Spirit is doing this work inside of us - seeking to conform us into the image of Jesus

A) But we have a part to place in this conforming work

B) Our part is to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings - convictions

C) Two verses to describe how this happens

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

A) Present your self to God daily as a living sacrifice - I exist to bring you glory

B) The Apostle James described it this way: James 4:7-10 -

⁷ Therefore submit to God. **that is the starting place - that is being a living sacrifice** Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **There is no power to resist the devil without being submitted to God**

C) Paul the apostle talked about in Galatians 5 -

1) **Walk in the spirit** - choosing to respond to the spirit - not fulfill the cravings of the spirit

D) The Flesh and the Spirit are at war - with each other - the flesh desires the old things

1) The Spirit the things of God

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you ⁸ Draw near to God and **He will**

draw near to you..... ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James is picturing what Paul is talking about there in Romans 12 - Presenting yourself to God as a living Sacrifice.

A) Submitting to God - Humbling yourself before God

B) All of that opens you up for the Holy Spirit transforming work in your life

C) Paul said in Romans 8:13 It is through the Spirit that we put to death the deeds of the flesh.

D) But then Paul gives us a further insight - how the Holy Spirit transforms us -

1) he does it in conjunction with the word of God

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

But it is not just getting into the word for the sake of Bible information.

A) Paul shares another insight into how transformation happens

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We ARE BEING TRANSFORMED

A) In other words there is a transformation that occurs in our lives as we study the word of God -

B) But not just Studying / but seeing Jesus

C) In John 5:39 Jesus Chides the religious leaders saying

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

C) They searched the Scriptures { Knew the Scriptures but failed to understand that they were pointing to Jesus

1) Jesus declared Heb 10:7 *In the Volume of the book it is written of me*

D) This really is the Goal & key to Bible study – When we get into the Word to see Jesus in it

In the beginning, John wrote, John 1:1 ‘was the Word. V.14 **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,**’

A) Listen It’s the Incarnation —

B) the Word becoming flesh, becoming personable, touchable, and relatable — **that will transform you.**

C) If you approach the Word strictly from an intellectual, academic, theological perspective,

1) you might gain a good point or two, but you’ll not be changed.

D) If you merely read the scriptures to get insights into theology - or practical tips on parenting

1) Or tips for relationships - **transformation will not take place,**

E) For transformation occurs only when we study the Word not for the sake of the Word,

1) but in order to touch the Lord.- See Jesus

I Worked at a Hotel Restaurant every morning – Husband & wife Paper / interruption – Typical scene

A) Because the man is interested in the impartation of information, not the intimacy of communication/

B) Wife is craving intimacy – Man Info

C) I suggest the same thing happens all too often in the devotional life of believers.

1) They read the information in the Word,

D) but completely neglect communication with JESUS the Word made flesh.

1) SEE HIM - TALK TO HIM - COMMUNE with HIM

Those who say, ‘Lord, I’m reading this for one purpose:

A) To know your heart /to hear Your voice’ are those who leave their time of devotion transformed

Now Paul gives us insight here in v.18 into how it Happens – He likens the Word to being like a Mirror beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,

A) A Mirror reflects what it sees – The Reflection that we see in the Word is Jesus

B) He is the one it is Pointing to His Glory we behold

C) John declared *The word became Flesh – we beheld is Glory ... of the Father Full of Grace & Truth*

So here is what Happens when we look into the Word –

A) it is like standing side by side w/ a Friend looking into a Mirror

B) We stand there w/ Jesus { See ourselves in light of Him !!!

1) But often We see how unlike Jesus we Are !!!

C) There that the HS is revealing to us why we need to Present ourselves to God as a Living Sacrifice

1) It is thru that work of Surrender that we open the Door for the HS to Transform us /

D) To Mold & Shape us / And to Empower us to Live

E) And so we are no longer being Molded by the Mindset of the World –

1) but we are being Molded – thru the work of the Holy Spirit to be more like the Lord

In Mark 3 - man with the withered hand - Stretch forth your hand -

A) Principle: God’s commandments are God’s enablements

B) That is what we discover - when the Holy Spirit is pointing out something in us that needs to change

C) And we respond by humbling ourselves and submitting to that prompting -

D) the Holy Spirit meets us with the power to carry out that task