

“The Holy Spirit Given to Us”  
Romans 5:5  
(Preached at Trinity, April 13, 2008)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Justification gives us great confidence before God. In fact, it is the foundation of our assurance. We have peace with God, boldness of access, the hope of the glory of God. This hope will never disappoint us.  
**Romans 5:5** – “And hope maketh not ashamed. . .”
2. Paul tells us the ultimate reason is because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts. Paul is talking about a present reality.
  - A. The word translated “shed abroad” means to gush out.  
The picture should be that of overflowing torrents. This is how God has poured His love out upon us.
  - B. Paul is telling us that no matter what we face we will never be disappointed in Christ. His love will always be sufficient. It will never fail
  - C. This love is a part of the Christian experience – but it isn’t just a feeling.  
We are brought to see the immeasurable beauty and excellence of Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us.
3. It is more than just knowledge. There are many people who have much knowledge about Christ but know nothing of His love. We are talking about the experience of the love of Christ that sustains us through every trial and comforts us through all our afflictions.
4. Every Christian knows a measure of it but we should seek to know it more.  
Paul prayed for the Church of Ephesus:  
**Ephesians 3:18-19** – “. . . May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; <sup>19</sup> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”  
If Paul prayed that the church of Ephesus might know more of this love, then we should pray for it as well.
5. Before we leave this marvelous verse I want to direct your attention to one more aspect of it. How is it that this love has been poured out in our hearts? Paul gives us the answer. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.  
**Romans 5:5** – “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
6. Every Christian has been given the Holy Spirit. He has shed the love of God in our hearts. He gives us abundant assurance of God’s love for us.  
**Romans 8:14-16** – “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”
7. It is through the Holy Spirit abiding in us that we have a true relationship with Christ.  
**1 Peter 1:8** – “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

8. Sadly, for most Christians little is known about the Holy Spirit. They claim to believe in the Trinity but know little about the persons of the Trinity
9. The reason for the lack of understanding about the person and work of the Holy Spirit is a lack of sound teaching on the subject.

**Verse 5** tells us that the Holy Spirit has been given to us. Who is He and what does He do? Since we will address this subject again in **Chapter 8** I want to simply give a brief overview this morning.

#### I. The Holy Spirit is a promise fulfilled

##### A. The giving of the Holy Spirit is a New Covenant blessing

1. The Holy Spirit was promised in the OT
  - Isaiah 32:15** – “Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.”
  - Ezekiel 39:29** – “Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.”
  - Joel 2:28** – “And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:”
2. Jesus spoke of the fulfillment of this promise
  - John 16:7** – “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”
    - a. The word for “Comforter” is **παράκλητος** which we sometimes call the Paraclete. It means “one summoned or called to one's aid”
    - b. Most translations translate it “Helper.”  
The KJV translates it Comforter because of the Latin Cum – with; fortis – strength = with strength
    - c. The Holy Spirit has been sent to take the place of Christ in the sense that Jesus has ascended to the Father and has sent forth the Holy Spirit to lead and strengthen His people

##### B. The disciples were to tarry in Jerusalem until the promise was fulfilled

- Acts 1:4** – “And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.”
1. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would supply the power for their work
    - 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.”
  2. The initial fulfillment of the promises took place on the day of Pentecost.
    - Acts 2:16** – “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:”

## But who is He and what does He do?

- II. First, it is essential that we understand His personhood – He is a person
- A. Too often people speak of the Holy Spirit as if He's a force or power or a feeling.
1. Some look at the Holy Spirit like a substance – something poured into us until we are filled.
  2. The KJV helps to foster this idea by sometimes using the pronoun “it” when referring to the H.S.  
**Romans 8:16** – “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”
  3. If He is a force we might ask, “How can I get more of the Holy Spirit?” If He is a person we will ask, “How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?”
- B. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit in ways that that can only be applied to personhood
1. We can grieve Him  
**Ephesians 4:30** – “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”
  2. We can lie to Him  
**Acts 5:3** **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?”
  3. He can be tested  
**Acts 5:9** – “Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.”
  4. He can be resisted  
**Acts 7:51** – “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do ye*.”
  5. He can perform actions that only a person can do  
He works, He hears, He speaks, He teaches, He reproves,
- III. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?
- A. The Holy Spirit was the agent of our salvation
1. He is the one who stirred our hearts over our sin convicting us of our guilt
  2. He is the one who awakened us and enabled us to embrace Christ
  3. The Holy Spirit is the source of our faith and repentance
  4. Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit
- B. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher after our conversion – He is the Spirit of truth – the Scriptures find their source in Him.
1. This teaching begins at the start of the Christian's new birth
    - a. The Holy Spirit enlightens our mind. We sometimes call this illumination.
    - b. The lost person lacks spiritual understanding.  
**Ephesians 4:18** – “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:”

**1 Corinthians 2:14** – “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”

2. The Holy Spirit opens our mind spiritually to understand the things of God. We are able to understand the Scriptures on a spiritual level.  
**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.”  
This is why it is ludicrous for someone to say they have been “led” to believe or do something contrary to Scripture.
  3. The leadership of the Holy Spirit doesn’t rule out the need for pastors and teachers. They are one of the means God uses to teach and build His church. The Holy Spirit often uses them in His teaching.  
**Ephesians 4:14-15** – “That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:”
  4. It is the Holy Spirit that makes preaching effectual  
**1 Corinthians 2:4** – “And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:”  
**1 Thessalonians 1:5** – “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”
- B. The Holy Spirit enlivens us unto holiness
1. Paul speaks of the “fruit of the Spirit” – **Gal. 5:22**
  2. The Holy Spirit seizes control of our minds, hearts, and wills just as alcohol seizes control of the mind in a natural sense – **See Eph. 5:18 ff.**  
**Ephesians 5:18** – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
  3. The Holy Spirit is the agent of sanctification as He frees us from servitude to sin and gives us the power to live holy lives.  
**2 Thessalonians 2:13** – “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:”
- C. The Holy Spirit empowers us for service  
**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.  
**1 Cor. 12:4** – “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”
- D. We are led to pray by the Holy Spirit  
**Romans 8:26** – “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

IV. But we have to understand that the Holy Spirit is a person. He resides in us. He is alive in us.

The Holy Spirit testifies to us the reality of His presence and the reality of our relationship with Christ – this is what we are seeing here in **Verse 5**

A. God through the person of the Holy Spirit dwells in us

**Romans 8:11** – “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

1. This is a living breathing relationship
2. His life is brought to bear upon our life. There is a reality of His presence within us. We are spiritually alive and He stirs our hearts.
3. There is an inner testimony of His presence. He testifies that we are the children of God

**Galatians 4:6** – “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

B. He also stirs our hearts in affection for God

1. It is the Holy Spirit that makes the Word of God rich to us.  
It is the Holy Spirit that makes worship sweet.  
Jesus told the woman at the well that true worshippers would worship the Father in Spirit and in truth
2. The Holy Spirit enlivens the affections of the believer towards God.  
It is the Holy Spirit that stirs our hearts towards Christ
3. Perhaps the greatest work of the Holy Spirit is glorifying Christ  
**John 16:13-14** – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.”  
It is the Holy Spirit that makes Christ glorious to you.
3. The Holy Spirit enables us to comprehend the love of Christ which allows us to taste of the fullness of God.  
**Ephesians 3:16-19** – “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup> That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; <sup>19</sup> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

This is what it means to be filled with the fullness of God

Conclusion:

1. Do you understand that the Holy Spirit dwells in you?  
Does He testify of your relationship with Christ?  
Is He continually reminding you of the love of Christ?
2. Do you submit to Him and follow His leadership or do you resist Him like the heathen  
**Acts 7:51** – “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.”  
**Ephesians 4:30** – “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”