

February 13, 2011

## **Born Again Series - Discipleship**

### **John 14:25-28 – “Who is the Holy Spirit?”**

#### **INTRO...**

This morning...we are going to be looking at a very important subject in every Christian's life...

- ...we are going to be looking at the subject of...the person of the Holy Spirit...

Francis Chan...has written a great book...with a great title...

- ...*The Forgotten God...Reversing the Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit...*

**Q:** Why do you suppose that is?...There a couple of reasons that come to mind...

**ILLUST:** When I was a young boy...grew up with Baptist relatives...

- ...and the good old KJV of the bible...in which the Holy Spirit was referred to as...*The Holy Ghost...*
  - ...perhaps this is one of the reasons...He tends to be forgotten...

Another reason...is the crazy things that you hear Christians and churches do...in the name of the Holy Spirit...

- ...many of you have seen some of those things...people babbling in strange languages...
  - ...or jumping up and down...or some leader on stage breathing on people...waving at people...
    - ...and all of them falling down like a bunch of dominoes...

I love what A.W. Tozer...greatly respected bible teacher and author...said about the abuse and misuse of the Holy Spirit...

- *"...when I was a young fellow in Pennsylvania. To save the field of corn from the crows, we would shoot an old crow and hang him by his heels in the middle of the field. This was supposed to scare off all of the crows for miles around. The crows would hold a conference and say, "Look, there is a field of corn but don't go near it. I saw a dead crow over there!" That's the kind of conference that Satan calls, and that is exactly what he has done. He has taken some fanatical, weird, wild-eyed Christians who do things that they shouldn't, and he has stationed them in the middle of God's cornfield, and warns, "Now, don't you go near that doctrine about the Holy Spirit because if you do, you will act just like these wild-eyed fanatics."*

Remember...we talked about the tactics of Satan last week...we mustn't let him mislead us into how valuable and important...

- ...a thriving relationship with the Holy Spirit is...

Let me assure you...that what you see on television...or have seen in some churches you may have visited...

- ...is not the Holy Spirit...and by the time we are through with our study...
  - ...you will walk away with a wonderful appreciation and desire to grow close to the Holy Spirit...
    - ...in fact...you will find...that He will be your closest friend  
...

## **PRAY...**

We are going to be looking at four different aspects of the Holy Spirit this morning...

- 1) What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Who is the Holy Spirit?
- 3) Three relationships with the Holy Spirit
- 4) What role the Holy Spirit plays in Christian's lives

Before we jump into 'who the Holy Spirit' is...I want to take some time to look at what the Lord Jesus says about Him...

- ...there is nothing more important than the words of Jesus...and as we do...we will see that it forms an important basis...
  - ...a foundation for who the Holy Spirit really is...the verses we are going to be looking at here...are the foundation for us having an accurate picture of the Holy Spirit...

## LET’S LOOK AT OUR TEXT...

**John 14:1–4 (NKJV) — 1** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** [...Jesus is letting his disciples know...that he is going to be crucified for the sins of the world...rise from the dead...and will be in heaven...sitting at the right hand of God...until He returns...which we are currently waiting for...] **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. **4** And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

**John 14:15–18 (NKJV) — 15** “If you love Me, keep My commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper** [...the Holy Spirit...], that He may **abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with you** and will be **in you.** **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

**John 14:25–28 (NKJV) — 25** “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. **26** 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 things that I said to you.** **27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. **28** You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

**John 16:4–15 (NKJV) — 4** But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. “And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, **because I was with you.** **5** “But now I go away **to Him who sent Me**, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ **6** But

because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [...whom we know to be the Holy Spirit...from the previous verse...] will not come to you; but if I depart, **I will send Him to you. 8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. **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.

AND SO...what we see in these verses is very, very clear...

- ...Jesus is going away, God is sends the Holy Spirit who is with everyone...but as we will see in a moment...
  - ...comes to live in a person...He is a helper who teaches us all things and brings to remembrance all of the things that Jesus has said...
    - ...He convicts the world of sin...righteousness and judgment...AND this is so important...
      - ...He does not speak ANYTHING contrary to what He hears from Jesus...

**Q:** What about God? God has given all authority to His Son...Jesus...

**John 17:1–2 (NKJV)** — **1** Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, **2** as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

**WARNING!** From here on our...we are going to be looking at many, many Scriptures...

- ...don't get overwhelmed...just listen carefully...they are all listed on your Sermon Notes sheet...

Prior to His ascension into heaven...Jesus is with the disciples...

**Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** — **18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

AND SO...in regards to the arrival of the Holy Spirit...Jesus tells the apostles to go to Jerusalem...and wait...

**Luke 24:49 (NKJV)** — **49** Behold, I send the Promise [...that is...the Holy Spirit...] of My Father **upon you**; but tarry [...wait...] in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued with power from on high.**”

Which brings us to the second aspect of the holy Spirit...**“Who is the Holy Spirit?”** ...

- ...the Holy Spirit has always been...He is eternal...He is not a created being...and like Jesus...He is God...

- ...He is the third person of what is known as the Trinity...

The ED defines trinity as...*the union of three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in one Godhead...*

- ...NOW...understand that the Trinity...three distinct persons and three distinct personalities is a mystery that we accept by faith...
  - ...because the picture speaks so clearly about this unique...eternal relationship...

There is no way...in human terms to explain it...the closest I have ever heard is the example of water...H<sub>2</sub>O...

- ...which in various states can take the forms of a liquid (water)...a gas (steam)...and a solid (ice)...
  - ...AND YET...retains the same chemical nature...H<sub>2</sub>O...

As you take a close look at the intricate relationship of the Trinity...

- ...you see how closely they work together...three distinct persons...
  - ...in perfect harmony with one another...

ILLUST: Precision Jet Flying Team

- Staff meeting at Calvary Fellowship...
  - ...one mistake by the Blue Angels...and they all crash and burn...never is the case with the Trinity...

- ...though they be three distinct personalities...they constantly work in perfect harmony and unison with one another...

There are numerous places in the bible which speaks of the Trinity...and we clearly see that the Holy Spirit is included...

**John 15:26–27 (NKJV) — 26** “But when the Helper [...the Holy Spirit...] comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father [...from God...], the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me [...Jesus...]. **27** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

**Matthew 28:19 (NKJV) — 19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

The most evident...

**1 John 5:6–7 (NKJV) — 6** This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. **7** For there are **three** that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word [...whom we know to be Jesus...], and the Holy Spirit; and **these three are one**.

The Holy Spirit is God...BUT...He is also His own unique person with His own unique personality...

He has intellect...

**1 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV) — 11** For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one **knows** the things of God **except the Spirit of God**.



The Holy Spirit can be grieved...

**Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV) — 30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit can be lied to...

**Acts 5:3 (NKJV) — 3** But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?

It is interesting that in this interaction...Peter declares the Holy Spirit to be God...

**Acts 5:4 (NKJV) — 4** While it [...the land...] remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men **but to God.**”

The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed...which means...*to insult...to injure...*

**Matthew 12:31 (NKJV) — 31** “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy** against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

- ...why is this the unforgiveable sin...because...as we will see in a moment...the role of the Holy Spirit is to point people to Jesus...
  - ...to reject Jesus...the only way to heaven...is the ultimate...insult to the Holy Spirit...

- ..rejecting Jesus...condemns a person...which is unforgiveable...

A Christian cannot commit the unforgiveable sin...because as a Christian...you have already accepted Jesus...

**Finally**...The Holy Spirit can be resisted...

**Acts 7:51 (NKJV) — 51** “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

These are just a few of the many characteristics of the Holy Spirit...listed in the bible...

### **Three relationships with the Holy Spirit?**

Two of them are found in our text...

**John 14:16–17 (NKJV) — 16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with you** and will be **in you**.

The Holy Spirit is with EVERYONE...He is the one that reveals Jesus to people...

- ...He is the one urging people to surrender their hearts and lives to Jesus...

This was your **FIRST** encounter with the Holy Spirit...He convicted you of your sin...your inability to save yourself...

- ...and He pointed you to Jesus...without the Holy Spirit...the bible says we could not even utter the name of Jesus...

**1 Corinthians 12:3 (NKJV) — 3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God [...except by the Holy Spirit...] calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord **except by the Holy Spirit.**

Once a person comes to faith in Jesus...is born again and becomes a Christian...the Holy Spirit is no longer with you...

- ...in the same sense that He was before...BUT NOW...it is even better...the Holy Spirit is 'IN YOU...
  - ...going everywhere you go...24/7...revealing to you all of the things you need to know about Jesus...
    - ...about how to live a fruitful and productive life as a Christian...

The third and final relationship that a Christian has with the Holy Spirit...is when the Holy Spirit comes 'UPON THEM'...

**Acts 1:8 (NKJV) — 8** But you shall **receive power** [...the Greek word...dunamis...from which we get the English word...*dynamite*...] when the Holy Spirit has **come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

There are some who believe that this happens at the same time you are 'born again'...and others believe it happens at a later time in your Christian life...

- ...either way...it is an important part of your relationship with the Holy Spirit...something you should ask for...
  - ...because it is in this relationship...that we are ‘empowered’ to live effectively for Jesus...

Such a relationship can begin by simply asking for the empowering of the Holy Spirit...

- ...it is what is referred to as...*the baptism of the Holy Spirit*...it is no more complicated than a prayer such as...
  - ...*“Holy Spirit, as a follower of Jesus...I want to live my life to the fullest...I ask that you would empower me by the Holy Spirit...to live such a life...a life that is effective...a life that accomplishes all that you have for me...I ask that you would baptize me by the Holy Spirit...that He would come upon me in power...in Jesus name I pray...Amen!”*

It is a prayer that I pray often...not because the Holy Spirit ever leaves me...but because I want all of Him...that He is willing to give me...

- ...and...I believe He is willing to give me much...

**Luke 11:13 (NKJV) — 13** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him!”

Finally...and perhaps the most important...is to look at...

- **“What role the Holy Spirit plays in Christian’s lives”**

He is our guarantee...

**2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (NKJV)** — **21** Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, **22** who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts **as a guarantee**.

**Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)** — **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, **by whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption.

**Q:** Why do we love Costco so much?...because of their “guarantee”...

*“Costco guarantees your satisfaction with the merchandise you purchase from us. Costco products may be returned to any of our hundreds of Costco warehouses worldwide.”*

They don’t ask questions...you don’t need your receipt...they don’t care if you put it on a credit card or not...

- ...don’t like it...take it back...here’s the cash...buy yourself a hot dog and soft drink with the change...

The Holy Spirit bears witness to the truth that we belong to God...

**Romans 8:16 (NKJV)** — **16** The Spirit Himself **bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God,

The Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus...

- ...He will never direct our attention elsewhere...including Himself...

**John 16:14 (NKJV)** — **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

- ...this is why we can be comforted in the fact that as we wait upon...and call upon the Holy Spirit...

He will never direct us to do things that Jesus never did or taught...this is how we know that the things we see done on television...

- ...in the name of the Holy Spirit...is NOT the Holy Spirit...AND IF...you ever come away from a meeting...where people are talking about the Holy Spirit...
  - ...with little or no mention of Jesus...it probably was not the Holy Spirit...

The Holy Spirit reveals the meaning of spiritual things to us...

**1 Corinthians 2:10–14 (NKJV)** — **10** But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. **11** For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. **13** These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **14** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

He is our teacher...I love this about the Holy Spirit...

**John 14:26 (NKJV)** — **26** 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 things that I said to you.

**1 John 2:27 (NKJV) — 27** But the anointing [...the Holy Spirit...] which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us...

**Romans 8:26–27 (NKJV) — 26** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He makes intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.

ILLUST: Elementary school...send notes with friends...

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin...

**Q:** What does the word ‘convict’ mean...in regards to the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

- ...it is a legal word...which means...*to bring to light, to expose, to refute, to convict and convince*’...it could be translated...*to pronounce the verdict*...

**John 16:8 (NKJV) — 8** And when He [...the Holy Spirit...] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

ILLUST: Pinocchio...Jiminy Cricket...

- ...it is a good thing to be convicted of sin...so that we can guard ourselves from it...which the Holy Spirit also helps us in...

He protects us from sin...

**Romans 8:5–6 (NKJV) — 5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

**Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) — 16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

LASTLY...and one of the most exciting things He does...

- ...He tells us of the things to come...

**John 16:13 (NKJV) — 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.**

**Q:** How does He do that?

- ...the primary way...is through God’s word...which we will be looking at next week...

God’s word is given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit...and it is His word that reveals...

- ...all of the things that are to come...about Jesus coming for His church...then coming with His church...
  - ...about how Satan will be cast into hell...and all evil will come to an end...



AND we...His church...His bride...will dwell in the house of God...with God the Father...

- ...with Jesus...the Son...and with the Holy Spirit...

## **CONCLUSION...**

Hopefully you can see how desperately we need the Holy Spirit...and how valuable He is to us...

- ...if we ever expect to grow into full maturity as Christians...He is not to be feared...
  - ...BUT...to be enjoyed...in an intimate relationship...

The more I learn about the Holy Spirit...the more I love Him...and the more I understand this great and glorious faith...called Christianity...

- ...AND...I want all that He has for me...knowing that it will always...always be about Jesus...

**PRAY...**

**WORSHIP...**