

COME HOLY SPIRIT: A SERMON SERIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT #1

“We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life.”: An Introduction to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 1:1-8

The Nicene Creed: “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; who spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.”

“The union between the Father and Son is such a live concrete thing that this union itself is also a Person. I know that among human beings, when they get together in a family, or a club, or a trade union, people talk about the “spirit” of that family, or club, or trade union. They talk about its “spirit” because the individual members, when they are together, do really develop particular ways of talking and behaving which they would not have if they were apart. It is as if a sort of communal personality came into existence. Of course, it is not a real person: it is only rather like a person. But that is just one of the differences between God and us. What grows out of the joint life of the Father and Son is a real Person, is in fact the Third of the three Persons who are God. This third Person is called [. . .] the Holy Ghost or the “spirit” of God.” **CS Lewis**

“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from His fruit, and no effective witness without His power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.” **John Stott**

*****God, The Holy Spirit, The 3rd Member of the Trinity, is able and willing to breathe new life into our souls and the Church, rekindle our dying and struggling faith, inflame our passion for God, and enliven us to be part of God’s mission in the world. The Holy Spirit has been, is and will continue to be present and active in the world and in human lives until the eternal purposes and promises of God are fulfilled.**

- I. **The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament...The People of God (Israel) and The Coming of Messiah**
 - A. The Giver and Restorer of Life...The Breath of God
 - B. The Power of God...The Wind of God (ruach in Hebrew)
 - C. The Presence of God...The Transformation of God (rain)
 - D. The Inspiration of God...The Prophecy and Wisdom of God...God’s Word spoken/written by The Prophets of God.

II. The Holy Spirit in the New Testament...The Arrival of Jesus Christ and The People of God (Church)

- A. The Giver of The Christian Life of Faith, Hope and Love
- B. The Great Illuminator and Inspirer of Wisdom and Truth (Ephesians 1:17-19; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- C. The Indwelling Presence of God...The Pledge of our salvation and The Seal that confirms our relationship to God through Christ

J. Calvin: "Faith is a steady and certain knowledge of the triune God's love toward us, which is founded upon the truth of the gracious promise of God in Christ and is both revealed to our minds and sealed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."

*****The Holy Spirit acts in, among and through us to appropriate and apply the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom by illuminating our minds, opening our hearts so that we can receive the truth and live the life of Jesus Christ and be transformed into Christ-likeness and empowered to be Christ's witnesses in the world.**

III. Some Final Words of Introduction to The Holy Spirit

- A. The "Paraclete" of God as The Breath of God, The Fire of God, The Life of God (bios and zoe)
- B. Basil of Caesarea (4th century): "Through the Holy Spirit we are restored to paradise, led back to the Kingdom of Heaven, adopted as children, given confidence to call God 'Father' and to share in the grace of Jesus Christ, called to be children of light in the world and given a share in eternal glory in the Kingdom of God."
- C. The Holy Spirit (paraclete) reveals God to us (revelation); appropriates and applies God's salvation offered in Jesus Christ; enables God's sanctifying work of making us Christ-like through a life of prayer, spirituality, worship and obedience.

Questions, Conclusions, Applications

How spiritually alive are you today?

Come Holy Spirit: A Sermon Series on the Holy Spirit

April 22	Jesus and The Holy Spirit
April 29	The Holy Spirit and The Word of God
May 6	The Holy Spirit and The Christian Virtue (The Fruit of the Spirit)
May 13	The Holy Spirit and The Gifts (The Spiritual Gifts)
May 20	Pentecost Sunday: The People of The Holy Spirit-The Church (Acts 2)

Recommended Reading

Open to the Spirit: God in us, God with us, God Transforming us by Scot McKnight