



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

"The Holy Spirit: An Introduction"

John Bevere – Mar. 9, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who do you talk to when you are in serious need of general life advice? Why?
- Who do you like to spend time with for recreational purposes? Why?
- Is there anyone who comes to you when they are in special need? Why?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

The Book of Acts profoundly reveals the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the early believers. Without the Holy Spirit Christianity is reduced to nothing more than a religious organization. Biblically, the Holy Spirit is revealed as a person. Theologically, as we examine the biblical data and reflect upon the historic experience of the Church, we understand the Holy Spirit to be revealed as the third person of the Trinity, one with the Father and the Son. There is only one God, who is eternally revealed in three persons. They are distinguishable from one another, but indivisible, for there is only one divine essence. They all share equally in all the qualities that make God, God. Yet they do function in different roles. Today we focusing on the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force, influence or power (Jn 14:16-17). He is described as possessing a mind/intelligence (1 Co 2:10-13), a will/volition (1 Cor 12:11), and emotions/feelings (Eph 4:30; Ro 15:30). There are many biblical examples that reveal this. He searches hearts, speaks to people, convicts the world of sin, imparts spiritual gifts to the Church's members, and calls, guides and sends God's people into ministry (Jn 16:8; Ac 13:2,4; 1 Co 14:7-11). He can be grieved, insulted, lied to, blasphemed, resisted, and quenched (Eph 4:30; Hb 10:29; Ac 5:3; Mt 12:31-32; Ac 7:51; 1 Th 5:19).

Communion with the Holy Spirit is enjoined upon us by the apostle Paul. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV)."

Fellowship or communion in the Greek language of the New Testament involves three basic meanings.

1. Fellowship
 - Companionship is a synonym for fellowship. The meaning involves being together. God desires to be with us in friendship. Furthermore, this desire is constant, which is underscored by the fact that God's Spirit dwells within us.
2. Partnership
 - This involves close mutual association. God has given us the Holy Spirit to partner with us in life and in the work he has called us to do. God desires to guide, counsel, and empower us in all that we do. Our responsibility is to seek to do what pleases God in all that we do.

3. Intimacy

- This involves the thoughts, secrets, and desires of each person being shared with the other. God wants us to be intimate with him, and he desires to be intimate with us. God "yearns jealously" for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us (James 4:5).

The Holy Spirit often conveys those qualities of divinity that we tend to view as feminine when we think of humans. Genesis tells us that God created humans in his image, male *and* female he created them. Thus, females reflect the image of God even as males do. This means that all feminine qualities ultimately derive from God. The person of the Trinity who especially reflects these qualities in their role of redemption is the Holy Spirit. The first and second persons of the Trinity are particularly associated with masculine identity; namely, the Father and the Son. While it is probably best to think of God's fundamental essence as non-sexual, we do understand that God must ultimately possess all those qualities, masculine and feminine, that are reflected in humans made in the image of God.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- How would you describe your relationship with the Holy Spirit? How do you actually relate to him (not, what do you believe the Bible teaches about him)?
- How many of the three aspects of communion do you experience with the Holy Spirit: fellowship, partnership, and intimacy?
- What can we do to cultivate a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would increase our revelation and understanding of the person of the Holy Spirit.
- That God would help us daily to cultivate our relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- That God would increase our experience of fellowship, partnership, and intimacy with the Holy Spirit.