

The Person of the Holy Spirit

[recap]

Pneumatological Statement (AKA: A statement regarding the study of the Holy Spirit):

- As part of the eternally existing Godhead, the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He convicts the world of its sin; He regenerates sinners; and we are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs into the family of God, by the Holy Spirit.
- He indwells, illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers believers to follow Christ, to live on mission in the world, and to serve the body of Christ.
- When we experience "The Presence of God" we are experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- When we experience super natural power, calling, anointing, gifts, or leading, it is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Without the Holy Spirit, there is no Godhead, no Church, and no fruitful or abundant life.

Recap: Purpose of the Holy Spirit Series:

- To better understand and acknowledge the person and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- To become more dependent on the Holy Spirit in our lives
- To be more attuned and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- To experience more of His presence in our lives
- And as a result of the above, that we will to bear more fruit of the Spirit; begin to see Jesus more clearly; and begin to see the Father more glorified in our lives than ever before

[pray]

We are going to be talking about the Person of the Holy Spirit. WHO he is. I think when thinking of the Holy Spirit, I can tend to think of him as a force or power used to glorify God in some sort of way.

I tend to look at him through the lens of WHAT he DOES and not WHO he IS... And we can do this with people as well, right? We do this with each other. What is one of the first questions we ask one another when we are getting acquainted? "What do you *do*?"

When we reduce people to their function, it is harder for us to get to know them - the real them. If somebody is an accountant, and we look at them just for their line of work, we miss the passions, desires, likes/dislikes, and dreams that make up who they are.

And so it is with the Holy Spirit. There is a person behind the miracles, comforting, leading, and gifts that he bestows upon us. **In fact, much of what he does comes from who he is.**

Yet it can be harder to understand the real person of The Holy Spirit. And his title doesn't make it too easy on us. WHAT IS SPIRIT? In the NKJ Version it's HOLY GHOST. These words denote an immaterial and ethereal being - hard for us to reach our hands out and grab it.

For Father and Son there are at least these titles we can ascribe relationship to. For better or worse we have a picture in our head of a father, and we can relate to the work of Jesus as King and Lord because there are easier narratives to follow in the gospels.

When we think of Spirit, what may come to mind is immaterialism or impersonal. But that is not what the biblical words are getting at.

First let's look at the word **Holy**:

- The word Holy in scripture is a spacial word. It is meant to describe someone or something that is at a distance because of its importance. Set apart from the rest.
- 'otherness'
- For God, this describes a moral distance.

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies;
his glory fills the whole earth.

4 The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 Then I said:

Woe is me for I am ruined
because I am a man of unclean lips
and live among a people of unclean lips,
and because my eyes have seen the King,
the Lord of Armies.

For God to be Holy means that he is HIGH and LIFTED UP. His glory causes Isaiah to discover this sinfulness in himself. There is a distance to contrast his Holiness with our brokenness.

"God's holiness is the searing purity of His eternal infinite being." -Ferguson

To ascribe The Spirit with the word HOLY in front of him denotes the same searing, pure, high and exalted attributes of God. He IS God.

Yet this is God in his entirety. So what makes the Holy Spirit unique from other members of the trinity? What is SPIRIT?

The Spirit in the Bible is **RUACH** in Hebrew and **PNEUMA** in Greek. These are **onomatopoeic words** like: *sizzle, bang, boom, pow, zap, etc.*

Ruach and Pneuma are specifically used to signify the expulsion of breath. The Spirit, when referencing God, is described as Power and Life-Giving Energy.

The point of the Spirit is not 'immateriality' but rather the presence of energy and activity of God.

There is nothing more present than breath. It is a moment-by-moment function that is necessary for life, movement, and interaction. We think of the Spirit in this same way - necessary for life, moving, and sustaining us in the present.

Yet breathe is still not a person. The Holy Spirit is. He is not merely energy or a force. He is not an IT but a WHO.

If we think of the Holy Spirit as an IT, we run the risk of treating him like at IT. How do we treat objects? We use them. We manipulate them for our goals.

I use a hammer to achieve my desired goal - whether that goal is to build something or destroy.

Michael Horton in Rediscovering the Holy Spirit says this, "As the Lord, the Holy Spirit shares identically the same essence as the Father and the Son. The Spirit is not subject to becoming but is fully complete in himself, independent of the world, immutable, omniscient, and omnipotent. Because he is Lord in precisely this way, he is free to involve himself in the most intimate way with creation on the basis of love rather than lack, generosity rather than need." - Michael Horton in Rediscovering the Holy Spirit

The idea of Ruach Qodesh is not simply energy from God, but rather God extending himself in active engagement with His creation in a personal way.

The breath of God denotes a closeness and intimacy. **The Holy Spirit is God present.**

Romans 5:5 - And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

This is a holy extension of Himself to us for the purpose of closeness.

When Jesus was risen from the dead he went to his disciples and did this in **John 20:21-22**
21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." 22
After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God intimately engaged in those who are his... He is the manifest presence of God... He God close and near.

Jesus says in **John 16:1-7**: **"I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. 2 They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 They will do these things because they haven't known the Father or me. 4 But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you will remember I told them to you. I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you.**

Jesus says, **"Listen! Hard times are coming. You will be persecuted. You will feel alone. You will stumble, sin, and be treated unfairly. And I won't be physically present to walk through this with you. And that may seem scary but I promise it is good! Because I am sending you the Counselor."**

Oh my friends, that is the Holy Spirit. Guiding, comforting, loving, and counseling us. He is present. He is near. Walking before us and with us in all things.

He is the treasured presence of God. Comforter, Counselor, Advocate.

When the struggles of life seem most present, the presence of The Holy Spirit is most known.

There is a nearness to who he is that we see here in scripture...

... Wherever **the Spirit of the Lord** is, there is **freedom**. (2 Cor 3:17, NLT)

... the mind set on the Spirit is **life** and **peace**. (Romans 8:6, NASB)

... You will overflow with **confident hope through** the power of **the Holy Spirit**. (Rom 15:13^b, NLT)

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of **goodness** and **peace** and **joy in the Holy Spirit**. (Rom 14:17, NLT)

... The **Holy Spirit gave you full assurance** that what we said was true... So you received the message **with joy from the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 1:5-6, NLT)**

... You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba, Father" **(Romans 8:15, NASB)**

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in **the comfort of the Holy Spirit**, it continued to increase. **(Acts 9:31, NASB)**

Freedom, hope, goodness, peace, joy, full assurance, comfort, & life. These are all words that describe the **person** of The Holy Spirit. **There is a sweetness to him and his presence.**

He is the holy, active, loving and comforting guide of our lives. Living and breathing alongside us, in us, and through us.

These attributes of him like counselor, advocate, and comforter reveal the sweetness of his personality.

- He is the counselor because he is wise and discerning.
- He is the advocate because he is passionate about connectivity.
- He is the comforter because he is love.

What he does in our lives flows from who he is...

Another aspect of who somebody is, is who they love. It is very hard to understand who I am as a person unless you first understand who I love in my life and who loves me.

The loving relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit reveal the passions of the Holy Spirit

1. He loves Jesus (Luke 4:1-2)

- And is passionate about him being glorified.
- This tells us he is humble and Christ-centered.

2. He loves The Father (Romans 5:5)

- and his glory being manifest.
- This tells us he is pure and undefiled.

3. He loves us (Romans 8)

- , and our hearts being restored to God
- He is active and compassionate in us and towards us.

And because he loves Jesus, and because he loves the Father, and because he loves us, he brings us into the loving relationship between them all.

The Holy Spirit is the connector between our hearts and God's. (Cf. Romans 8)

Psalm 139:1-7

- 1 You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?**

So who is the Holy Spirit? He is the one who knows you. He is the one who is near. So near, that David said "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

He is the active pursuer of your heart, and the guide of your life. He is God near. David understood, there is no running from him, nor would he want to. Because there is a sweetness to knowing God, and being known by God. And that active dance and feeling of nearness is of The Holy Spirit.

He is the orchestrator of knowing you, and of you knowing God.

"Besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:25-26)

And as we know more of him, we want more of him.