

ESSENTIALS-Session 5 "The Essential Ministry of The Holy Spirit"

INTRO

Testimony

- Each one of us has a unique testimony of the time that we got into the wheelbarrow, said I do and at that exact moment Scripture tells us that the Spirit took up residence in us!
- Romans 9-11

"The Holy Spirit supernaturally gives us new spiritual life by connecting us with Jesus Christ through faith." - Finally Alive, p. 37"

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

Who He Is Not

- He's not the Breath that a televangelist breathes over everyone
- He's not a tik tok dance
- He's not a Halloween costume

Who He Is:

"The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal in deity, attributes, and nature with the Father and the Son, who manifests God's active presence in the world."
 - Sovereign Grace Catechism, p.77

"God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God." - Bible Doctrine, p. 104

"The Holy Spirit isn't an 'it' He isn't merely the power of God or the influence of God. He is God. And I think you'll be amazed to learn what a pivotal role He plays in your life as a Christian." First Steps of Faith, p.41

The Holy Spirit Throughout the Bible

- Present During Creation
 - Genesis 1:2 - And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

- Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.

"The Holy Spirit was active as well in a different way [than God the Father or God the Son], in “moving” or “hovering” over the face of the waters, apparently sustaining and manifesting God’s immediate presence in his creation.” - Bible Doctrine p. 116

- Present Throughout the Old Testament
 - Haggai 2:4-5 - But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of armies. 5 ‘As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit remains in your midst; do not fear!’
 - Isaiah 63:10 - But they rebelled, And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.
 - Psalms 139:7-8 - 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.
- Present Throughout the New Testament
 - **The very first Chapter of the NT we see the Holy Spirit working.** Matt 1:18 - Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit.
 - **Baptism of Jesus.** Matt 3:16-17 - After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, 17 and behold, a voice from the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
 - **Born of the Spirit.** John 3: 5-6 - Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.

"The Spirit gives life and blessing to all creation. He grants new spiritual life to God’s people and makes possible communion with God through Christ.” - Sovereign Grace Catechism p. 78

- Were In Adam and now In Christ – Alpha
- **Helper, Advocate, Counselor.** John 14:16-17 - 16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another [g]Helper, so that He may be with you forever; 17 the Helper 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 remains with you and will be in you.
- **Convict the World of sin, righteousness, and judgment.** John 16: 7-11 - But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: 9 regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; 11 and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
- **Guide us in Truth.** John 16: 12-15 - “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. 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, 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 from Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you.
- **The Spirit is in us.** Titus 3: 5-6 - But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

"Through the proclamation of the gospel, the Holy Spirit regenerates our fallen hearts and brings us into a living union with Christ. Our eyes are opened to see Christ's glory, convicting us of sin and causing us to respond in faith and repentance." - Sovereign Grace Catechism p. 87

WHO ARE WE NOW?

Because the Spirit now lives in us, we:

- **Are Royalty.** 1 Peter 2: 9-10 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were

not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- **Have Divine Power.** 2 Peter 1:1-3 - To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- Because the Spirit indwells in us, we are God's kids and therefore Royalty and have access to the Royal gifts! How cool is this!!!

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

Non-spectacular ministry of the Spirit

- Knowing Truth. John 16:13 - But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.
 - Do you think we could use some truth today?
 - In a world of “fake new” and “know your own truth” it is so important to have a source of truth that is absolute. The Spirit helps us find this in multiple ways: Wisdom from others, prayer and scripture.

"What was memorable about this event, though, is how the Holy Spirit unfolded the passages significance to me. Suddenly I had a fresh insight about how Jesus must have felt when he heard John was beheaded."- First Steps of Faith p. 34

- It is amazing how such a mundane fact in the Bible can become such an amazing learning experience because the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the Truth.
- Knowing God.
 - Ephesians 1:17 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
 - Ephesians 3:14-19 - For this reason I bend my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

- We have the privilege of knowing the one true God. Not just some God out in space somewhere but one that wants to have a relationship with us.
 - Bible (above)
 - Prayer / Helping us pray
 - Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; Romans 8:26
 - Learning from others – Discipleship
 - Witness - Acts 1:8 - but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses.
- Conviction of Sin and Helping put sin to Death
 - John 16:8 – And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment:

"The Holy Spirit helps you put sin to death. Once he exposes sin in your life, the spirit comes alongside to help you overcome it..... God won't scrub sin from your life while you sleep. You are responsible to fight sin - not flirt with it, tolerate it, or yield to it. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you are to put sin to death by saying "no" to the wayward appetites of your flesh and "yes" to the righteous commands of God's word. Don't try putting sin to death by yourself. You can't do it you must have the spirit to help" – First Steps of Faith p. 42

- Why are these non-spectacular ministries important?
 - The Spirit uses these non-spectacular ministries and others to bring about Sanctification in our lives.
 - As we learned a few weeks ago, Sanctification is both the initial renewing work of the Spirit that sets us apart for God and his service, and the ongoing work of the Spirit which enables us to grow more and more like Christ. Sovereign Grace Catechism p. 91
 - 2 Cor 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - Without the Spirit there is no sanctification and therefore no growth and no pleasing God.

An empowering experience "manifestation of the Spirit," miracles.

- Scripture informs us that not only does the Spirit daily produce non-spectacular ministries in us but there are also miraculous manifestations and gifts of the Spirit that we are given.
 - Acts 1:8 - but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.

- Acts 2:1-4 - When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out.
- Peter's Sermon after being filled with the Spirit quotes the Prophet Joel. Acts 2:17-21 - And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, And your young men will see visions, And your old men will have dreams; 18 And even on My male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, And they will prophesy. 19 And I will display wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, Blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, Before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. 21 And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'
- This is US!!!! We have this power!
- Also, Paul further teaches us in 1 Corinthians about these Spiritual Gifts.
 - 1 Cor 12: 1-11 - Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 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. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
 - He then jumps right into teaching about the church being the body of Christ and how each member is needed for the body to function.
 - Interestingly Paul goes from Spiritual Gifts to a functioning body. Therefore, we must need the Gifts for the church body to function correctly AND not just a couple leaders but all of the members.

- I have no idea how these gifts get divvied up but what I do know is that if we are part of Christ's body, which we are, we must earnestly desire these gifts.
 - 1 Cor 12:27-31 - Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

Testimonies of the Manifestation.

- Dreams
- Healings
- Pregnancies

EXERCISE – FIRST STEPS OF FAITH, P.45

3 Most of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament are listed below. If you think God may have given you one of these gifts, put a ✓ beside it. Circle any gifts you would *like to* receive from God.

☐ Teaching (Ro 12:7)	☐ Serving (Ro 12:7)
☐ Giving (Ro 12:8)	☐ Mercy (Ro 12:8)
☐ Faith (1Co 12:9)	☐ Healing (1Co 12:9)
☐ Miracles (1Co 12:28)	☐ Helps (1Co 12:28)
☐ Encouraging (Ro 12:8)	
☐ Leadership (Ro 12:8)	
☐ Prophecy (1Co 12:10)	
☐ Tongues (1Co 12:10)	
☐ Discernment (1Co 12:10)	
☐ Administration (1Co 12:28)	
☐ Word of wisdom (1Co 12:8)	
☐ Word of knowledge (1Co 12:8)	

(Ro = Book of Romans; 1Co = 1st Corinthians; 1Ti = 1st Timothy)

RECOMMENDED READING

- ESV Study Bible
- Systematic Theology
- Sovereign Grace Catechism
- The Biggest Decision of Your (New) Life
- The Supernatural Creation of Spiritual Life
- You are Still You, but New

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take a couple of minutes and complete the exercise.
2. Before tonight, how would you have defined the Holy Spirit? How has that definition changed?
3. What are sometimes when you have experienced a non-spectacular ministry of the Spirit (i.e. Bible coming alive, prayer, discipleship, witness, etc.)
4. Talk about your responses to the exercise. What spiritual gift do you think God may have given you or what gifts would you like to receive from God?
5. Pray as a group that God would manifest these gifts among us even tonight.

HOMEWORK!!! ...Because the deepest part of your discipleship is personal!!

- Read: The Role of the Congregation