



## THIRD PERSON

### #3: THE PERSONALITY OF THE SPIRIT

November 25, 2018

Pastor Randy Remington

#### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"How can you have a relationship with someone that you think is a what, rather than a who?"*

–Pastor  
Randy Remington

#### **Main Text:**

*"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:16-26)*

#### **Additional Texts:**

*"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own..." (1 Corinthians 6:19)*

*"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)*

*"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. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us." (1 Corinthians 2:9-12)*

*"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord..." (Jer. 29:11)*

*"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." (John 16:13)*

*"Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia." (Acts 16:6)*

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:25)*

#### MESSAGE SUMMARY

The Holy Spirit is a who. If you think of the Spirit as a force, you will not relate to the Spirit in a personalized way. We must see the personhood of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit isn't just a point of doctrine to be studied, but someone to know and love. The Holy Spirit is God's presence within us, helping us to think God's thoughts, to have His desires, to feel what God feels, and to share in the burden God has for a family, or a school, or a nation, so that we might pray

and act in accordance with His will. Jesus was dependent on the Spirit in his earthly ministry, for the Holy Spirit knows the heart and mind of the Father. When we are leaning on the Holy Spirit, we will be better than we would be without God's Spirit. There are so many things we can learn about God's will from the Bible, but we can get to know His specific will by knowing Him personally. You cannot have a relationship with someone vicariously.; you can't have a relationship with somebody through someone else.

Joy is an expression of the Spirit within us, but the Holy Spirit can also be grieved within us. Grief is the sadness you feel when you lose intimacy with someone. The Holy Spirit is grieved when we lie, when there is unwholesome talk, or when we steal from one another. When it comes to relationships, you are most vulnerable to the people you are closest to. Grief speaks to how ferocious God's love is for us that He feels any separation of intimacy so acutely.

In the same way, when God's Spirit is in within us, we repent not because of the law - what we are told is right and wrong, but because we are convicted because we feel what God feels and think what He thinks. In covenant relationship, God loves us because of His commitment to us, regardless of our response. However, because of God's mercy, He loves us because he actually wants us, not just because He said He would. The Holy Spirit helps us to know God and to desire God and to experience the fullness of knowing Him.

## 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. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)?  
What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?
3. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it has an impact on your life in anyway?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week?  
What's one that you are dreading?

### 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. What grieves the Holy Spirit? (Eph 4:26-30)
2. How does Paul say we are to not give into desires of the flesh? (Gal 5:16)
3. What would happen if the Galatians lived by the power of the Holy Spirit?
4. How does one acquire the fruit of the Spirit?
5. Why do you think Paul says that if you follow the Holy Spirit, that you are no longer under the law?

### 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 you think about the idea that God can't learn anything?
2. Do you know that you can yield or submit to the Spirit's leading of your life?
3. In what areas of your life do you see the character of the Holy Spirit growing in your life?  
How is the Spirit leading your desires?
4. What things might interest you more as you grow in intimacy with the Holy Spirit?
5. What things might interest you less as you grow in intimacy with the Holy Spirit?

**DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS,  
CONT.**

**LOOK IN**

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

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

1. Have you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit?
2. When is the last time you related to the Holy Spirit within you by saying, "I don't know what to do here. Please help me."
3. Do you feel like you may be grieving the Holy Spirit?
4. How have you tried to overcome the desires of the flesh?  
Have your methods been effective?
5. What would it look like to cultivate intimacy with the Holy Spirit?

**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. How will you cultivate the Spirit's nudgings and whispers?
2. How will you make space for the Spirit to lead you?