

Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

Class 20: The Doctrine of God, part 16

The Holy Spirit (continued)

"... this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17. 3

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in eternity/glory? Will we still be indwelt with Him then?
2. Does any aspect of the Holy Spirit exist in non-Christians?
3. What's the difference between John 20.22 & Acts 1.4-5 concerning the reception of the Spirit?
4. What does it mean to "quench" the Spirit?
5. What does it mean to "grieve" the Holy Spirit?
6. What does it mean to "keep in step with the Spirit" or "walk in the Spirit"?
7. Can you get more of the Holy Spirit? If we are already full of Him, can we get more "filled"?
8. Would the Jews of Jesus' day have understood not only that Jesus was God but that the Holy Spirit was as well?
9. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in decision-making?

1. The Holy Spirit & eternity/glory

a. What is the role of the Spirit in glory?

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16. 7-15

Jesus said the role of the Holy Spirit while we are here on earth is to bring to remembrance the things Jesus said (John 14. 25-26), testify about Jesus (John 15.26), convict the world of sin (John 16. 8), guide believers into all truth (John 16. 13), tell believers what is yet to come (John 16.13), and bring glory to Jesus by making known to believers who Jesus really is (John 16.14). The Holy Spirit gives strength to believers in their fight against sin (Gal 5. 16-25), which would be impossible to overcome through human efforts (Rom 8. 1-17). He helps believers to pray when they don't know how to pray as they should (Rom 8. 26) and He comforts believers so that they can comfort others (2 Cor 1. 4). He bears witness in believers that they are the children of God (Rom 8. 15-16), and that there is a guarantee of final redemption (Rom 8. 23). In view of the transition of believers to a world without sin, perfect knowledge and entrance into the very presence of God, many of these roles within believers will no longer be needed. However, Jesus will continue to be glorified in heaven, and the Holy Spirit will continue to be a part of that process, as He always has.

RC Sproul

b. Will we be able to see the Holy Spirit in glory?

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Acts 7. 54-56

c. Will we still "need" the Holy Spirit in glory?

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1. 11-14

2. Do unbelievers have the Holy Spirit?

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14. 15-17

¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts 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 understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2. 11-13

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

Acts 10. 44-47

3. What is the difference between John 20. 22 & Acts 1.4-5?

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

John 20. 19-23

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1. 4-5

4. What does it mean to "quench" the Holy Spirit?

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5. 16-22

- Note what v. 19 commands & what this verse implies!

5. What does it mean to "grieve" the Holy Spirit?

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4. 25-32