

## Spirit In Us – 05.31.09

**Introduction** - The name of the game these days is staying connected. We use email, instant messages, Facebook, Twitter to stay connected to one another. Why? Because connections are so important to relationships. This is nothing new. God had in mind for us to be connected right from the very beginning.

For the last 2,000 years, God has provided His Holy Spirit so that each one of us could remain connected to God. Over the next 3 weeks, we're going to learn all we can about the Holy Spirit and about His remarkable connection. Today we're going to talk about the Holy Spirit and us. Next week, on Trinity Sunday, we'll consider the Holy Spirit and God. And then, in two weeks on June 14th, we'll consider the Holy Spirit and me.

- **Transition: Today is Pentecost Sunday. Eight weeks after Easter, as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples of Jesus in the upper room. As Jillian has read Acts 2 for us, this was an exciting time. It still is today! What is the significance of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Jesus tells us in John 15 and 16.**

### BEARS WITNESS

#### I. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ About Jesus.

**“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”  
John 15:26**

We talked about this last week. We won't repeat it all again. Get a copy. But there are some things about this verse that we should know about that will help us with this entire series on Connected.

#### **The Name of the Holy Spirit.**

- Helper - ESV, GNT, ISV, NASB, NKJV
- Comforter - Darby, ASV, KJV, YLT
- Counselor - HCSB, NIV, RSV
- Advocate - NET, NLT, NRSV, TNIV
- Friend - The Message

**Why so many different English names?** Because there is not a single word that directly translates. Sometimes languages are like that. So each English translation does its best to give one word, but the reality is that they all hit around this untranslatable Greek word.

*παράκλητος*, basic meaning *one called alongside to help*; 5x in NT

- (1) as a legal technical term, as one who appears in another's behalf advocate, defender, intercessor (1J 2.1);
- (2) as one who gives protection, help, and security helper, comforter, counselor (JN 14.16)

#### **Connection between Jesus and Holy Spirit:**

- “another Paraclete” John 14:16 - referring to the Holy Spirit...
- Jesus is the first Paraclete - 1 John 2:1 **“... we have a Paraclete with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”**

Here the ascended Lord is viewed as a *Paraclete in the court of heaven*, pleading the cause of his own; the Holy Spirit is then understood as the *Paraclete from heaven*, supporting and representing us in the face of a hostile world.

## One way of “bearing witness” - reminding us of Jesus’ teaching

We learned last week of the many ways that the Holy Spirit testified to us about Jesus. But one way we did not consider was the role of the Holy Spirit in reminding us of Jesus’ teaching. We are to obey Jesus commandments, but how do we do this if we don’t remember them? Jesus told his disciples:

**“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26**

One of the important tools that the Holy Spirit uses to do this is the Bible. The Holy Spirit and the Bible are linked together in a powerful combination for the benefit of the Christ follower.

**“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”  
2 Peter 1:21**

**“All Scripture breathed out by God.” 2 Timothy 3:16a**

God the Holy Spirit was instrumental in the writing of the Scriptures and is instrumental in teaching you the practice of what the Scriptures instruct. *Imagine having God as your instructor!* Then, when you are going about your daily lives, interacting with the world around you, the Holy Spirit will remind you of what you have learned and help you to apply it.

**Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit does not ONLY bear witness to Christ followers, but that also...**

## II. The Holy Spirit **CONVICTS** the World.

**“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:7,8**

**Convict...** ἐλέγχω to convict, expose, convince, rebuke. Certainly one application that we can make about this immediately is that it is not the Christ-followers duty or job to convict the world. This is exclusively the realm of the Holy Spirit. ... **CONVICTS in 3 ways:**

---> Concerning **SIN**

**“concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;” John 16:9**

Consider how remarkable it is that people come to faith in Christ. They must first come to the point of repentance. And what is repentance but a turning away from sin? And how is it that people are convinced of their own sin to begin with? What is that internal sense of conscience that tells someone of their wrong-doing? It is the Holy Spirit. Consider what mercy this is that God provides His Holy Spirit as a check against the unmitigated cancer of evil!

---> Concerning **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**“concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;” John 16:10**

Again this is remarkable, because righteousness is not the Christ-follower’s exclusive knowledge. People know the right, even though they may be powerless to accomplish it. Like Paul, people discover...

**“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” Romans 7:15**

There is great insight here that people are *convicted* not only by their sin, but also by their inward compass of doing good - the good they were created to accomplish. People do not need the physical Jesus to preach to them about what is right to do, about what the right motivation is... the Holy Spirit convicts concerning righteousness.

---> Concerning **JUDGMENT**

**“concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” John 16:9**

Not only do people have a sense of their sin and their righteousness, but they also have a sense that their actions will be judged. This judgment leads them to the conclusion that something is not quite right in this world. They have a sense of fairness that they judge others by, and yet they cannot stand up to this same judgment themselves.

**This fact that the Holy Spirit convicts the world is actually one of the strongest arguments in the very existence of God!**

**C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*:** “Whenever you find a man who says he does not believe in a real Right and Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later. He may break his promise to you, but if you try breaking one to him he will be complaining, ‘It’s not fair!... I am only trying to call attention to a fact; the fact that this year, or this month, or, more likely, this very day, we have failed to practice ourselves the kind of behavior we expect from other people.’”

**N. T. Wright, *Simply Christian*:** “How does it happen that, on the one hand, we all share not just a sense that there is such a thing as justice, but a passion for it, a deep longing that things should be put to rights, a sense of out-of-jointness that goes on nagging and gnawing and sometimes screaming at us - and yet, on the other hand, after millennia of human struggle and searching and love and longing and hatred and hope and fussing and philosophizing, we still can’t seem to get much closer to it than people did in the most ancient societies we can discover?”

**So it is the Holy Spirit who bears witness to Jesus Christ, it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world, and thirdly ....**

## GUIDES

### III. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ Us Into All Truth.

**“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13**

What is truth? This is perhaps the central focal point of philosophy for today's post-modern thinker. Many today believe that truth is different for different people, that there is not an absolute truth.

The Christian, though, not only believes in an absolute truth, even more importantly *the Christ-follower believes in an absolute truth teller*. It is interesting that the Holy Spirit here acts as the ultimate connection for us. Notice that He...

- **does not speak on His own authority.** What should this say to us about speaking on OUR own authority? There is a battle for the truth going on today. And there are times when we must speak the truth - in love and grace, without accusation. Because the battle is not ours to wage, it is God's. There is a humility expressed here about God, the Holy Spirit, not only connected to God, but God Himself... and yet *He does not speak on His own authority*. He speaks the teaching of Jesus. And what did Jesus do? Taught us what the Father had in mind. Oh may we have the same humility!
- **whatever He hears He speaks.** What is our response? Remember the old E.F. Hutton commercial? “When E.F. Hutton speaks, people listen.” This should be the cry of our hearts. When the Holy Spirit hears and speaks, we should listen!
- **declares to us the things that are to come.** Some misunderstand thinking that the Holy Spirit will predict to us our future. Certainly, for God this is possible. But “the things that are to come,” are in the time of the disciples, not us. This means that as we live out the future, one day at a time, the Holy Spirit will be with us, *declaring to us what is happening*. With the Holy Spirit by our side, we need not worry about any “spin doctors.” For the Holy Spirit *guides us into all truth*.

This “guiding” also has the sense of “leading.” Jesus asked, “Can a blind man *lead* a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?” (Luke 6:39) This is the same word used here. When it comes to the truth of what is happening, we are “blind” compared to God. However, He does not allow us to fall into the pit of half-truths and fairy tales of our enemy's invention. He *guides us into all truth!*

**CONCLUSION:** Why invest these three weeks into understanding the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit is God, no less so than the Father or the Son. Jesus told us it was to our advantage he go so we might have the Spirit. The church in Acts really took off with the power of the Spirit of God helping them. Yet today many of us lead lives of defeat and weakness because (a) we don't know about the Holy Spirit, or (b) we choose not to rely on the Holy Spirit.

**PRAY AND COMMUNION.**