

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit – 12/12/21

TEXT- Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is*

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost* **Acts 4:8, 4:31**

INTRO – Scripture describes the Holy Spirit in personal terms, not as an impersonal force

- It says that He teaches, guides, comforts and intercedes.
- He possesses emotions, intellect and will.
- The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and gave counsel to the church at Jerusalem. He was sinned against and lied to. *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?* **Acts 5:3**
- It is the Spirit who brings conviction to an unbeliever and causes him to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light. Those who respond to this conviction and place their faith in Jesus Christ receive eternal life and a new nature.
- The Holy Spirit unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ, the church.
- He also unites the believer with Christ in His death, enabling him to live victoriously over sin.
- The Holy Spirit controls the believer who yields to God and submits himself to God's Word.
- The Holy Spirit indwells the believer permanently. While the child of God may sin and grieve the Spirit, the Spirit will never leave him.
- The Holy Spirit seals the believer. This ministry guarantees the security of the believer "until the day of redemption."
- The Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts or abilities for service to every believer.
- When these conditions are met, the believer lives in the power of the Spirit and produces the fruit of the Spirit.
- Absence of the Holy Spirit is the mark of the unsaved.
- Although His restraint of evil in the world today will cease with the rapture, He will continue to be present in the earth. In the tribulation period the Spirit will be involved in salvation and filling.
- In the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Spirit will be in God's people and the Spirit will be upon the King.

1. The Holy Spirit Brings Justification and Life

When we become born again we become born of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes and cleanses and fills us. He gives us life and we become a new creature in Christ!

John 3:5 *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

The work of the Spirit is to impart life, to implant hope, to give liberty, to testify of Christ, to guide us into all truth, to teach us all things, to comfort the believer, and to convict the world of sin. *Dwight L. Moody*

1 Cor. 12:3 *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

Demoniac of Gadara – Demon possessed man has a legion of devils. After he was saved he sat clothed and in his right mind.

The life story of Mel Trotter – A drunk who got saved and his life changed.

2. The Holy Spirit Fills the Believer

When we are dry the Holy Spirit refreshes!

When we are empty or low, He fills us!

When we are overflowing He keeps pouring!

This is who He is! When we come to Him no matter where we are at He revives us. And we are encouraged to be filled with Him! He is willing to touch our lives if we would just go to Him.

Eph 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

This lack of spiritual power today can be traced to three things;

First, iniquity. The world is in the grasp of the evil one.

Secondly, ignorance of the Word and of what God has for His people keeps many from spiritual power. In their ignorance of the Word and God's way, they stumble on in skepticism and powerlessness.

Thirdly, indifference toward the matter of spiritual power accounts for much of the present day condition.

How to be filled with the Holy Spirit

- 1. Be cleansed.**
- 2. Be hungry.**
- 3. Be willing.**
- 4. Obey God's will.**

3. The Holy Spirit Fellowships with Us

The Holy Spirit actually desires relationship with us! He wants to partner with us so that we can walk in freedom and experience all the goodness the Lord has for us!

2 Co 13:14 *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

- **We must not quench the Spirit** **1 Th 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

Eph 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

**Grieving the Spirit is what we do to the Spirit.
Quenching the Spirit is His reaction to our actions.**

4. The Holy Spirit Counsels and Comforts Us

John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

The Holy Spirit being called your Counselor, Comforter, or Helper. The Greek word is *paraklētos*, to be called to one's side or one who pleads another's cause before a judge.

Isa 11:2 *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

5. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us

The Holy Spirit who is all powerful is willing to empower us. He empowers us to be witnesses (evangelism), but He also empowers with the **gifts of the Spirit** (for the building up of the church).

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

6. The Holy Spirit Teaches and Reminds Us

The Holy Spirit is truly the BEST teacher!

John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

7. The Holy Spirit Bears Good Fruit In Our Lives

When we walk in the Spirit we will produce the fruit of the Spirit. **Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

8. The Holy Spirit Convicts Us

John 16:8-11 *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

9. The Holy Spirit Brings Freedom

When the Holy Spirit is present bondage, fear, and pain, are taken away. He transforms us so that we can be more like Him.

CONCL –

Every believer is either filled with the Spirit or controlled by the flesh.

Either God is controlling the person's life or SELF is in control. Either God is steering the ship and is the Master at the helm, or the believer is steering the ship apart from Him and apart from His guidance.

Gal 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Either the Spirit is in control or the flesh is in control. Either God is guiding and leading, or SELF is steering the ship according to the strong desires of the old nature.

Timothy McVeigh (April 23, 1968 – June 11, 2001) was an American terrorist who detonated a truck bomb in front of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. Commonly referred to as the Oklahoma City bombing, the attack killed 168 people and injured over 600. It was the deadliest act of terrorism within the United States prior to the September 11 attacks, and remains the most serious act of domestic terrorism in United States history. McVeigh was executed by lethal injection. Before his death, Timothy McVeigh defiantly chose as his last words the famous poem by William Henley, entitled *Invictus* (unconquerable). It is the expression of a man who refuses to be under God's control:

**Out of the night that covers me
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.**

**In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.**

**Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.**

**It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.**

Dorothea Day, a believer in Christ, wrote a parallel poem which answers the *Invictus* poem line by line. The conclusion of her poem is quite different:

**Out of the night that dazzles me,
Bright as the sun from pole to pole,
I thank the God I know to be
For Christ the conqueror of my soul.**

**Since His the sway of circumstance,
I would not wince nor cry aloud.
Under that rule which men call chance
My head with joy is humbly bowed.**

**Beyond this place of sin and tears
That life with Him! And His the aid,
Despite the menace of the years,
Keeps, and shall keep me, unafraid.**

**I have no fear, though strait the gate,
He cleared from punishment the scroll,
Christ is the Master of my fate,
Christ is the Captain of my soul.**