

## Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

### Class 17: The Doctrine of God, part 13

#### *The Holy Spirit*

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

**John 17. 3**

#### **I. What the Holy Spirit is Not**

*"God the Father makes sense to me; and God the Son I can somewhat understand;  
but the Holy Spirit is a gray, oblong blur."*

- A. He is not an impersonal force;
- B. He is not a *"heavenly milkman leaving the gift of eternal life & grace on our doorsteps only to move on to another home"* (John Gerstner);
  - The implication here is that *"grace"* & *"eternal life"* are somethings rather than Someone
- C. He is not the emotional/emotive side of the Christian life;

*Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.*

- D. He is not a junior member of the Trinity, the overflow of the Father, or the servant of the Son.

#### **II. What the Holy Spirit IS**

*And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets.*

**Nicene Creed**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**Genesis 1.1-2**

When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

**Psalms 104. 29-30**

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

**Ezekiel 36. 26**

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

**John 6. 63**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the **Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the **Spirit**. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the **Spirit** set their minds on the things of the **Spirit**. <sup>6</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the **Spirit** is **life** and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the **Spirit**, if in fact the **Spirit** of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the **Spirit** of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the **Spirit is life** because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the **Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his **Spirit** who dwells in you.

**Romans 8. 1-11**

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

**John 3. 1-8**

... you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. <sup>4</sup>Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup>Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup>who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**2 Corinthians 3. 3-6**

*How often some young man has had his hand upon the door of some place of sin that he is about to enter and the thought has come to him, If I should enter there, my mother might hear of it and it would nearly kill her, and he has turned his back upon that door and gone away to lead a pure life, that he might not grieve his mother. But there is One who is holier than any mother, One who is more sensitive against sin than the purest woman who ever walked this earth, and who loves us as even no mother ever loved, and this One dwells in our hearts, if we are really Christians, and He sees every act we do by day or under cover of the night; He hears every word we utter in public or in private; He sees every thought we entertain, He beholds every fancy and imagination that is permitted even a momentary lodgment in our mind, and if there is anything unholy, impure, selfish, mean, petty, unkind, harsh, unjust, or in anywise evil in act or word or thought or fancy, He is grieved by it.*

**RA Torrey, The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit**