

Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

Class 18: The Doctrine of God, part 14

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

*And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we **have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit!**"*

Acts 19. 1-2

A Quick Overview

I. What the Holy Spirit is NOT

- A. He is not an impersonal force;
- B. He is not a divine deliveryman
- C. He is not the emotional/emotive side of the Christian life;
- 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

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus 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?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The 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. ⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who 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 & 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

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The mystery of the Trinity is not revealed in the Old Testament; but the mystery of the Trinity underlies the Old Testament revelation - here & there almost comes into view. Thus the Old Testament revelation of God is not corrected by the fuller revelation that follows it, but is perfected, extended & enlarged.

BB Warfield, The Biblical Doctrine of the Trinity

A. His names/titles

“Holy Spirit” (3x)

*Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your **Holy Spirit** from me.*

Psalms 51.11

*They rebelled & grieved his **Holy Spirit**; therefore he turned to be their enemy, & himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses & his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his **Holy Spirit** ...*

Isaiah 63. 10-11

“Spirit of God” (14x)

*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 1.2

*... he has filled him with the **Spirit of God**, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge ...*

Exodus 35.31

*Balaam lifted up his eyes & saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the **Spirit of God** came upon him ...*

Numbers 24.2

“Spirit of the Lord” (27x)

*But the **Spirit of the Lord** clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.*

Judges 6.34

*Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And **the Spirit of the LORD** rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.*

¹⁴ *Now the **Spirit of the LORD** departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.*

1 Samuel 16. 13-14

*But as for me, I am filled with power, with the **Spirit of the Lord**, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.*

Micah 3.8

"My Spirit" (13x)

*The Lord said, "**My Spirit** shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."*

Genesis 6.3

*"Ah, stubborn children," declares the Lord, "who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of **my Spirit**, that they may add sin to sin ...*

Isaiah 30. 1

*I will put **my Spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

Ezekiel 36.27

II. His Status as Divine

But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Isaiah 63. 10-14

The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Exodus 15. 3-6

III. His Role in Prophecy & Visions

²⁰ *Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.*

²¹ *When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. ²² Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." ²³ And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he*

came to Naioth in Ramah. ²⁴ And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

1 Samuel 19. 20-24

Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'"

2 Chronicles 24.20

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Joel 2. 28-29

- See also Ezekiel 11.24; Numbers 22. 2-4; Numbers 11.29; Ezekiel 11.5; 2 Samuel 23. 2-3

IV. His Role in Granting Special Skills & Knowledge

... I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship ...

Exodus 31. 3

... he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge & with all craftsmanship

Exodus 35.31

V. His Role in Anointing & Empowering

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And **the Spirit of the LORD** rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

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