

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 9/12/12 Wednesday evening
"Let the Wind Blow: A Doctrinal Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"

Overview of Series: Outline of Study of the Holy Spirit

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Who is He?
 - B. What is He like? (His attributes)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
 - 1. In Worship (Jn 4:23-24)
 - 2. In Unity (Eph 4)
 - 3. In mobilizing for outreach ("filling")
 - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
 - 1. In salvation (regeneration--John 3) (baptism--I Cor 12:13)
 - 2. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - 3. Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - 4. Sanctification (II Cor 3:18)
 - 5. Sets free from Habits (Eph 4-5)
 - C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World
 - 1. Convicting of sin (John 16)
 - 2. Restraining (II Thes 1)

Tonight: The Person of the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for "Spirit" is the word "ruach" which is also translated "wind." Hence, our new series, "Let the Wind Blow." We need the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

But first, who is the Holy Spirit? What is He like?

I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a "thing" or a "force."

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force. He is a person. He is the third person of the Triune God. He has existed throughout eternity in perfect fellowship with God the Father and God the Son.

Gen 1:2 "And the earth was w/o form...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Gen 1:26 "And God said, Let US make man in OUR image..."

As a Person, the Holy Spirit is also vitally involved in relationships with people. He indwells His people, as we'll see later. As a person, He can be grieved (Eph 4:30). He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).

Discuss: When praying some people refer to the Holy Spirit as "It." Such as: "Father, send the Spirit today and may we feel the power of *It's* presence." Is that appropriate?

B. The Holy Spirit is God.

Problem: Some have denied the Deity of the Holy Spirit. Arius, a presbyter of Alexandria in the 4th century, did. He taught that God is One Eternal Person, that He created Christ, who in turn created the Holy Spirit. Is that true? No. Though that teaching gained a stronghold in the church, it was countered by the Nicene Creed in AD 325.

Key: The Holy Spirit is God. How do we know?
He is called "God" in Acts 5:3-4.

1. His Attributes

The attributes ascribed generally to God in the Bible also reflect the character of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is...

- Holy (Eph 4:30)
- Eternal (Heb 9:14)
- Omniscient (I Cor 2:10)
- Loving (Rom 15:30)
- Good (Neh 9:20)

2. His Names

--Paraclete (Comforter, Counselor) = one called alongside

Jn 14:16-17 "And I will pray the Father...another Comforter..."

Greek Word = Paraclete = an advocate who takes up one's case; an ally fighting on one's side; someone who strengthens and encourages

The Holy Spirit is a Personal Agent. Jesus calls Him "Another" Paraclete. That is, Jesus was the first. The Spirit is the second. The Holy Spirit is just as much a Person as the Lord Jesus. The Spirit is the second. The Holy Spirit is just as much a Person as the Lord Jesus. In contrast with the Lord Jesus, Who was "limited" to a physical body during His incarnation, the Holy Spirit is omnipresent.

Q: Who is entitled to enjoy the ministry of the Holy Spirit? V 16 "You" = Disciples

Q: Who does not experience His ministry? V 17 "The world"

--The Earnest of our Inheritance

Key: We live between the two comings of Jesus Christ, the Age of the Spirit.

Eph 1:13-14 "ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit...who is the earnest of our..." (NIV says, "who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance")

II Cor 1:22 "Who hath also sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."
(also: II Cor 5:5)

He is the Earnest, the Downpayment, the Guarantee, the "Engagement Ring."
Successful Christian living demands we cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

Rom 5:5 says, "...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us." That means we must do the following...

Gal 5:16 "Walk in the Spirit..."

3. Emblems of the Holy Spirit in the Bible

Discuss: What emblems (pictures) are used to depict the Spirit in the Bible?

--Wind

Jn 3:8 "The wind blows where it will...so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

--Living Water

Jn 7:37-39 "He that believes on Me...out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit..."

What does the emblem of "living water" teach us about the Spirit?

Quote: Leon Morris (426) "This (living waters) stresses the outgoing nature of the Spirit-filled life. In contrast with the men of Qumran, there is nothing of the piety of the pond about Christianity."

Many religious groups are like the Dead Sea. Just as the Dead Sea receives the fresh water of the Jordan, but gives nothing out, so they take in blessings, but do not give out. They are ingrown. Eventually, they become lifeless, stagnant, and dead.

Such is the opposite of the true ministry of the Spirit.

--Dove

Discuss: Can you think of passages in the Bible where all 3 persons of the Trinity appear together? eg--Jesus' baptism (Mt 3:16-17)

C. Where is the Holy Spirit?

1. *He is everywhere (Ps 139:7-10).*

2. *He is in His Temple.*

Q: What and where is the Temple of the Spirit?

A: Two-part answer...

a. The Temple is the Church (I Cor 3:16)

I Cor 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit dwells in you."

Note: "You" is plural. The Spirit dwells in His people, the Church.

b. The Temple is individual believers (I Cor 6:19-20).

I Cor 6:19-20 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple...?"

Challenge: What are you doing with God's Temple?

Discuss: What are some ways we can...

Dishonor God's Temple?

--overeating? --abusing it with alcohol or nicotine or caffeine?

Honor God's Temple?

--Glorify God with our bodies (I Cor 6:120; 10:31)

Next Time: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Prayer Time