

## **COME HOLY SPIRIT: A SERMON SERIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT #4**

**“The Holy Spirit and The Christian Virtues (The Fruit of the Holy Spirit)**

**Scripture Readings: Psalm 1; John 15:1-8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Galatians 5:13-25, 6:7-10**

**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.”

“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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

**(Christian) Virtue=a particular moral excellence lived =the holiness/righteousness of God’s moral character pursued, nurtured and lived out by God’s People.**

**I. “I AM the Vine. You are the Branches that are to bear abundant and good Fruit” (John 15:1-8)**

A. The Father is The Gardener. Jesus is The Vine. We are The Branches

B. The Father “cuts off” every branch that does not bear fruit, while The Father “prunes/cuts back” every branch that does bear fruit, SO THAT those branches will become even more fruitful/fruit-bearing.

C. As The Branches, we are to remain in/attached to The Vine (Jesus Christ) as Jesus Christ remains in and attached to us. (No branch can bear fruit by itself. Every branch must “remain in/attached to” the vine.

D. If we remain in Christ, through His Word, we will bear much fruit that reflects the Father’s Glory and shows/demonstrates/proves that we are Christ’s Disciples.

**\*\*\*Jesus dares to say this: “Apart from me you and I can do nothing!” John 15:5**

**\*\*\*Remain in relationship to Jesus Christ...in His Word and in His Love and in His Spirit (the Holy Spirit)**

**II. The Three Great Christian Virtues: Faith, Hope and Love. (I Corinthians 13:1-13)...**Note that this passage comes right after The Apostle Paul tells us that we are The Body of Christ, connected to one another as “members” (I Corinthians 12:12ff) and is followed by his instructions on worshiping well as Members of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 14).

A. The Most Excellent Way is Agape-Love (God defined, Christ embodied, Spirit led)...without Agape-Love we are nothing!

B. Agape-Love looks like this...patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, does not dishonor others, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, it does not keep a record of the wrongs of others, does not delight/celebrate evil, it does rejoice in the truth, it does protect, it always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. **LOVE NEVER FAILS!!!**

C. We do not know everything yet...about God, about others, about ourselves, about the world...We only see through the glass dimly=only a reflection as in a mirror...we will only fully know and understand "when completeness comes".

**(FOR) NOW these three remain is FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE but the GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE!**

**III. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is... (Galatians 5:16-25, 6:7-10) True Freedom is found not indulging yourself and your desires, but by loving each other (doing good to/for others) and living in ways that please the Holy Spirit. [Walk/Live by Keep in Step with The Holy Spirit. Bear the fruit of The Holy Spirit].**

A. The Fruit of The Holy Spirit is...Love; Joy; Peace; Forbearance; Kindness; Goodness; Faithfulness; Gentleness; Self-Control

B. God cannot and will not be "mocked" (Greek mukterizo or empaizo= made fun of, ridiculed)!

C. We reap what we sow...sowing to please the Holy Spirit will reap eternal life.

**\*\*\*THEREFORE, let us not become weary in doing good BECAUSE, at the proper/complete time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up doing good.**

**\*\*\*THEREFORE, as we are given opportunity, let us do good to ALL PEOPLE, especially to those who belong to the Family of Believers.**

### **Conclusions and Applications**

**Next Week: "We are a Gifted People-The Holy Spirit and The Spiritual Gifts"**