

## WEEK 2

Review of Week 1:

**1) We discussed the extremes to which many Christians practically relate to the HS: Holy Spirit practically regarded as an “it” or a “force”**

**Rarely discussed, except in regards to someone the Father sends to accomplish His work**

VS.

**Holy Spirit is the central figure in church and life doctrine**

**Always the center of conversation, almost to the exclusion of Jesus or the Father**

**Centered around His gifts to believers**

But it is the Spirit's Will to tell the world about Jesus (John 14/16). It is also the Spirit's Will that *no single doctrinal principle be important enough to displace the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as the one name that alone should dominate His Church.*” This means that NO discussion or doctrine should displace the name of Jesus as the centerpiece of the church. It doesn't matter whether it is Security in salvation, events of the Tribulation, or the gifts of the Spirit, NOTHING is more important than Jesus in the church. If you find yourself talking more about those topics than you do about Jesus, then you are not doing it by the Spirit of God, because His primary focus is to bring glory to Jesus, because that is how light comes into our souls, that is how lives are changed, that is how the world is convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

If we as the church—whole started to talk more about Jesus and spend more of our time focused on Him (as the Spirit would have us do), then we would find unity, and not dissensions, and arguments and quarrels. We would find unity in the Spirit.

**2) We discussed How to prove the Deity of Christ and the Deity of the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures**

I think it is important that we be able to defend the faith, especially The central doctrine of Christianity—The Deity of Jesus Christ. Because if He is not Deity, then atonement makes no sense, for how can a finite creature atone for the guilt of the world? If He is not Deity, then He is a liar, because He made it abundantly clear that He in fact IS God.

The doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ is the first one attacked by cults, and other faiths, and is in the center of all that separates us from what they might believe.

We believe and know that God is Triune, in that He is Three in persons, yet one in essence. There are 3 individual, identifiable persons of the GodHead. Father, Son, Holy Spirit, yet these 3 are one. They are co-equal, co-eternal, co-majestic.

Since this belief is necessary for salvation (in other words, you cannot be saved if you reject the notion that Jesus is God, because if you have the Spirit of God in you, He will testify to this truth to you—and Jesus said, “Unless you believe that I AM, you will indeed die in your sins)—And since the Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus and brings glory to Him, I thought it was good for us to review in detail how we should prove the Deity of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures.

It is important not only that we believe in the Trinity, but that we KNOW Him (Be still and know that I am God—Psalm 46:10), in getting to know Him, we will grow to be more like Him.

The subject of God the Trinity is the most important subject that we could occupy our minds with. Yet the church as a whole seems to spend a lot of time talking and thinking about everything but the Trinity.

3) Many of us would like to demonstrate the **fruit of the Spirit**. But how can we do that? It is the Spirit's fruit, not ours. It is not the fruit of the flesh, but of the Spirit that we desire. We must die to ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. He needs to be a bigger part of our lives.

**We discussed the importance of also having the Holy Spirit Himself on our minds and in our speech.** For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks. If you do not talk about the Holy Spirit, then what does that say about His position in our hearts? Is it no wonder we struggle to develop the **Fruit of the Spirit** in our lives????????????? And knowing *about* someone is not a substitute for knowing them. I want to KNOW the Holy Spirit and to know He who is the embodiment of love, joy, peace, patience,... What better master to learn from??? However, though we know it to be true that knowledge about someone does not mean that we know them personally, it is a good place to begin. It would also be bizarre to claim personal knowledge of someone and yet not know certain basic facts about them. If you have received Jesus as your personal Lord and savior, and are born again, you have the Holy Spirit as your eternal companion. Study what the Bible says about Him, HE WROTE IT!! Pray to God, and to Him concerning your growth in the knowledge of the Spirit. Talk to your Counselor, who is a FANTASTIC GIFT to you!

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**Luke 18:17; “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”**

How would a child receive the Kingdom of God? How would a child receive the Holy Spirit? If we were to receive the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit as a child, what would that look like? Would we be focused on tongues, snakes, miraculous powers, and gifts, or would we focus on HIM? There should be an AWE to how we think of Him, reverent fear, love for Him. We need to get first things first. The foundation is to receive the Holy Spirit for who He is, and to see what a blessing and a gift it is to have Him indwelling us. After that comes a study in His gifts, seal, filling, etc....

**I. The “Gift(s) of the Holy Spirit**

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the **GIFT** my Father promised...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4

*The true gift is the Holy Spirit Himself*

THE Creator of the Universe is in you! The God that formed the stars and put them in their places in the sky is in you! The God that moves mountains, that forms babies in the womb, that made all the animals, and plants is in YOU!

**How could we ever want for anything else?**

We have eternal life through Jesus Christ. We have peace with God. We have God Almighty living with and IN us.

When we receive this Gift of the Holy Spirit, that is what the Bible calls being born again. What a gift that is! A new life, a fresh start! I have heard soo

many people say, “if only I could go back and do it all over again...”. Well, we can’t, but we can have a new start, a new life in the Holy Spirit.

What else do we need?

We could stop right here in our discussion of the gifts of the Spirit and it would be more than enough. The Creator God of the universe is ours forever IN us, and we have a new life in HIM!

What else do we need? We have a saying at our house that “need” is a 4-letter word. We don’t “need” anything else. We may “WANT” a lot of things, but we don’t NEED them.

◆ **Companionship** (“It is not good for the man to be alone.” Gen 2:18).  
“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another (*αλλον*) Counselor TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER—the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives **with** you and will be **in** you.” [\*John 14:16-17\*](#) “**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you!**”

**The Holy Spirit within us**

**II Timothy 1:14**; “...the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”

**Galatians 3:14** (“...so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit)

**John 7:38-39** (“Whoever believes in Me ...streams of living water will flow from within him. By this He meant The Spirit...)

**I Corinthians 3:16** “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

**Luke 11:13**; “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

When we receive the Holy Spirit, He doesn’t just live with us, but IN us. He penetrates our spirit. He doesn’t destroy us, nor does He just place Himself beside us...He comes INTO us! We are permanently changed for the better.

The Holy Spirit is not a companion like any other you have known. You can see an earthly friend. You can hear him speak to you. But you can’t see the Holy Spirit, nor

can you hear Him audibly. But then again, “The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear filled with hearing.”

(Ecc. 1:8). But the Holy Spirit can fill your soul with His presence and with Joy. No friend on earth can do that! As with Jesus, “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...”

(I Peter 1:8)

**\*\* I am never alone with God the HS with me and in me!!**

**What better companion could we want?**

**Is there anyone more faithful? He is always with you. He will never leave you.**

**Is there anyone more fascinating than the Creator of the universe?**

(Discuss how we like to hang around famous people, talented people, or people that are rich and have a lot of worldly wealth. How much more famous is God? How much more talented? The whole world is His. And the Spirit of this God is WITH YOU....Forever!!!)

**Is there anyone more capable, more powerful?**

The Spirit of Him who said, “Ask and you shall receive” and “you may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it” is your companion forever! [Discuss how when something in our house gets broken, our kids NEVER seem to get distressed or worry. They just say, ‘Daddy will fix it’ or ‘Grampy will fix it’ and then they come and bring it to me or grandpa. And most of the time I CAN’T fix it!

If only we received the Kingdom of God like little children—we wouldn’t worry if something in our lives is broken; we’d just take it to OUR Father. We’d say, “Jesus can fix it” (Mark 9:23 story of possessed boy; “If you [I] can? Said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.” Do you realize that the Spirit of our omnipotent, capable God is our eternal, personal companion?!?!?!? Is there anyone more capable than Him?

◆ Comfort.

**He comforts us with His PRESENCE**

**“Fear not, for I am with you...” Genesis 26:24**

(Discuss how my kids like to be in our bedroom during a storm).

**You grow close to someone when you have weathered storms with them.**

**(Discuss tough times in med school and how much I appreciated the faithful companionship of my wife. It was—and is—a comfort to me, just being with her)**

### **He comforts us with the TRUTH**

**“Do not let your hearts be troubled...(John 14:1)...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.” (John 14:16)**

; true comfort that comes from the truth. It is a **true** comfort to know the truth, to know The Truth (Jesus), to know our Father in heaven, and to know the Comforter who lives within me! That is TRUE COMFORT. I can be comforted therefore, even when I have no earthly reason to be comforted

### **He comforts us with His EXPERIENCE**

**Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, and has been tempted in every way, just as we are (Hebrews 4:15)**

**Jesus endured terrible opposition from men (Hebrews 12:3)**

**THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST LIVES IN YOU! HE IS ABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR STRUGGLES!! (Discuss the popularity of patient support groups, we like to be around people who can sympathize, AND help us with our problem because they have been through the same thing. Even if you have to live with the disease, it is much more bearable since you know that you are not alone!)**

True Comfort: Not necessarily being taken out of the hard times. Not necessarily being given the reason why for the hard times. (We're on a "need—to—know basis", and we don't need to know!) Certainly not pretending that the pain doesn't exist. [**Would we rather be “comforted” with a lie, or afflicted and yet have the truth?** (Discuss grandpa Bob's funeral and the 'comfort' being given with a lie.)] But True Comfort is “GOD WITH US”

#### How would I know? By Kathy Troccoli

“If it wasn't for the times that I was down. If it wasn't for the times that I was bound. For all the times that I wondered how I would ever make it through, all of the times that I couldn't see my way, and I had to turn to you. How would I know you could deliver? How would I know you could set free? If there had never been a battle, how would I know the victory? How would I know you could be faithful to meet all of my needs? Lord, I appreciate the hard times, otherwise how would I know?”

“I remember all the times I had to cry, and at the time all I could do was wonder why. Why would a God so kind and loving allow me to go through all this pain? If I could see into the future, then I would know the joy I'd gain.”

“How would I know that you could make a way out of no way. How would I know if I never had a need? Brother I know what you're going through. Sister I know cause I've been in your shoes. But I can truly say that I know what God can do.”

“...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:4

◆ **Counsel/Guidance (John 15:26 - 16:14)**

*Analogy:* What someone *\*does\** identifies who he is *This is what the Holy Spirit does.*

- He testifies about Jesus (John 15:26)

“We will never understand the Holy Spirit so long as we terminate our thought upon Him. The Scriptures always lead us on beyond every subjective experience to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.” Tozer Jan. 4

- He convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8)

Conviction is a reality whether or not it is felt. The world is convicted of sin/righteousness/judgement, whether or not it is recognized. [in a court of law, a criminal may be convicted whether or not he feels guilty]

This conviction is specifically to convict the world of its unbelief in Jesus, since that is the KEY to being released from the guilt of sin!!!

Notice that the conviction of sin and righteousness relate to testifying of faith in Jesus and HIS righteousness? And the conviction of judgment is so sure, it is as sure as Satan’s conviction. The world will be judged as surely as the ruler of the world has already been judged!

...

You know, when you have everything, and you are happy, many people don’t think they need Jesus. They may pay lip-service to Him, but there isn’t a deep NEED that is felt for Him. [often times it takes a severe trial, illness, death in the family to wake people up to the fact that they need Jesus] But the Holy Spirit can convict the entire world even when there is no physical, or perceived emotional need or stress going on. That is how I was saved...[Go over testimony of tennis player and Dean Jones..p335 of “evidence that demands a verdict]

If you allow yourself to feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit, you will see what a blessed gift that really is. **He is such a Comforter, that even His conviction is a comfort!!!**

- He will speak the Words of the Triune God (John 16:13)

This shows the operation of the Trinity in a wonderful way. For Jesus also says that He speaks only what He hears from His Father. And the Spirit speaks what He hears from the Son and the Father. There is total, 100% agreement, therefore, between everything that Jesus has said and what the Spirit has said, and will say. So we can trust the writings of the Spirit that would come after Jesus’ ascension, since they will agree with what Jesus said, and what has already been said in the OT.

This is a wonderful gift because, **as Martin Luther put it, “we may have a certain criterion and touchstone by which to judge the false spirits.”**

You and I can recognize what doesn’t come from God, because it will not agree with what the Spirit has spoken in the Scriptures (God-breathed;God-Spirited)

Just as knowing where True North is, is essential for navigation; and having precise measures of weight and time is essential for laboratory studies; so it is as essential for our spiritual life to have a True North, a perfect standard to measure everything we hear or come in contact with in our lives. That perfect Standard, That True North is the Holy Bible, written by the Holy Spirit. And it can be trusted because He will not speak of Himself, but only what He hears!

- He will tell you what is yet to come (John 16:13; I Timothy 4:1)

Why does the HS tell us what is yet to come? What is the purpose? How is this a gift to us? It seems like a lot of the fascination over end-times events taking place (such as the regathering of Israel, their effort to begin temple re-construction, and the world standing against her) is for entertainment purposes. As we see key events take place, what kind of a response does this get out of us? [In many major cities, the traffic report will include what known as a “gawkers delay”. That’s where someone has pulled off to the side of the road either because of a fender-bender, or a stalled car, or they’re getting a ticket. And even though the road is not blocked, everyone slows down to gawk and traffic backs way up. If the motorist is getting a

ticket, you might drive slow for a while, but then very soon your back to your old driving habits. If it was an accident, you drive safer for a while, but then there is no lasting change. So it is with our lives and events of the end-times. Oh we may slow down for a minute, wave our flags, and get a little more serious about God—but there’s no lasting change—we’re just gawking at world events.

Is that why the Holy Spirit told us what is yet to come? No! **Read II Peter 3:10-12**

The reason why it is a gift for the Holy Spirit to tell us what is yet to come is because it is intended to lead us to live holy lives and to work to advance the Kingdom of God. Will we live any differently now that the Spirit has told us what is yet to come?

There is another element to the Spirit telling us what is yet to come. I’m not referring now to end-times events in the world, but where we are going after we die or Jesus comes back.

**I Corinthians 2:9-10**; “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”—**BUT GOD HAS REVEALED IT TO US BY HIS SPIRIT.**” What a wonderful gift to us!! We have been given a sure hope. The Spirit has told us what is yet to come. Glory is yet to come! We know the end of the story. God wins. Satan loses. You win. If you have the Spirit of God within you, you have a hope that far surpasses any momentary stresses. Isn’t a whole lot easier dealing with life’s difficulties when you know where you are going?

- **He will bring glory to Jesus** (John 16:14)

#### ◆ Teaches us the Truth

- He will guide you into all truth (**John 16:13**)—***we have The Spirit***  
**“God is Spirit and His worshipers must worship in Spirit and in Truth.” John 4:24**  
The **Holy Spirit** is necessary for worship. We have to be born again. We are to worship in the Spirit.

He is the Spirit of Truth. If we worship and yet we do not know the truth (i.e. Jesus is God, He is the only way to be saved, etc) then we are not the kind of worshipers the Father desires.

**TRUTH IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR SALVATION AND WORSHIP**  
(You may feel that you are worshipping God, but unless it is done in Truth, you are not the kind of worshiper the Father desires. You **MUST** worship in truth. The **ONLY** way you can find Truth is through the Spirit of Truth and the Holy Scriptures that He wrote. If you have ignored either one of these, then you are not the kind of worshiper the Father desires.

- He will teach you all things and remind you of everything Jesus said  
(**John 14:26**)

#### ***We have the Bible***

We’ve talked about what a wonderful gift it is to have the Words of the Holy Spirit, our Holy Bible.

But not only do we have the Words of the Holy Spirit that we can read whenever we want to, we also have the author of those same Scriptures as our eternal companion and teacher!

**II Corinthians 2:14-16**; “The natural man (**man without the Spirit**) does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, **and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.** The spiritual man (man with the Spirit) discerns all things...But we have the mind of Christ.”

- You do not need anyone to teach you, His anointing teaches you about all things (I John 2:27)

You are not utterly dependent upon teachers for you to understand the Scriptures. I'm not saying that God the Holy Spirit doesn't use teachers to show us mighty things in His Word, but you are not dependent upon the teachers, you are dependent upon the Holy Spirit!!!! What ever happened to the Berean way? What ever happened to checking everything we hear from teachers by studying the Scripture ourselves and asking the Holy Spirit to guide us to the truth, as He will?!?!?

*(Discuss using the Bible for our source of truth, and not leaning upon other books so much)  
Discuss my urge to get extra-biblical books FIRST when I decided to prepare for this talk on The Holy Spirit. I forgot that I had the Holy Spirit to lead me into all truth, esp. regarding Himself!!  
Give a balance to this issue.*

"The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd. Beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body." Ecc. 12:11-12

- Many people would rather read a book about the Bible, than to read the Bible itself.

"All Scripture is God-breathed..." II Timothy 3:16 (Theopneustos)

"Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" **Ephesians 6:17**

The Word of God is our offensive spiritual weapon (**Discuss the offensive spiritual weapon and taking the Scriptures with you wherever you go, what I have done...**)

†...so why do we find it difficult to **read large amounts** of it?

"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." **Hebrews 4:12**

**Joke:** *I like it that the Spirit leads us into truth so you don't have to be mind-numbed listening to me and can come up afterwards and argue some of these points with me. Of course I might change my mind about that if the whole class comes running up here afterwards!!*