



## THIRD PERSON

### #1: THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Pastor Randy Remington

#### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"The Scriptures are very clear that everything Jesus did and said was born of the Spirit. He was God in the flesh, but He did not exercise His rightful power and authority apart from the empowering Presence of God, the Spirit."*

–Pastor  
Randy Remington

*"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all." (Acts 19:1-7)*

*"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

*"And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (Ezekiel 36:27)*

*"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls." (Joel 2:28-32)*

*"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord"... Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations." (Isaiah 11:1-3, 42:1)*

*"When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry"... Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry... Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 3:21-23, 4:1-2; 14-21)*

*"Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit'..." (Jesus peaking, said...) "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 1:32-33, 16:7)*

*"So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"... (Peter, replying to accusations that he and others were drunk, said) "...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." (Acts 1:6-8, 2:16-18)*

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

We can grasp the person-hood of God as Father and Jesus His Son. We all know fathers and sons, but the Holy Spirit is more difficult to understand. He can seem immaterial and impersonal. But our hope is that we can relate to God the Holy Spirit as God's personal Presence—a person to whom we can relate. When that happens, we can grow not just in our understanding of the Holy Spirit's mission and power, but in a relational experience of Him. Gordon Fee writes:

*"I am convinced that the Spirit in the Apostle Paul's experience and theology was always thought of in terms of the personal presence of God. The Spirit is God's way of being present, powerfully present, in our lives and communities as we await the consummation of the kingdom of God. Precisely because Paul understood the Spirit as God's personal presence, Paul also understood the Spirit always in terms of an empowering presence and an experiential presence; whatever else, for Paul the Spirit was an experienced reality. Without an experience of the Spirit, we are living sub-New Testament lives."*

—Gordon Fee from *God's Empowering Presence*

Is it possible that we are living like those disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19:1-7, who when they heard about the Holy Spirit said, "I've heard about the Holy Spirit, but I've never experienced Him"? That's not because God wasn't revealing Himself in the Holy Spirit. Look at Genesis 1:1-2. You can't get any earlier in God's Story than that! The Holy Spirit was there, hovering over the waters. The first image of the Spirit we get is Him hovering over the void of chaos and darkness.

Throughout the Old Testament the prophets promised the Holy Spirit. Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel, for example, all pointed to a coming era when God's Spirit would be poured out on all flesh. We were in desperate need to it. Why? God's people continually broke His Law. But the prophets pointed to a day when God's law would be written on our hearts. God said that He would remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. (Jeremiah 31:31-34, also Ezekiel 36:27). But before that happened, there was silence—400 years of it after Malachi and before Jesus.

During the silence, God's people looked forward to a day when the Holy Spirit would go from visitation to habitation: Joel 2:28-32, "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." This would happen as the Holy Spirit ushered in the Servant of the Lord

(Isaiah 11:1-3, Isaiah 42:1). Jesus is that servant, and as such is the one who ushers in the age of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41-42, Luke 1:67, Luke 1:35, Luke 3:21-23, Luke 4:1-2, Luke 4:14-21, John 19:30, John 1:32-33). Jesus pours out His Spirit—the Holy Spirit, the one Paul sometimes refers to as “the Spirit of Christ”—on us (John 16:7, Acts 1:6-8, Acts 2:16-18).

Here’s an important question: What if the Holy Spirit left us. Would anything change? Here’s another: Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker’s message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

### LEAN IN

*These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What did you imagine about the Holy Spirit when you first heard about Him? (i.e. a ghost-like figure, an invisible force, etc.)

### LOOK DOWN

*These are questions on the passage and observations about what’s been read.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Look down at Genesis 1:1-2. What does this first mention tell us about the Holy Spirit.
2. What are the actions of the Holy Spirit in Luke 3:22 and Luke 4:1. What do you think is significant about these verses?
3. Look down at Acts 1:6-8. What are the disciples of Jesus eagerly waiting for? What does Jesus promise instead?

### LOOK OUT

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Since the Holy Spirit was upon Jesus in His ministry (Luke 4:1-2), and Jesus leaves us the same Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16-18, John 16:7, 13-15), what then are the implications of Luke 4:14-21 for us today? (i.e. We are to go out and set the oppressed free, proclaim the year of our Lord’s favor, recovery of sight to the blind, good news to the poor, etc.)
2. How can you in your part in the world (neighborhood, workplace, community, etc.) be a spirit-filled agent of hope and healing?

### LOOK IN

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. In your experience thus far, how have you naturally approached your understanding of the Holy Spirit (i.e. depersonalized the Holy Spirit, not really known what to do with the Holy Spirit, etc.)? How do you think your upbringing or early church experiences shaped this natural approach to the Holy Spirit?
2. If “There is more” to be experienced with the Holy Spirit, what could be hindering you from pressing in?

### LIVE IT OUT

*These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What can you do this week to grow not just in your head knowledge of the Holy Spirit, but also your relational experience with the Holy Spirit?