



THIRD PERSON

#2: THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT

November 18, 2018

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"The Holy Spirit is sometimes associated with things that are odd or off-putting. But, God will not give us something that is not good. He says that we earthly parents know how to give good things to our children, so how much more will our Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

–Pastor
Randy Remington

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

"Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:3)

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

"Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6)

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (Romans 8:14-16)

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:21-24)

*"Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins."
(Isaiah 40:1-2)*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Often, we hear people in church or other Christian environments talking about wanting to receive more of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? What is the Holy Spirit's work in our lives? This week, Pastor Randy looked at a number of passages that describe the work of the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, before he had even done anything, the Holy Spirit appeared at his baptism accompanied by the voice of God telling everyone present that God loves his son and is pleased with him. The Holy Spirit does the same thing in our lives. He assures us of who we are in Christ. The Holy Spirit works to help us do two things: acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and relate to God as our loving Father. These two things assure us of our salvation and help us to walk confidently in our faith. Because of the work of the Holy Spirit, we can be confident of God's love and provision for us. We have no reason to search elsewhere for our identity. The Holy Spirit reminds us of who we are in Christ.

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 example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. Has anyone ever told you they wanted more of you? What did they mean by that?
3. What did you base your identity on when you were a child, in high school, or in college? Why was that so important to you then?

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. When did the voice from heaven speak to Jesus in Mark 1:9-11? Had Jesus yet begun his ministry? What is the significance of that?
2. What does it mean in Romans 5:5 that "hope does not put us to shame"? How would you say that in your own words? What is the medium through which we experience God's love in Romans 5:5?
3. Can someone say "Jesus is Lord" on their own according to 1 Corinthians 12:3? What does that mean to you? According to 1 Corinthians 12:3, can someone who has the Spirit curse Jesus? Why might this be the case?
4. According to Romans 10:9-10, what is required to be saved? Based on the other passages, what do you think the spirit's role is in that?
5. In Galatians 4:6, what is the significance of the spirit crying out "Abba Father"? What does that mean about our relationship with God?
6. What does Romans 8:14-16 say about the freedom that we have in Christ? How does the spirit aid or restrict that freedom?
7. What does the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 teach you about God? What does it show us about the way God views His children?
8. What does Isaiah 40:1-2 mean when it says that Israel has "received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins"?
9. What do all of these passages tell you about the Holy Spirit's work in our lives today?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.****LOOK OUT**

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

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do people based their identities on today? What are the things that make people feel valuable or important?
2. What do the words spoken at Jesus' baptism tell us about how God views his children? What does the story of the Prodigal Son tell us? What is God's love of us based upon?
3. What are some ways that the Holy Spirit might be involved in helping someone come to faith? These could be things you've experienced yourself or things you've heard of.
4. What happens when someone is adopted into a family today? How is that the same or different to how adoption worked in the ancient world? How does that relate to our relationship with God?
5. What does it mean to you that God is our Father? How is God the same or different from your earthly father?
6. How does the Holy Spirit enable us to relate to God the Father? Once again, these could be things you've personally experienced or things you've heard of.

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Are there any ways in your life currently or ways in your past where you are/were trying to earn God's love or affection?
2. Looking back, how can you see the work of the Holy Spirit in how you came to faith?
3. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life enabling you to relate to God as Father?
4. In Sunday's sermon, Pastor Randy shared a story about two dogs: one that has always been loved and is totally confident in its position in the family and one who was found wandering in the streets and is still learning to trust its family. Which of these two do you relate to more? Why?
5. What have you learned through these passages and/or Randy's sermon about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

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. Which passage from this week's sermon is most relevant to your life? How could you incorporate that message into your life this week to help its message sink in deeper?
2. How could your group pray for you this week as you seek to find your identity through the Holy Spirit's work in your life?
3. Who can you pray for this week that they would come to believe that Jesus is Lord through the Holy Spirit?