

Remnant Life Church

June 25, 2023

The Holy Spirit

Pt 4

Attributes of the Holy Spirit: Presence

John 14:15-18

This morning we are looking at a third attribute of the Holy Spirit

- The first attribute is that the Holy Spirit is He is **immutable**
 - Meaning He is unchanging
 - He, like God the Father and God the Son are the same yesterday, today, and forever

The second attribute of the Holy Spirit is that He is **longsuffering**

- To be longsuffering means to be patient
- God's patience is demonstrated throughout the Bible and He is still patient with us today

The third attribute of the Holy Spirit is His **presence**

I John 4:4 - *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

That One is the Holy Spirit

- In YOU as a child of God
- Always – in every situation and circumstance

READ – John 14:15-18

The disciples are having a hard time of it right now

- So much so that Jesus needs to comfort and assure them
- He has told them that He is leaving them
 - This was not what they had signed up for
 - They were counting on Jesus to start the revolution
 - It was one of the first questions they asked when they saw Him following the resurrection
 - They NEEDED Jesus!
- Jesus was leaving but the disciples were not being abandoned
 - (vv 16-17a) *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.*
 - (v 18) - *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

Why did Jesus choose the word orphan to describe the disciples without Him?

- First, Jesus was and remains to this day the greatest teacher who ever lived
 - He knew the visual image they needed to recognize in order to fully understand Him

- He knew that the orphan was the very symbol and embodiment of what it meant to be alone
- The orphan represented those young ones without guidance
 - Not only alone at that time but alone for the future
 - Fending as best they could for themselves
 - But Jesus said, do not be concerned, I am sending a helper to guide you
- The Holy Spirit would bring those things that the orphan does not have, yet craves
 - The constant presence of care and understanding
 - Guidance
 - Love

And what the Christian must hold to today is the presence of the Holy Spirit

- Never forget that where the Holy Spirit...God is!
 - **Ps 51:10-12** - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
 - This Psalm is David's prayer after he has been confronted by the Prophet Nathan regarding his sin with Bathsheba.
 - He is convicted of his sin and is pouring out his heart to God.
 - David was a man filled with great flaws
 - But one of his greatest strengths was his willingness to own his sin and immediately repent
 - He freely agrees that God's judgment is just, and then pleads for mercy.
 - One thing David knows about God's Holy Spirit is that if God takes away His Spirit, David loses everything.
 - He obviously remembers what happened to Saul.
 - When God removed his Spirit from Saul, an evil spirit was sent to replace Him. Ultimately, Saul lost everything.
 - God's Spirit dwells with the pure in heart and the steadfast in spirit, so David asks God to give these to him. Then David begs God:
 - In **verse 11** he says, *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*
 - God's presence and God's Spirit are one in the same.
 - Because where the Holy Spirit is... God is!
- David also recognized, as we should today, that God's presence is everywhere, at all times (omnipresent)
 - **Psalm 139:7-12** - *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.*

- This is not about David wanting to get away from God, but about David realizing that God is everywhere, seeing everything, knowing all. How? By His Spirit.
 - God's spirit is everywhere
 - But He obviously can provide His presence as well as remove it

The presence of the Holy Spirit is vital for the Christian life – both individually and collectively

- The church cannot exist without the Holy Spirit
 - RLC does not exist without the Holy Spirit
 - He guides us in all truth
 - Without the Holy Spirit we are left to our devices, our own decisions, our own desires, and our own goals.
- We cannot function in this world without the Holy Spirit
 - What we are given are described in Paul's letter to the church in Galatia
 - **Gal 5:22-23** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
- We went through these each in a series several years ago
 - These are not attributes and characteristics of a Christian that we simply know
 - They are what should be seen in us each and every day
 - They are how we should live
 - Without excuse
 - Without fail
 - Can you live these fruits by and of yourself
 - Of course not!
 - It takes the presence, the guidance, and the love of the Holy Spirit