

Message: The Holy Spirit - The God Who Lives In and Among Us

Text: Romans 8:9-17

Introduction

A. Some years ago Darlene Connell sent me a friendly, appreciative e-mail which read in part ...

Dear Rob, Could you please pray about doing a sermon/sermons on the Holy Spirit. We spend a lot of time talking about God and Jesus, but very little about the Spirit. I want to try to understand the totality of the Trinity better. I know bringing up the Spirit brings in that whole charismatic thing, but I just want to know better from Scripture what his complete role is in our life. I am going to do some reading on my own, but I would love to here from you corporately

B. I have pondered and prayed about this request - a good request, and have held on to Darlene's e-mail so I wouldn't forget. When planning to do a series on 1 Corinthians, it appeared that it might be a useful time to graft in a mini-series on the Spirit in the midst of our studies of chapters 12-14, which speak of the ministry gifts of the Spirit, and at least beg the question about "that whole charismatic thing."

C. And so in these few weeks before our February mission festival, having begun with last week's message, we will seek with God's help to probe and better understand the identity and workings of this third person of the Trinity who is dwelling in each of us who are believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you can sincerely and accurately say that, "The God of heaven is living in me," then you will delight in His self-disclosure to you and Christ's church through the unfolding of His Word to us this day.

I. The Holy Spirit is a person, distinct from the Father and the Son.

A. Since the other members of the Trinity possess several names (God, Lord, Father, Lord of Hosts; Immanuel, Jesus, Christ), it should not surprise us to find the Holy Spirit designated by a number of names: E.g., Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of Glory, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Grace, Paraklete (Helper/Comforter), the Eternal Spirit, etc.

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in **the Spirit**, if indeed **the Spirit of God** dwells in you. But if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him.¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.¹¹ But if **the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit** who dwells in you.

B. The Holy Spirit is revealed in the Scriptures as a distinct person versus an attitude or impersonal force, displaying the marks of personality.

1. John 14:16, 17 Jesus refers to the Spirit of truth as "another Helper," like Himself.

John 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another Helper** (paracletos), that He may be with you forever; 17 that is **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

2. John 14:26 The Spirit speaks to Christ's churches. He teaches and reminds God's people.

Revelation 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what **the Spirit says to the churches**.

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you** all things, **and bring to your remembrance** all that I said to you.

3. John 15:26 The Spirit is humble and self-effacing, testifying and pointing to Christ and not to Himself. This might help explain why we hear less of the Spirit than we do of the Father and the Son (E.g., see Paul's introductions to Romans, 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians). Non-personal objects or forces are not humble or self-effacing.

John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me,**

Romans 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace **from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: " Grace to you and peace **from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

4. John 16:8 The Spirit persuades and convicts

John 16:8 "**And He,** when He comes, **will convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

5. John 16:13-15 He guides, speaks, hears, discloses, glorifies Christ.

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide** you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever **He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose** to you what is to come. 14 "**He will glorify Me,** for **He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.** 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that **He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.**

6. Romans 8:26 He intercedes in prayer for God's people.

Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words;

7. Romans 8:27 He has a mind

Romans 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what **the mind of the Spirit** is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

8. Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30 He is grieved by human sin.

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled and **grieved His Holy Spirit;** Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.

Ephesians 4:30 Do not **grieve the Holy Spirit of God,** by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

9. Hebrews 2:4 He possesses a will, His own will. Each person of the Trinity possesses his own will which is in harmony with yet distinct from the will of each of the other persons.

Hebrews 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of **the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**

1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **just as He wills.**

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

Luke 22:42 ... "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; **yet not My will, but Yours be done.**"

10. Hebrews 10:29 He can be insulted.

Hebrews 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has **insulted the Spirit of grace?**

11. Revelation 14:13 He pronounces blessing on believers.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, **Blessed** are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "**Yes, says the Spirit,** "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

12. Revelation 22:17 He invites humanity to eternal life.

Revelation 22:17 **The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."** And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

II. The Holy Spirit is God.

A. He shares attributes that are only possessed by God (incommunicable attributes). E.g., if only God is omnipresent, and the Spirit is omnipresent, then the Spirit must be God.

Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?"²⁴ "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "**Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?**" declares the LORD.

Psalms 139:7 **Where can I go from Your Spirit?** Or where can I flee from Your presence?⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,¹⁰ even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.

B. He is given equal honor with the Father and Son, being identified with the divine persons of the Son and Father in operations that belong exclusively to God.

1. Matthew 28:19 New Covenant baptism is in the name of the Father, Son, Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

2. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6,11 The Spirit, with the Father and Son distributes grace-gifts of ministry.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same **Spirit.**

⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same **Lord.**

⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same **God who works all things** in all persons.

¹¹ But one and the same **Spirit works all these things,** distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

3. 1 Peter 1:1,2 The Spirit, Son, and Father are all operational in the salvation of God's elect.

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen² according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father,** by the sanctifying work of **the Spirit,** to obey **Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

4. 2 Corinthians 13:14 The Spirit, with the Son and Father are the source of God's blessing.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ,** and the love of **God,** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit,** be with you all.

Conclusion: How would God the Spirit have us respond to this, His self-disclosure to us in His Word?

- A. In the end, the church must affirm and proclaim that the Scriptures reveal to us one eternal God existing in three eternal persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If there is any hope for our children, our children's children, and for the world, the church in every generation must function and remain as the "pillar and support of the truth" including this truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in **the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.**

- B. At the same time the church must confess the Trinity to be above our finite mental capabilities to fully comprehend, something hyperlogical that the Spirit convinces us is true and grants us faith to believe.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!**

- C. Yet the Spirit has revealed to us all that is necessary for life, godliness, and eternal glory.

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, **ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.**"¹⁰ For **to us God revealed them through the Spirit;** for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

- D. God has revealed to us that He, the one true God, exists in three persons, and that the person of Father and the person of Son dwell personally within us by the person of the Spirit. Think about that, all of us who desire and perhaps long for a soul-satisfying personal relationship. The God of heaven desires to have a personal relationship with us by His Spirit dwelling in our hearts by faith in Christ. The song that continued to run through my mind as I put this message in final form begins ...

King of Kings, majesty

God of heaven living in me.

Gentle Savior, closest friend,

Strong deliver, beginning and end.

- E. If the God of heaven, God the Spirit, the **Holy** Spirit lives in us collectively as a church and individually as believers, then how should we conduct ourselves in His holy presence - in the world, in the church, in our homes, in our hearts? God hasn't changed since Old Testament times - His holiness, and His demand for holiness, hasn't changed.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that **you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality. ...¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Hebrews 12:14 **Pursue** peace with all men, and **the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**

- F. So our response must include what our song continues to express ...

All within me falls at Your throne.

Your majesty, I can but bow,

I lay my all before you now.

In royal robes I don't deserve

I live to serve your majesty.