

John 14–16, pt.5, 8.16.09

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Intro.

1. Jesus assuring his disciples that they would not be left alone; they were fearful that they wouldn't be able to move forward w/o Jesus. He assures them several times of this discourse of his ongoing presence with them through the HS. Now, up to this point, not much has been said about the HS and Jesus unleashes insight about the person and work of the HS.
2. Our personal view of the HS – Images. He's a force, element, resource, mysterious...He's a person. When we think of the Father & Jesus, we have certain ideas, but with the HS we aren't certain how to view Him.
3. There is so much to say on this subject, but I'm focusing on the revelation of the HS in John 14 –16.

He Is Equal to the Father & Son

- A. 14.16 – “He will give you another Counselor” – the word for “another” is “another of the same kind” – same quality, type, nature. IOW, one just like Jesus. Jesus made it clear that He was divine. Appl – I have a car (VW Beetle) and Kris has another car (Honda Accord). They are cars, but they are different kinds of car. With this word “another”, it's used this way. I have a car (VW Beetle) and Jessie Hines has another car (VW Beetle).
 - a. Jesus was the image of the Father –> the HS is the image of Jesus.
 - b. Jesus was of the same nature as the Father –> the HS is of the same nature as Jesus
- B. 16.12f. “The Spirit of Truth” “guide you into all truth”. Omniscient.
 - a. Jesus declared Himself “the Truth”
 - b. The HS knows everything. He is omniscient; He knows the thoughts of God – 1 Cor.2.10.

- c. Don't every say, "No one knows how I feel." The HS who is a person knows. If we will let him, we can experience His sweet presence.
- C. **15.26 – He came from the Father as Jesus came from the Father.**
 - a. They have the same place of origin. Jesus was sent by the Father (4.34) as was the HS.
- D. **They are distinct – 14.16.** Jesus asks the Father who sends the Spirit. They aren't one and the same. This is very much like Jesus' baptism – Matt.3.16f. Three distinct personages. The power & pleasure of God were upon the person of Jesus.
- E. Summary – we didn't get a lesser Jesus on the Day of Pentecost; the second string quarterback (great attitude, some skill, but we're going to lose). We got One just like Jesus who can be at all places at once. We have Jesus as much today as the disciples had Jesus then. The HS is another Jesus. Put all the doubts and questions aside, we have as much of Jesus today as they did.

He is our Advocate – 14.16, 26; 15.26; 16.7

- A. Transl read: Comforter, Encourager, Counselor. These are synonyms of the Gk word "paraclete" but they carry too much baggage in our day. When we think of Comforter, we think of consoler; Encourager is a person with a positive attitude; Counselor is someone who can assist us with personal problems.
- B. Advocate in the legal sense. One who is called to our side to help us. He is going to God on our behalf to plead our case against the devil who is resisting us. Also, like a legal advocate, he is revealing strategy and insight into life.
- C. The idea of friend is also in this word. In essence, he is a legal friend. He is more than a defense counsel, but rather he's a friend with legal understanding who stands up for me.

- a. Illust – I know four men who are legal experts – Everett Stovall, Ed Denman, Bob May, Dee Allen. They have personally helped me & Willow with legal matters and questions. But, what’s most important is that these men are friends.
 - b. When we think of the HS as a legal advocate, we must not relegate him to a stiff, uncompromising, dogged lawyer, whose very presence creates fear. We must see him as a friend.
- D. This friends goes to the Father and pleads my case; he resists the devil; and he leads me into truth. He is always active; He isn’t on retainer & simply acting when I ask. He’s always acting on my behalf in my best interest. Up until now, the disciples had Jesus to do this. Today, we have the HS as our Advocate.
- a. 14.16 – “He will never leave you; be with you forever.” The HS presence isn’t momentary, but permanent. He is always with us.
 - b. Illust – In the book *Healing the Masculine Soul*, Gordon Dalbey says that when Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Helper, he uses a Greek word, paraclete, that was an ancient warrior's term. "Greek soldiers went into battle in pairs," says Dalbey, "so when the enemy attacked, they could draw together back-to-back, covering each other's blind side. One's battle partner was the paraclete." Our Lord does not send us to fight the good fight alone. The Holy Spirit is our battle partner who covers our blind side and fights for our well being.
 - c. Illust The Karre language of equatorial Africa proved to be difficult for the translators of the New Testament, especially when it came to the word paraclete. How could they describe the Holy Spirit?

One day the translators came across a group of porters going off into the bush carrying bundles on their heads. They noticed that in the line of porters there was always one who didn't carry anything, and they assumed he was the boss, there to make sure that the others did their work. However, they discovered he wasn't the boss; he had a special job. He was there should anyone fall over with exhaustion; he would come and pick up the man's load and carry it for him. This porter was known in the Karre language as "the one who falls down beside us."

The translators had their word for paraclete.

E. Ian Coffey, "Deep Impact," Keswick '99

- d. The HS is like that. He comes alongside us and stays in us. Our bodies are the Temple of the HS! This body is where He dwells. The house address of the HS is (say your name) you.

The title “Holy Spirit” is More than a Name – 14.17, 26

- A. Like the name Jesus, “He saves.” Jesus’ name tells us about His work among us.
- B. “Holy” means separate, different, distinct. He is w/o sin and compromise. He is inside of us making us distinct from the world. He is forming in us the family trait of holiness. At yesterday’s wedding, all the Benavidez brothers looked alike. They have some of the same physical traits.
- C. Holiness is the distinguishing trait of God. Everything about God has holy in front of it. He has holy love, holy joy, holy peace, holy justice, etc. Expl. Everything about God is Holy and he lets us experience His holiness and pass it to others.
- D. When we become Christians, the Spirit sets up residency in our lives. Then he begins His work of demolition, rearranging, constructing and retooling, so that we aren’t the same people. It’s the natural workings of the Holy Spirit. If you haven’t changed any since you came to Christ, you aren’t a Christian. He changes people. He’s like opossum in your garage. He will go through your garbage!
- E. My testimony – fear of people; extreme rage; impatience; selfishness; worry about finances; depression; my doctrinal limitations; broken relationships; feelings of inadequacies; etc.
- F. Consider your own story and what the Spirit is doing to make you separate, different, holy like God. How many of you have had a radical 180 change...gradual change? This is the activity of the Holy, Unique, Distinct, Separate, Unlike ourselves Spirit.

He is the Spirit of Truth – 15.26a; 16.13a

- A. Truth is essential for our freedom. Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” Truth liberates. The Holy Spirit is the Chief Liberator and His weapon of choice is truth.

- B. Explain how it works from Romans 6 & the New You. The illustration of the company who made biological weapons until they were sold. Then, they made oxygen. The outcome changed. The board of directors and president were fired; a new board of directors & president. Many employees were excited about the change, but others were unmoved and some were hostile. How do you change everyone?
- C. My heart is new and I'm under new management. I have a new destiny, but I still have values, beliefs, attitudes and habits that need to get into alignment. There aren't two management structures, but there are old mindsets/ mental models that have to be deconstructed.
- D. The HS goes to one particular department in my life (the area of intimacy with God) and says that has to change. He brings information, divine understanding, relationships, experiences, etc and it changes that department. The Spirit leads me into truth and I walk in greater freedom with God. Other times, I resist the Spirit as He brings truth. I fight against it. I get upset and angry or depressed, but He keeps pushing. If I'll humble myself, I'll eventually see the truth and begin walking in the light.
- E. We are liberated from lies by either truth encounters or power encounters. Truth encounters may be quick revelations but most of the time it's a slowly evolving awareness. God builds in time for the full acceptance of this truth transformation. Like the disciples accepting Jesus, 16.29f. It took three years to get to that place.
- F. God sends the Spirit of Truth not only to convict us of sin, but to deliver us from sinful values, beliefs, attitudes and habits. He's the Spirit of Truth who leads us into all truth to facilitate the transformation of our lives into the image of Christ.

Conclusion:

- A. Summary: The HS is equal to the Father & the Son; He is our Advocate; the title "HS" is more than a name; He is the Spirit of Truth.
- B. His residence is in every believer. Have you tapped into Him?

C. Illust - During the depression this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates wasn't able to make enough on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family (like many others) had to live on government subsidy.

Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would pay his bills. Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and told him there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease contract.

At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. In fact, 30 years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed it still had the potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day.

And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he purchased the land he had received the oil and mineral rights. Yet, he'd been living on relief. A multimillionaire living in poverty. The problem? He didn't know the oil was there even though he owned it.

Many Christians live in spiritual poverty. They are entitled to the gift of the Holy Spirit and his energizing power, but they are not aware of their birthright.

D. Call on Him today!