

The Person and Purpose of the Holy Spirit

John 14:12-18; John 16:7-15

I want to speak this morning about the most important person living on earth today; it is not our president, the ruler of Russia, the Queen of England, the Tibetan Dali Lama, or even the Pope; it is the Holy Spirit. In this series I have spoken to you about prayer, fasting and giving and today I want to talk about this person who empowers all of these to become effective in our lives; the Holy Spirit.

When we talk about the presence of God, the Spirit of God and heaven touching earth we are talking about this third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ, Heaven's King sits at the right hand of the throne of God the Father. And it is God the Holy Spirit who dwells on the earth with us and also has come to abide in us.

There are varied opinions in the religious world when it comes to this person of the Holy Spirit. So we must take off our denominational glasses, set aside our personal opinions and look into the scripture in order to discover the true person of the Holy Spirit. And as we come to know Him, we will discover the purpose for which He was sent to us.

First we must come to understand who Holy Spirit is.

I. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:15–17 (NKJV) *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

A. First let's look at Webster's definition of person:

1. the body of a human being; bodily appearance; the personality of a human being
2. one of the three modes of being in the Trinitarian Godhead as understood by Christians
3. the unitary personality of Christ that unites the divine and human natures¹

B. Webster says personality is:

1. The quality or state of being a person; personal existence
2. The complex of characteristics that distinguishes an individual or a nation or group;
3. The totality of an individual's behavioral and emotional characteristics²

C. As we begin our message the first fact we must establish and embrace is that the Holy Spirit is not an “it”, not a ghostly presence, a feeling or imagined influence.

1. The Holy Spirit is a person. He is the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit.
2. He is equal in presence, substance and power to God the Father and God the Son.
3. Being a member of the Trinity is itself proof of the personality of the Holy Spirit.
4. Some of you grew up as I did singing every Sunday. “God in three persons, blessed Trinity.”

D. Throughout the scriptures we find the attributes or characteristics of personality which are manifested by the Holy Spirit:

1. **He has a mind**:

¹ Frederick C. Mish, “Preface,” *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² Frederick C. Mish, “Preface,” *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

Romans 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

2. **He has emotions:**

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

3. **He has a will:**

1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

E. The scripture also reveals the behavior, actions and activities of the Holy Spirit that flow from His personality:

1. **He is a teacher:**

John 14:26 (KJV) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

2. **He guides and He speaks:**

John 16:13 (NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

3. **He comforts:**

Acts 9:31 (NKJV) Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

4. **He helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us:**

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

5. **He is in fellowship and communion with believers:**

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

F. Although the Holy Spirit does not have a physical body, He is very much God in person for He is in possession of a mind, emotions and a will. He teaches, guides, comforts and abides in close fellowship and relationship with God's children.

1. We must never be tempted to resign Him to a secondary role or think the manifestations of His presence and power suddenly ceased at a given point in time. (cessationist)
2. He is alive, active and present in our world and has never ceased to be so since the Day of Pentecost.
3. If we will take time to listen, He will speak. If we will make room for Him in our hearts and lives, He will fill us.
4. At salvation the well was opened for you, but when we receive Him in His fullness in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the river is released!

G. The person of Holy Spirit was sent by Christ and poured out on us with an intentional purpose in mind. There are two aspects of God's purpose in the sending of the Holy Spirit. The first of all was:

II. THE RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM ON EARTH

Matthew 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Matthew 4:23 *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

Matthew 6:9–10 *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

A. Before we delve into the Holy Spirit's purpose of restoring the Kingdom we should first define the concept of kingdom in order to better understand His office.

1. Kingdom: a country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen; a realm associated with or regarded as being under the control of a particular person or thing.
2. The word used most often in the NT for Kingdom is *basileia*, which translates: the rule or dominion, the spiritual reign or authority of God.

B. Most of us in the United States (if we were born and raised here) have tremendous difficulty grasping the concept of a king and a kingdom. Growing up in a democratic republic makes it hard to understand that in a monarchy, the king is the absolute sovereign. The kingdom is his domain and everything, all the land, it's resources and even the people are his possessions.

1. With that in mind, consider Jesus Christ, who is the King of Kings and the universe as His domain.
2. In the beginning God... created the earth and all it contains then gave man dominion over it.
3. That dominion was lost when Adam sinned and God expelled him from the garden and His Holy Presence.
4. But it wasn't just the garden paradise that was lost. The Spirit and life of God breathed into man at his creation were now divorced from him by his rebellion and the entrance of sin.

C. Jesus came to "seek and to save that which was lost." That which was lost was the image of God in man, the very purpose for which he was created. It would take the sacrifice of blood for the forgiveness and redemption of sin to take place, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to restore the kingdom's presence within every man and woman.

1. John came baptizing with water and He testified that the one on whom he saw the Spirit descending and remaining, He would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire.

Matthew 3:11 (NKJV) *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

2. On the day of Pentecost the words of Jesus were fulfilled as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon all flesh and the way back into the Kingdom's fullness was opened.

D. For us to truly understand the Holy Spirit's role in the restoration of the kingdom on earth we need to first understand His office. He is the governor.

1. But He is not like the governor of a state within our democratic republic. He is like the governor of a colonized territory appointed by the monarch of a conquering kingdom.
2. For example, the 17th & 18th Century monarchies of Eastern Europe, England, Spain and France were constantly trying to expand their kingdoms wealth by taking new territory, capturing their people and confiscating their natural resources.
3. On all continents of the world we have the evidences of this.

- E. Once the territory was taken, the king or queen would appoint a governor to rule in that colony. He could not be a person from the territory, but had to be a citizen of the kingdom. For example, this is William Shirley, longest serving governor of Massachusetts and Governor of the Bahamas.
1. The governor was given the task of making the colony just like the kingdom from which he came. He would bring the language, customs and culture of that kingdom to the colony.
 2. In the Caribbean there were British, French and Spanish colonies that still reflect the culture of their respective kingdoms today though most are now Commonwealths or independent countries.
 3. For example, the Dominican Republic was a Spanish colony and Haiti was French. Even though they share the same island they speak different languages, and practice the customs. They reflect the cultures of the kingdom from which their governors came.
- F. If you remember our history, before the revolutionary war there were the thirteen colonies. These early colonist were under the rule of King George and his appointed governors.
1. Our ancestors spoke English, drank tea and were subjects of the crown. We were by all rights British until we rebelled against the King. Just like Adam, he was a citizen of the Kingdom, in good fellowship with the King until he rebelled in the garden.
- G. When Adam rebelled and sin entered the world, the abiding presence of the God (the Holy Spirit) left.
1. Redemption was simply the plan of restoration for that which was lost in the fall. God's Spirit, His presence being brought back into communion and relationship with His creation.
 2. Jesus came and through His sacrifice opened the way back into relationship with the Father but there was more work to do.
 3. The colony had to be influenced, its customs, language and culture transformed to reflect the image and character of its king, Jesus.
- H. Just as a governor was the highest authority in the European colonies, the Holy Spirit has come and is now the highest authority on planet earth.
1. When we speak of the kingdom coming upon earth, we are welcoming the governor to rule and reign and to bring the influence the King and His domain where we are.
- I. The Holy Spirit is the governor sent by Jesus the King, to restore the Kingdom of God upon this earth, to bring all things back under His dominion and care.
1. He is sent by the King to instruct us, in the language, customs and culture and teach us how to live in the kingdom of heaven on this earth.
 2. That is what we are saying when we recite the Lord's prayer? "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Secondly, the purpose if the Holy Spirit is:

III. TO REESTABLISH THE CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM

- A. Maybe the best way to start is by comparison, seeing what the culture of the Kingdom is not.
1. Let's go back to Genesis where we see the very first evidence of the new culture that Adam has begun to create by his fall into sin.

Genesis 4:3–8 (NKJV) *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your*

countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

2. The fruit of Adam’s rebellion has now taken hold and brother rises against brother and commits murder.
3. As look back through the centuries it is easy to see how the culture of sin has been passed down through every generation and seems to be gaining energy.
4. Our world today is corrupt and filled with greed, lust, murder and unimaginable cruelty of man against man.
5. It is its culture. A culture of sin that has ravaged down through the ages and grows in violent rage against Jesus Christ with every passing day.

B. Jesus gives clear understanding what is taking place in one verse from John 10:

John 10:10 (NKJV) *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

1. When Adam sinned, the Holy Spirit departed from man and the enemy began his onslaught against the children of men in an attempt to destroy forever the purpose and plan of God in the earth. (All the earth filled with the knowledge of God.)

C. The thief came to steal and destroy, but Christ has come to rescue, recover and restore what was lost. He came to bring the spirit of life back to man and restoration of everything lost in the fall; dominion, provision, prosperity and peace.

1. Jesus came that spiritual life would be once again revived within the “zombies” of this earth.
2. As I mentioned before there are two phases in the reestablishment of the Kingdom culture which have to take place.

D. First, mankind’s sin had to be dealt with upon the cross. The perfect sacrifice had to be offered up unto death so the justice of God could be satisfied. When Jesus cried out on the cross, “It is finished,” it was done.

1. In the blood of Calvary’s Lamb the well of salvation was opened and whosoever will can come and drink of His life and receive life eternal.
2. Regeneration, the new birth is the first step to the restoration of the kingdom.

E. Second, the return of governor. On the Day of Pentecost the same Spirit of Life that raised Christ from the dead, poured out into the lives of the redeemed in order to restore the culture of God’s kingdom on this earth.

1. Redemption opened the well of salvation and the return of the Holy Spirit released the river of His transforming presence.
2. A river that washes away the brokenness and sin. A river that brings healing to the nations and life to everything it touches.

Psalm 46:4–5 (NKJV) *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.*

Ezekiel 47:5–9 (NKJV) *Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. ⁸ Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters*

the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. ⁹ And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

Revelation 22:1–3 (NKJV) *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*

Conclusion

When Adam sinned he was driven from God's presence and the culture of death overcame the world.

The kingdom came back to earth when the Father sent His only begotten Son, to become the Son of man...

...who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6–11)

Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice to conquer the curse, purchased mankind's redemption and is now crowned as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The territory was conquered and on the day of Pentecost the promise of the Father was poured out releasing the Holy Spirit, the governor into earth and the re-colonization began. And now the Holy Spirit has a body, through a vessel called the church, the body of Christ the kingdom's culture is filling and reclaiming the earth.

John's baptism of water was unto repentance; the well of salvation was opened.

Holy Spirit's baptism is a baptism of fire for the purpose of reoccupation, restoration and transformation of this world back to its original design. A release of the river of His life.

The King of Kings has sent the Holy Spirit to bring the culture of His back to the earth. And those who are filled with His Spirit are the vehicle He intends to use.

That same Kingdom life, power and purpose is available here today to whosoever will believe on the name of heaven's King; Jesus Christ and receive the gift of His Spirit and power.