Sermon Series: Fruit of the Spirit

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit of Jesus

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Sunday February 4th, 2024

We live in a world where truth is relative, and everyone has their own idea about what’s right. To many, what was true yesterday is no longer true today, and what’s true today might not be true tomorrow. It’s called relativism which is the doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute. However, God is not a relative God, nor is His revelation to us subject to change.

In His goodness and mercy, God made known to us the truth of Jesus. This truth of Jesus we call the gospel and as we learned from the first few verses of Paul’s letter to the Galatians, the gospel is this: Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age according to the will of God the Father who raised Jesus from the dead.

It’s such a simple truth about what God has done for us but like the Galatians, we often try to change it as if God’s revealed truth needed a change. Instead of simply believing Jesus for salvation, we try to add our good works to it in a vain attempt to somehow become worthy of salvation and thereby stealing Jesus’ glory.

But, of course, we can’t do that no matter how hard we try. As Paul showed us in Galatians 2-4, the gospel is a promise God made at the beginning, a promise God gave to Abraham, a promise God the Son inherited, and finally a promise God the Spirit guarantees.[[1]](#footnote-1) Paul went to great pains in order that we would know with certainty that salvation is by faith in Jesus and nothing else.

All this serves as an introduction to our studying the fruit of the Sprit in **Galatians 5.22-23**, but there’s still an important figure concerning the fruit of the Spirt we have yet to take a closer look: The Holy Spirit Himself! By the end of our time together, I hope we all come out of this with a transforming understanding of the Holy Spirit’s important work and involvement in our salvation.

**The Doctrine of the Godhead**

To begin, I’d like to affirm the essential Christian doctrine of the Godhead, or the Trinity. This is from the book *Father, Son, & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles, & Relevance*, written by Bruce Ware:

“There is one and only one God, eternally existing and fully expressed in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead is equally God, each is eternally God, and each is fully God – not three gods but three Persons of the one Godhead. Each Person is equal in essence as each possesses fully the identically same, eternal divine nature, yet each is also an eternal and distinct personal expression of the one undivided divine nature.”

The three-in-one nature of God defies our understanding yet scripture clearly teaches this doctrine. While I don’t have the time to expound this doctrine, I would like to affirm that the Holy Spirit is God. Jesus, in **Mattew 28.18-20**, instructs His disciples to baptize people in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, the Apostle Peter, in **Acts 5.3-**4, said to Annanias when he lied, “Annanias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? … You have not lied to man but to God.”

Without a doubt, the Holy Spirit is God.

**The Role of the Holy Spirit**

Have you noticed though, that the Holy Spirit is the least mentioned person of the Godhead not only in the Bible, but even in churches and Christian circles today? Some might say the Holy Spirit got the short end of the stick because He’s not talked about as much as Jesus or the Father. However, There’s actually a good reason for this.

Picture in your mind for a moment a theater. It’s filled with people who are watching a great performance by a renowned actor. In fact, you are in the seats too, watching the performance along with everyone else. As you sit in your seat, where is your focus? It would probably be on the actor, right? But there’s more than just the actor at work. There’s also a director. The director organized the performance and his genius is recognized through the stellar performance of the actor. But there’s also someone else, someone unseen behind the stage: the backstage manager. He is rarely seen but the performance would flop without him working. When we stop to consider it, the work of the backstage manager is intended increase our enjoyment of the performance and the actor performing and then in turn make the director successful.

In terms of the roles played by the three persons of the Godhead, the Father is the director, the Son is the actor, and the Holy Spirit is the backstage manager. The joy of the backstage manager is hearing the audience enjoy the actors performance. So it is with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in **John 16.13-15**, “**13**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14**He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15**All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

It is the Holy Spirit’s role to glorify Jesus.

Let’s take a look at 8 ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives to glorify Jesus.

**8 ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives to glorify Jesus.**

**He draws sinners to Jesus**

To begin, the Holy Spirit draws sinners to Jesus. **John 16.8 says**, “**8**And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

The conviction work of the Holy Spirit is intended to reveal our sinfulness and bring us an awareness of our need to be saved.

**He shows people Jesus**

As He convicts people and draws them to Jesus, He also shows people Jesus. **1 Corinthians 2.10** says, “**10**these things (the mystery of the gospel) God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”

The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to people to bring them to salvation.

**He Relates people to Jesus**

As we learned last week, the Holy Spirit also relates people to Jesus. **Galatians 4.6** says, “**6**And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

The Holy Spirit makes us children of God just like Jesus is the Son of God.

**He Instructs believers concerning Jesus**

Once children of God, the Holy Spirit instructs believers concerning Jesus. Jesus said in **John 16.13**, “**13**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

The Holy Spirit will guide us in all truth concerning Jesus.

**He Reminds us of Jesus.**

He also reminds us about Jesus. **John 14.26** says, “**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 have said to you.”

**He enables us to obey Jesus**

A sixth way the Holy Spirit works in our lives is by enabling us to obey Jesus and keep His commandments. **John 14.15-17** says, **15**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17**even the Spirit of truth.”

Jesus promising the Holy Spirit in this text came in the context of loving Jesus and obeying His commands. We cannot obey without the help of the Holy Spirit who is put within us and, according to **Ezekiel 36.27**, causes us to walk in God’s statutes and obey His rules.

**He Transforms us to be like Jesus**

Going a step further then, the Holy Spirit also transforms us to be come like Jesus. **2 Corinthians 3.18** says, “**18**And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Only the Holy Spirit of Jesus is able to transform our spirits and make us more like Jesus,

**He guarantees we will be with Jesus**

Finaly, for this list at least, the Holy Spirit guarantees that followers of Jesus will be with Jesus forever in eternity. **Ephesians 1.13-14** says, “**13**In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14**who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

He is the guarantee of our inheritance. What inheritance? The same inheritance Jesus inherited from Abraham…a land for God’s people to dwell securely in forever. This inheritance is none other than the New Heaven and New Earth over which believers will rule with Jesus forever.

**Concluding Thoughts**

Now, we didn’t have the luxury of closely examining each way the Holy Spirit works, but I hope you noticed that in every way He works, the Spirit glorifies Jesus by what He does for us and in us. He’s the backstage manager who works to bring glory to the actor onstage, and as the actor is glorified, so too is the director.

The significance of the Holy Spirit’s work to relate us to Jesus is incredible: we cannot know Jesus, be saved by Jesus, love Jesus, obey Jesus, become like Jesus, or be with Jesus without the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps you already knew this and so this is all a reminder, but maybe you’ve never heard this before. Either way, we must remember and know that we cannot work to save ourselves nor can we, by our own willpower and abilities, perfect ourselves and become like Jesus. Those sins you struggle with? You need the Holy Spirit to help you overcome them. Those character flaws you have? You need the Holy Spirit to help transform you. Those fears and doubts and worries you bear? You need the Holy Spirit of Jesus to sort them out and bring you to Jesus.

Truly, all our spiritual life and vitality comes from the Holy Spirit within us whom we either partner with or struggle against. Next week we will take a closer look at the spiritual battle waging within the hearts of believers, that battle between the flesh and the Spirit, and we will see just how necessary the Holy Spirit is in transforming us to be like Jesus.

Until then, know that as a believe in Jesus His Holy Spirit dwells with you and is God’s power within you to draw you to Jesus, transform you in Jesus, and guarantee your eternal life with Jesus, all for the glory of Jesus.

1. Refer to the sermon from Sunday February 4th, 2024titled *How the Gospel Works* for explanation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)