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# Sermon Notes

May 23, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## The Spirit of Truth John 16:7-14

### Final Instruction

- ❖ On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus promises His disciples that although He will soon be physically absent from them, the Holy Spirit will come and make His home within them
  - the Holy Spirit will be present with them and powerful in them
  - the Holy Spirit will witness to Christ through them
- ❖ Among several descriptive terms Jesus uses about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus describes Him as the Spirit of truth
  - the Spirit will guide them into all truth
  - truth comes from without... we need to be TAUGHT truth
- ❖ A promise to Jesus' first disciples that the Holy Spirit will lead them to record truth about Jesus accurately
- ❖ A promise to us that the Holy Spirit will take the Word He inspires and shine His spotlight on it so we understand its message and apply its meaning in our lives

### Real or Fake?

- ❖ How do we tell the difference?
  - how the US Treasury Department does it
  - submit to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to train us to know the truth of Scripture so well that the presence of heresy, false teaching and any form of deception is immediately apparent to us
- ❖ God gives two love gifts to protect us from error
  - the living Word
  - the indwelling presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ The adversary of our souls works overtime to undermine our convictions about and commitments to the truth
  - remaining committed to our convictions requires courage as well as discernment
  - truth matters

### The Living Word

- ❖ Confidence in the reliability of Scripture
  - inspired by the Holy Spirit
  - total and complete
  - the final revelation of God
    - Since the Bible is written by the Spirit of truth, we know that it is without error
    - the Holy Spirit has perfect, infinite knowledge and an infinite love for truth

- ❖ You cannot “fudge” on the inspiration of the Bible without “fudging” on the nature of God
  - 2 Timothy 3:16
  - we need to be shaped, molded and brought to maturity by the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God

### The Spirit of Truth

- ❖ The Spirit of truth continues to guide those who follow Christ in the way of truth
  - the Holy Spirit directs believers in the direction they need to go to pursue godliness and Christlike living
  - *you have been anointed by the Holy One* (cf. 1 John 2:20-21, 24, 27)
  - the anointing we receive from the Spirit of truth prepares us to receive and respond to God’s truth
  - we are dependent on the anointing of the Holy Spirit to teach us truth, lead us in affirming truth, and use truth to make our lives more and more like Jesus
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is a permanent gift given to all of God’s blood-bought children
  - you receive all of the Holy Spirit you are ever going to receive at the moment of conversion
  - in some cases, the moment of conversion is all of some people that the Holy Spirit ever receives
- ❖ We need both Word AND Spirit
  - without the Holy Spirit, knowledge of the Word becomes dead orthodoxy

- without the Word, the experience of the Spirit can lead to unjustified, damaging of excesses

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is the teacher of every true believer
  - the Spirit works in harmony with the Father and the Son as He applies truth in our lives
  - the Spirit never contradicts the Word
  - the Spirit will never lead you in ways that are contrary to principles of the Word of God
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is continually at work revealing Christ and bringing glory to Christ
  - apart from the revelation of the Spirit, you cannot know Christ
  - the Spirit of truth reveals a person, not a principle
- ❖ Unless we remain open to and dependent upon the Spirit of truth, we are in constant danger of adopting a belief system that is not based on God’s truth

### Personal Application

1. Ask the Spirit of truth to teach you truth from God's Word and to deepen your commitment to the truth.
2. Ask the Spirit of truth to keep deepening your relationship with Jesus.
3. Ask the Spirit of truth to make you a bold witness for truth.
4. Ask the Spirit of truth to make you stand strong and to protect you in the war against sin and Satan?