

The Holy Spirit
First Baptist Church Dandridge
Winter 2026

Session Four: The Holy Spirit and Christ – Part Two

5. The Spirit and Christ's Mighty Works

- a. **Mighty Works:** During the life of Jesus, he performed a number of mighty works. These miraculous works included healing sicknesses, restoring vision, casting out demons, providing vast quantities of food and drink, controlling the weather, and raising the dead.
- b. **The Holy Spirit:** These works were led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - **Luke 4:14** – “And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.”
 - **Luke 4:18-21** – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.’ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
 - **Matthew 12:28** – “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (This is in regard to blasphemy of the Holy Spirit).

6. The Holy Spirit and The Transfiguration

- a. **The Transfiguration:** The story of Jesus being transfigured into his glorified state is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke (i.e. Synoptic Gospels). It took place after Peter professed Jesus to be the Christ, which had been revealed to him by the Father. Jesus then revealed to his disciples that his messianic mission would require him to suffer a tragic death. However, he mentioned that some of the disciples “standing here...will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power” (Mark 9:1).
 - **Mark 9:2-4** – “And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.”

- **Matthew 17:2** – “And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.”
 - **Luke 9:30-31** – “And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”
 - **Mark 9:7** (cf. 2 Peter 1:17) – “And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”
- b. **Theology:** The point of the Transfiguration was to show that Jesus is God’s Son, the Messiah. The Father affirms this fact through his speech, similar to the affirmation at Jesus’ baptism. Jesus stands above both Moses and Elijah, as he perfectly fulfills the law and the prophecies through his obedient life, which they represent. These two heroes of the faith came to encourage Jesus to finish the mission the Father sent him to complete. The disciples benefit from seeing a preview of Jesus’ post-resurrection glory, which will aid their faith enormously.
- c. **Holy Spirit:** What is the Holy Spirit’s influence upon the Transfiguration? While there is no clear reference to the Spirit’s direct involvement, some see a Trinitarian analogy between Jesus’ baptism and the transfiguration. Where the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Mount of Transfiguration like a cloud of light (Luke 9:34). However, we must use caution before building a doctrine around this because the Holy Spirit is not explicitly mentioned.

7. The Spirit and the Cross

- a. **The Cross of Christ:** Jesus’ suffering and death are critical in all four gospels. More space is dedicated to Jesus’ passion than anything else in his life. One person noted that the Gospels are passion narratives with extended introductions. Paul said the story of Jesus’ death was of “first importance” (1 Cor. 15:3). The atonement made by Jesus on the cross is completely necessary for our salvation.
- b. **Holy Spirit:** While the role of the Holy Spirit isn’t explicitly mentioned in the passion narratives, other New Testament passages help us to understand the Spirit’s role.
- **Hebrews 9:11-14** – “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

- c. **Theology:** The cross is indeed a Trinitarian event. The Father gave up the Son (Rom. 8:32), the Son gave up himself (John 10:17-18), and the Spirit kept the triune God from rupturing when the barrier of sin went up between the Father and the Son (2 Cor. 5:21).

8. The Spirit and the Resurrection

- a. **The Resurrection:** All four gospels contain accounts of the resurrection. Without Christ being raised from the dead, he is no different than a failed hero who was finally defeated, revealing that he was no hero at all. In that case, evil triumphs, injustice has the final say, and all hope is lost (1 Cor. 15:19). However, since Christ has been raised from the dead it proves that God exists, that his word is true, that his Son is the Messiah, and that our salvation is complete. The resurrection is complete assurance of the gospel.
- b. **Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- **Romans 8:11** – “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.”
 - **1 Peter 3:18** – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...”
 - **Point:** It appears that just as the Spirit brought life upon the earth during creation, the Spirit brought life back to Jesus during the resurrection. Furthermore, Paul writes that Christ was “vindicated by Spirit” in the resurrection, meaning that the Spirit provided evidence of Jesus’ claims (i.e. the world’s verdict about him proved wrong).

9. The Spirit and the Ascension

- a. **The Ascension:** The ascension of Christ into glory is the last of the Christological moments. Both Luke and Acts give a brief description of this event, where Jesus vertically ascends to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.
- **Luke 24:50-53** – “And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.”
 - **Acts 1:9-11** – “And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do

you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- b. **Holy Spirit:** The doctrine of the ascension is important because it removes Jesus from the earth, which allows the Holy Spirit to descend and indwell believers.
 - **John 16:7** – “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”