**Person & Work of the Holy Spirit Lecture Series**

**Topics & Content:**

**Week 2: Tuesday May 17, 2018**

**Session 2 A:**

**Develop a fruitful intimacy with the Holy Spirit**

* In order to fully enjoy the divine **‘advantage’** we have been given by the Holy Spirit living inside of us as our comforter and helper, we must continually get to know Him better.
* God takes **natural symbols** or familiar material emblems to unfold new spiritual realities about the Holy Spirit).

**Romans 1:20**

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.*

1. **The Holy Spirit Symbolized by Water - Isaiah 44:3 / John 7:37-39**

* As water is vital for physical life so is the Holy Spirit for spiritual life and vitality.
* Rivers also speak of movement: something characteristic of the Holy Spirit’s operation: shaping the landscape of your heart and smoothing down sharpness.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**

*Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

* States of water: rain, dew and vapor. For water to condense as droplets of rain or even dew overnight, the air must cool.
* Cool still air at night is symbolic of difficult circumstances.

The refreshing and life sustaining ‘dew’ of the Holy Spirit can distill out to bring life into dry situations (Hosea 14:5).

Look for the Holy Spirit reassurances, especially in difficult situations.

Be calm, rest from your own efforts to make something come to pass, and let God have His way in the seeming silence.

* The covering protective ministry of the Holy Spirit is described as a ‘cloud’ by day (Exodus 13:22) sheltering the Israelites from the hot desert sun.
* See the Holy Spirit sheltering you from the ‘heat’ of adverse circumstances as you progress on your spiritual journey.

# Wind, Fire and Wine as Symbols - Acts 2:1-4, 13

*All of these 3 symbols are connected to the Spirit’s outpouring on Pentecost.*

* The **wind** is the ‘breath’ of God that when it blows has a sound.

There is a sound to God’s voice. It carries peace, comfort, strength, power, healing or whatever you need at any moment.

* The **wind** can be mighty like a gale, or like a gentle breeze but is always appropriate.

The Holy Spirit’s voice has a tone and intensity suited to your situation. When you need healing and comfort when you are bruised, He will be gentle.

When in danger you will need a more urgent warning or correction.

Learn to discern by practicing your listening skills.

* **Fire** produces light, heat and can even cleanse.

Jesus said that we are the ‘light of the world’ (Matthew 5:14), and must shine in dark places. Let the Holy Spirit embolden you to let your light shine.

In the coldness of life’s difficulties, you can also provide warmth and comfort through the Holy Spirit to people needing comfort.

The fire of the HS purifies your life. If you let him, he will ‘burn’ up things that are impure. The fire of heaven burns up the fires of earth and hell. **Malachi 3:2-3 / Matthew 3:11-12**

Eg., in 1666 AD the city of London England was ravaged by bubonic plague carried by rats. A great fire broke out and burnt up significant parts of the city. However, as a result, many rats were killed and the bubonic plague stopped. A ‘cleansing’ took place that, in the long run, saved the city.

* **Wine** speaks of refreshing, stimulation and abandonment to God’s purposes.

**Ephesians 5:18-21**

**The wine of Joy** of a fulfilling life of relationship **vs** the bitter vinegar of prideful and empty religion.

Our heart is like a wineskin that must be soft and supple to receive and contain the ‘new wine’ of The Holy Spirit. Old ways and attitudes must make way for the joyful new. **Luke 5:37-39**

1. **Oil as a Symbol of the Holy Spirit:**

* In the ‘good Samaritan’ story: oil & wine are poured into the wounds. **Luke 10:34**

# Speaks of the new birth & infilling to recover us from the trauma of sin’s assault.

* **Oil** is used as a symbol of anointing for service.

The prophet Samuel anointed King David with a horn of oil (1 Samuel 16:13). Jesus, the king was anointed for service (Acts 10:38), and the early disciples were continually refreshed with an ‘oil change’: refreshing of the HS.

**Psalm 92:10 / Acts 3:19-20 / Acts 4:31**

* They recognized this and yielded to these times of refreshing and were “re’- filled with the Holy Spirit time and again.

They had previously been born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit, but still felt the need in this threatening situation to be ‘refilled’ with the Spirit, a ‘topping up’.

**Conclusion to Session 2 A:**

* It is up to us to engage with the HS as a person to be communicated with and grow in cooperation understanding His ways.

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**Holy Spirit Symbols Contd. - Session 2 B:**

1. **The Dove as a Symbol of the Holy Spirit: Matthew 3:16-17**

* The Holy Spirit is likened to a dove in Jesus baptism.

The first direct mention of the dove in scripture, speaks of the peace He brought to the situation.

Olive branch of peace that the dove brought after the flood of judgment began subsiding – (Genesis 8:7-12).

Peace characterizes the presence of the Holy Spirit – even in a storm.

* Like a dove broods over its eggs in order to bring forth new life, the Holy Spirit in you **broods** over new things he wants to bring forth in your life.

He is gentle & protective and will speak comforting and encouraging things to you.

* The dove in the natural is faithful to its one mating partner & keeps its eyes focused.

The Holy Spirit in turn is faithful to never leave you, is gentle and controlled, and keeps your eyes focused on Jesus (John 14:16 / Isaiah 42:1-4 / Matthew 6:22).

* The dove is ‘harmless’ or as is implied in scripture ‘unmixed’ or innocently unmingled.

**Matthew 10:16**

*"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless (unmixed or unmingled) as doves.*

* In contrast, our adversary is often likened to a bird of prey: unholy and impure.

As we yield more to the HS, our witness becomes more pure.

**Philippians 2:14-15**

*Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless , children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

**More Matters of the heart**

*The Holy Spirit’s work in us*

# To have sight without vision is like listening without hearing.

# We need the Holy Spirit to reveal what is not obvious to the natural eye and ear.

**John 3:3**

*Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (– spoken to a good religious man)

* Being born again is the gateway to spiritual revelation or ‘seeing’ into the realms of God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of revelation who reveals things that are hidden.

**1.The Spirit of Revelation** - *‘to make known something that is hidden or concealed’*

**1 Corinthians 2:9-13**

*9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,*

*Nor have entered into the heart of man*

*The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

*10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

* Our natural senses cannot always ‘see’ spiritual things even though they are happening right in front of us. God’s Word has to penetrate or gain entrance into our spirits by ‘getting past’ our unrenewed way of thinking (Psalm 119:130).
* We need to pray for a ‘spirit of wisdom and revelation’ to reveal to us the things God has prepared for those who love Him.

**Ephesians 1:17-19**

*…that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe…*

**The Emmaus Road Example -** (Read the account in Luke 24:13-35).

* Jesus had repeatedly told his disciples that He was the Messiah, was to be betrayed, crucified and rise again from the dead. When it all actually happened they did not believe it, at first. Even two of His disciples head out from Jerusalem on the Road to Emmaus, a few miles walk away.
* As they walked, they conversed and **reasoned** with their natural minds (Vs 15). Their human tendency was to gravitate away from the will of God. Yet Jesus came to them and whilst the Holy Spirit restrained their natural eyes, He talked to them about the weekend’s events (Vs 16 – 27).
* Their revelation of Jesus had fallen short of His true glory They saw Him only as a prophet and not the risen Messiah He was. They did not even believe the testimony of the women in the garden who had earlier seen the risen savior.
* Jesus defines their problem: they were ‘slow of heart and full of unbelief’ without even knowing it (Vs 25). Jesus then focuses on the scripture, and plans to go on (Vs 26-28), but they constrain Him to stay (vs. 29) and they break bread together (Vs 30-31).
* Their spiritual eyes are opened in the intimacy of that communion meal and they now knew Jesus ‘after the spirit and not the flesh’.

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

*Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.*

* The **Holy Spirit of revelation** had ‘burned’ the Word of God into their hearts. Like a CD burner on a computer etches a message onto the disc.

**Luke 24:31-32**

*Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"* **(Spirit & Word operating together)**

* As a result, they turned around and headed back to Jerusalem and back towards their destiny as disciples.
* Right now ask The Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you in a fresh way. Perhaps you too will be turned around and make significant progress towards what God has called you to do.
* ‘Constrain’ the Lord (vs. 29), and invite Him to break bread with you. Do not move on without invoking His abiding presence in your life, family and church.
* Then ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to help you have a walk worthy of His calling on your life (Colossians 1:9-10). Why not pray that prayer right now.

**2. The Holy Spirit reveals God to You as Your Father.**

**Romans 8:14-17**

*14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ*

* A father gives life, identity and belonging.
* Jesus said: ‘He who has seen Me has seen the Father’ (John 14:9).

So the HS will point to Jesus to help know the Father better.

Jesus grew up in an imperfect household: stepdad & all that.

* The HS shows us God’s Father hearty in the prodigal son story.

Longing for a close, delightful relationship (vs duitiful).

* You belong in God’s family as his precious son because of what Jesus did, so receive His love, acceptance and forgiveness.

**Conclusion to this session 2 B:**

* The Holy Spirit is our helper who reveals the unseen God through symbols and leads us into a more fulfilling relationship with Our heavenly Father through Jesus.