

Remnant Life Church

August 2, 2026

The Holy Spirit

Pt. 1

Who He Is

John 14:16-17

Whenever we speak of or reference God, it should be with the understanding that there is triune Godhead

- Triune meaning three-in-one
 - There is God, the Father
 - God, the Son – Jesus
 - God, the Holy Spirit

And it is likely that the 3rd person of this Holy Trinity is the least understood

- This is primarily because, within the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is not fully, systematically described and, because of that, how the person of the Holy Spirit is perceived became somewhat convoluted and even debated down through church history
 - But the Holy Spirit is vitally important to the Christian on many levels even though we are not given as clear a picture as with the other persons of God
 - God the Father is seen mightily throughout the OT as His words are given to His people almost exclusively through the prophets
 - God the Son, Jesus Christ's earthly life and ministry, are followed closely through the Gospels of the NT
 - Then Paul describes in detail for nearly half of the NT what it means to live a life that is changed because of Jesus
 - He also then gives us day-to-day life lessons based on the teaching and example of Jesus
 - But aside from the 2nd chapter of Acts, the Holy Spirit is not really focused on in any extended measure
 - But that does not mean He is not present
 - In fact, just as God the Father and Jesus the Son are found throughout the entirety of the Scriptures, so too is the Holy Spirit

As most of you are likely aware, the word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible

- Even in the most modern versions, which often take greater liberties with the language
- We find it in the form of a concept only, although it does reveal itself physically at one event
- In the first 3 of the 4 Gospel accounts, we read that Jesus was Baptized by John in the Jordan River (**Matt 3:13; Mark 1:9; Luke 3:21**)
 - In Luke's account we read, *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."* (**Luke 3:21-22**)
 - The voice from heaven is God the Father
 - Jesus Himself is there physically as God the Son

- And the dove that descended on Him is identified as the Holy Spirit

Now before we proceed into this study, we must take the time to see how the Holy Spirit is presented throughout the Bible

- But even before that, the very first thing we must acknowledge is that God's ways are above and greater than our ways
 - And that is especially true of our attempts to understand God
 - We simply cannot!
 - There are many theological doctrines found in the Scripture that must be placed in this category and certainly the Trinity is one of those
 - Oh, we can say the words, but to totally understand three coexistent, co-eternal divine Persons who are simultaneously separate yet One is beyond our capacity of graspable knowledge
 - But is that not the very definition of faith?
 - To accept that which we cannot understand because we trust God
 - **Heb 11:1** - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*
 - So too the concept of the Trinity must be accepted on faith

The Holy Spirit is found within the Old Testament under many different expressions

- But the Spirit of the Lord is the one most often used
 - In the book of Judges, there are seven distinct times that we read the Spirit of the Lord came upon someone to do something mighty or beyond themselves
 - IOL the word Spirit is *roo-AKH*
 - And the word Lord is *yeh-hoe-vaw*
 - And so in that way, the word 'spirit' finds expression as an activity of God similar to when we read the Hand of God, the Eyes of God, the Word of God, or the Wisdom of God
 - The word for spirit in the OT Hebrew (*roo-akh*) and the NT Greek (*Nay-YOU-mah*) are similar in meaning stemming from their associations with the word breath or wind
 - And within the ancient biblical cultures, at the time of these writings, those words were associated with unseen spiritual forces
 - Hence the word "spirit"
 - We hear this explained in the time Jesus was meeting with and teaching Nicodemus
 - In **John 3:8** we read...*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*
 - Now there is another word also used, although less so today, that I grew up with in the Baptist church
 - But that is because our pastor exclusively used the KJV of the Bible

- And it is only there that we see the term Holy Ghost used to describe the spirit of God
 - This is not intended to describe a spooky supernatural spirit entity in the way the word ghost is most commonly used
 - Rather it was from an obsolete usage of the word from the Middle English, Anglo-Saxon verbiage of the early 17th century
 - Which coincides precisely with the first KJV publishing date of 1611
- So again, in describing the action of God in the OT we are seeing the work of the Holy Spirit
- But was there a primary function of the Holy Spirit in the OT?
 - Yes – and we see that most clearly revealed through the writings of the prophets
 - It was the Voice of God (the Spirit of God) who was operating in and through the OT prophets
 - God’s spirit was the inspiration and motivating force of the prophet’s knowledge, vision, and words to the Hebrew people
 - Prophets are sometimes referred to as Men of God (**I Sam 2:27; I Kings 12:22**)
 - And in **Hosea 9:7** they are literally “*Men of the Spirit*”
 - And it was these prophets themselves, men such as Isaiah, Ezekiel and Joel who proclaimed that a day would come when God would pour out His Spirit on all men and women
 - And then Isaiah further proclaims that The Messiah, The Servant of God will be the One on whom the Spirit of God comes to rest (**Isa 11:1-5; 42:1-7; 63:1-6**)
 - And when that time comes, it will inaugurate the time of salvation for all mankind (**Ezek 37:14-28; Jer 31:31-34**)
 - Just as it did!

Now when the last of the OT prophets died - the prophet Malachi - there came a time known as the Intertestamental Period

- This is the gap between the writing of Malachi, the last book of the OT and the writing of the Gospel of Mark, the first book written of the NT
 - Within this time period of nearly 400 years there is nothing recorded of God speaking to His people
 - Now there is Judaic extra-biblical writings that reveal that while the spiritual leaders were convinced that the spirit of prophecy had stopped with the death of Malachi, they were still aware of God’s presence
 - And so, to fill that void, a new hope and watchfulness arose that would usher in the opportunity for a restored relationship between Creator God and His creation
 - Of course that was fulfilled by the coming of the Messiah as foretold by those same prophets

- And it is within those extra writings, while not canonical Scripture, that they still spoke of God's Holy Spirit even as the people were waiting for the coming of Messiah

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, is present throughout the OT

He is then still active in the hearts of the people as they anticipate the coming of Messiah

And because of that, armed with the prophetic writings that tell of the coming of Jesus, there is a preexisting knowledge that the people of Israel were utilizing to maintain their hope through 4 centuries of silence

- This prophetic knowledge, based on faith, of the coming Savior was given by the Spirit of God
 - Consider the Samaritan women at the well
 - **(John 4:25)** *The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.*
 - Certainly, the Jewish leaders knew of what was prophesied
 - **John 15:43** - *Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God...*
 - **Luke 2:25** - *Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.*
- Jesus throughout the 3 years of His ministry speaks continually of His Father's Kingdom and how to enter it
 - He then introduces one final aspect of the Holy Spirit's identity
 - As recorded in the Gospel of John, He calls the Holy Spirit the "Paraclete" (IOL - par-AUK-lay-tos)
 - This word is translated as the Comforter, Counselor, or Advocate
 - It is the same word often used within the legal realm as one who supports and argues the case of another person before a judge or jury
 - And is that not in fact what was done and is still being done for each of us?
 - But we will talk more about that later in the study
 - And so Jesus tells this to His disciples

READ - John 14:16-17

Acts 2 is the fulfillment of that promise made by Jesus and the OT prophets

- The Holy Spirit came to all those who believed on Jesus as their comforter and helper
 - Peter interpreted this occurrence as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy of the outpouring of the Spirit on all men in the Messianic age (**Joel 2:28-32**)
 - But now, unlike the OT activities of the Spirit of God, this outpouring was for both Jew and Gentile alike (**Acts 10:45-11; Acts 11:15-17**)
- It was through the power of the Holy Spirit that the apostles and others proclaimed the name of Jesus to the world (**Acts 4:31; 6:5; 7:54**) following Jesus' ascension

- And it was this same power of the Holy Spirit that directed and sustained the mission of the first fledgling churches throughout Asia Minor (**Acts 9:31; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6-7**)
- The miracles of the disciples, the casting out of demons, the visions and prophecies – all through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Paul then went on in his letters to those same early churches, further teaching and expounding on the words of Jesus so they would learn who the Holy Spirit is and why His work in their lives needed to be lived out every day

Yet for us, the 21st-century Christian, there are admittedly still inherent problems, call them challenges, with understanding who the Holy Spirit is

- The first, as we have already mentioned, is the lack of extended revelation in the Bible regarding the Holy Spirit
- The second issue is the lack of concrete physical imagery for us to grasp
 - The concept of God the Father is understood, as much as we are able, because the descriptive figure of a father is familiar to us
 - God the Son, Jesus, appeared and lived in human form and not only was observed but his actions recorded, even historically, for us in the Bible
 - The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, is much more intangible and more difficult to conceptualize because there is nothing for us to latch onto with our minds or cognitive senses
- Now add one more aspect and you can see why so many Christians often have a hard time understanding the true nature of the Holy Spirit
 - The Pentecostal movement, which began around the late 18 and early 1900's was very valid and powerful at the time of its birth
 - At the heart of this movement was the tangible, manifested presence of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders becoming very prominent especially physical healings
 - Names like Aimee Semple McPherson
 - William J. Seymour who was there at the outset of the Azusa Outpouring that began in 1906 in California
 - Billy Sunday – former professional baseball player who was one of the most influential and powerful evangelists of the first 2 decades of the 20th century
 - These names, formerly associated with the power of the Holy Spirit, unfortunately have been replaced with the names of those who have been shown to be presenting false and misleading things about the work of the Holy Spirit in order to increase their own ministries and with it their prideful influence and financial gains.

But one thing cannot be lost nor should ever be questioned or misunderstood - the Holy Spirit, as we see through the entirety of the Scripture, is the third equal part of the Godhead

- Not a lesser part because He is always listed last
- Not lacking in any way of the divinity of the Father and the Son
- But the true and pure presence of God in our lives

- And while the power of the Holy Spirit was given to man at the time of Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts...
 - He has been present since before creation and time began with the Father and the Son
 - And we must always remember that the God who loved us so much that He gave both the second and third parts of that Holy Triune to us to save us from our sins and reunite us with the Lover of our Souls for all eternity

The Holy Spirit was present throughout the OT speaking through the prophets

He was in the time of intertestamental silence giving hope

He was with Jesus and is with us today as our Counselor, Helper, and Advocate