

PNEUMA: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JESUS ...Week 6

- GOD IN THREE PERSONS: THE TRINITY

- **As far as the existence of the Trinity...** "Someone has said it this way: If you try to explain the Trinity, you will lose your mind. But if you deny it, you will lose your soul."
- **What the Trinity is NOT...The Trinity IS NOT an old guy, a young guy and a bird!**
 - First of all, Christians don't believe in three Gods. That's a heresy called Tritheism.
 - Second, we don't believe that the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are three "forms" of God—like, steam, water and ice. That's the heresy called Modalism.
 - Third, we don't believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are "parts" or "pieces" of God. That would imply that Jesus is 1/3rd God, the Father is 1/3rd God, and the Holy Spirit is 1/3rd God.
- **A Statement of Belief: The Trinity**
 - We believe in **one living and true God who is the Creator of heaven and earth**; who is eternal, almighty, unchangeable, infinitely powerful, wise, just and holy.
 - We believe that **the one God eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**; and that these three are one God, co-equal and co-eternal, having precisely the same nature and attributes, and worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience. (Matt 3:16, 17; Matt 28:19, 20; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3, 4; II Cor 13:14.)
 - Note: When we say these things we mean that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, but they are not three gods but only one God. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, the Spirit is not the Father, but each is God individually and yet they are together the one true God of the Bible.
 - "The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is the declaration of the Trinity in action." ~ J.I. Packer



J.I. Packer, Professor of Theology at Regent College

- **All three Persons are associated together** on an equal basis in numerous passages:
 - **Jesus' baptism...(*voice of the Father, Son baptized, Spirit descending like a dove*)** ¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." (Matt. 3:13–17 NLT-SE)
 - In **Mark's account** (1:10), the Holy Spirit did not simply come "upon" Jesus but came "into" him. Perhaps this is Mark's way of indicating that the Holy Spirit entered into Jesus, an indication that the relationship is not one of mere external enablement but internal intimacy. Jesus was now the permanent bearer of the Spirit. Even if "filled" with the Spirit from Mary's womb, he now sustains a relationship to the Spirit unlike anything that has preceded.
 - **Salvation...(*chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, sprinkled with the blood of Jesus*)** God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. (1 Pet. 1:2 NLT-SE)
 - **Sanctification...(*grace of the Lord Jesus, love of God, fellowship of the Holy Spirit*)** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14 NLT-SE)
 - **Christian Baptism...(*baptized in one name, yet three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*)**. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19 NLT-SE)
 - **Prayer...(*strengthened by his Spirit, know the love of Christ, filled with the fullness of God*)**. ¹⁴ When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. ²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3:14–21 NLT-SE)
 - **Christian Growth...(*chosen by God, loved by the Lord, sanctified by the Spirit*)** As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth. (2 Th. 2:13 NLT-SE)
- **Holy Spirit is God...** "Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that **please the Spirit**. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never **please God.**" (Rom. 8:5–8 NLT-SE)

**THE FATHER WANTS IT DONE,
JESUS GOT IT DONE,
THE HOLY SPIRIT GETS IT DONE.**

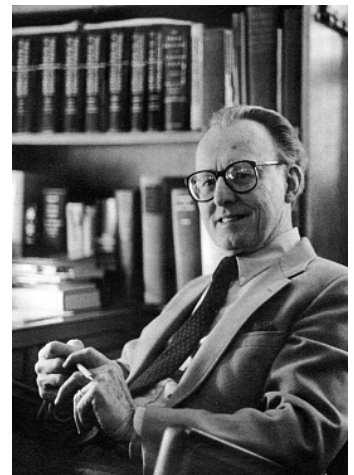
- WHICH IS BETTER? JESUS WITH US OR THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US?

- Most people would choose Jesus. "I can't imagine anything more beautiful and encouraging than to walk with Jesus, here and now." Actually, Jesus had had something much better in store for us.
 - But in fact, **it is best for you that I go away**, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. (John 16:7 NLT-SE)
- Can you imagine the look on the disciples faces when they heard this? They were shocked! **Rex Rouis** summed it up this way, "Imagine walking side by side with the Son of God for three years, seeing all that He did and hearing all that He said. Imagine being there when He raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (Mark 5:22-43). Wouldn't you want to be around a Man like that forever?"
- But Jesus told them he was sending a Helper called **Holy Spirit**, who would not just be with them, but live inside them! He said this Holy Spirit was the same Spirit that he relied on at his **incarnation** (Matt 1:18-20; Luke 1:35), **baptism** (Matt 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32), **anointing** (Matt 12:18, Acts 10:38), **crucifixion** (Heb 9:14) and **resurrection** (2 Cor 4:14, Rom 1:4, 1 Pet 3:18). This Spirit is not a "force" but a Person. This Spirit was God himself and now he would live inside them...forever!

- IF JESUS NEEDED THE HOLY SPIRIT...SO DO WE!

"Jesus demonstrated clearly that God's intended way for human beings to live, the ideal way to live, the supremely successful way to live, is in conjunction with God, in harmony with God, in touch with the power of God, and not apart from God, not independent of God, not without God. The Spirit was the presence and power of God in Jesus, and fully so." ~ Gerald Hawthorne

- **Jesus was born of the Spirit...**This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 1:18 NLT-SE)
- **Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism...**and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." (Luke 3:22 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted...**¹ Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was **led by the Spirit in the wilderness**, ² where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. (Luke 4:1–2 NLT-SE)



Gerald Hawthorne, Wheaton College

- **Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit...** Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. (Luke 4:14 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me . . ."** The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, (Luke 4:18 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus was filled with joy in the Holy Spirit....**At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way. (Luke 10:21 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus performed ministry in the power of the Spirit...**But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. (Matt. 12:28 NLT-SE)
 - "It was not primarily by virtue of his divine nature that Jesus lived the kind of life he did and ministered in power to the sick and demonized, but rather through **his constant and ever-increasing reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit.**" ~ Sam Storms
 - "The Holy Spirit was **the divine power by which Jesus overcame** his human limitations [such as being limited in knowledge and bound by physical space and human strength], rose above his human weakness, and won out over his human mortality." ~ Gerald Hawthorne
- **Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit...**And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:38 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus offered Himself – died – by the Spirit...**Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. (Heb. 9:14 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus return to life by the Holy Spirit...**Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. (1 Pet. 3:18 NLT-SE)
- **THE MISSION OF JESUS IS NOT OVER...**It has simply moved into a new phase. Jesus continues the mission given him by his Father by sending forth his disciples in the same power with and by which the Father sent him forth, i.e., the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:21, 1 John 2:18-22, 27-28). That's you and me! We have been given not only the **mission** of Jesus to continue, but the same **power** of the Holy Spirit that Jesus depended upon **to equip us for any assignment we're given!**



Sam Storms, pastor of
Bridgeway Church in
Oklahoma City