

The Holy Spirit: His Work in the Believer

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JOHN 15:26-16:15

Vol. 2 Num. 9

Core Competency:

Trinity- I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

From the time that Sarah, my elder daughter, started speaking, she was open, friendly, and gregarious. This created many situations where she would speak to strangers in the innocent and open way that children often do. My second daughter, on the other hand was a quiet observer. As a preschooler, she rarely spoke to strangers. After several years of silently watching her older sister introduce and converse with unfamiliar adults, my shy daughter finally spoke. We were waiting to check out at the grocery store. A kindly older woman in front of us turned and smiled. I watched in amazement as my reserved younger daughter broke her public silence. From the front seat of the grocery cart, she looked up into that woman's eyes, capturing her full attention. With a cautious smile, she pointed her chubby little finger at her sister and softly said, "Sarah".

This interaction is a striking reminder of what is said of the Holy Spirit in John 16:13-14.

"He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears...He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you."

Fredrick Bruner, in an essay on the Holy Spirit, describes something that he refers to as "the shyness of the Spirit". Bruner explains that in John we see the Spirit constantly drawing attention, not to himself, but to the Son. The Spirit comes from the Father, in the name of the Son, bears witness to the Son, and glorifies the Son. It is as if he is pointing his finger at the Son and saying, "Look at Him; listen to Him, learn from him, love, him, be pre-occupied with him.

This Week

This week as you study the passage thank God for the gift of the Spirit. Be silent. Allow the Spirit to whisper into your heart truths that find their full meaning in the person and the work of Jesus Christ.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully read the following, noting any significant details or terms emphasized in the passages.

Read John 15:26-16:15

26 “When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me.

27 You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

1 “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 may 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.

8 When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment:

9 About sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me;

11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.

14 He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you.

15 Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you..

②EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. a) In trying to understand the work of the Holy Spirit, it is helpful to look at his names. What names does Jesus use in this passage for the Holy Spirit and how does this help you to understand his role? (You may wish to use the dictionary).

b) “Parakletos” is the Greek word used here for the Holy Spirit. Look up this word in a Greek lexicon or by doing a Google search. How does this expand your understanding of the Holy Spirit’s role in the life of a believer?

2. List the verbs or verb phrases that Jesus uses to describe the actions of the Holy Spirit, and elaborate a little on each.

3. a) What are the conditions for the Counselor's coming?

b) Jesus actually states, "It is for your benefit that I go". To better understand what he meant by this radical statement, please look at the following scripture. Try to explain this. You may wish to use the following passages to help you.

- John 14:16-17

- John 14:26

- Matthew 4:1

- John 4:23

- Romans 8:26-27

- Galatians 5:22-23

- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

- Romans 8:13

4. a) Are there any conditions for believers benefitting from the indwelling Holy Spirit? (See Ephesians 4:29-32)

b) (Personal) Consider in what way or area you might be grieving the Holy Spirit? If appropriate confess this to the Lord.

5. a) What practical step might you take to be more attentive to the work of the Spirit in your life?

b) What steps might you as a congregation, a community group, a life group or a family take to be more receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

In one statement, write what God wants you to KNOW...

In one statement, write how God wants you to FEEL...

In one statement, write what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ