

## Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

### Class 21: The Doctrine of God, part 17

#### *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. What does it mean to "keep in step with the Spirit" or "walk in the Spirit"?**

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

**Galatians 5. 13-26**

#### **2. Can we get more of the Holy Spirit? If we are already "full" of Him, how can we get more "filled"?**

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Ephesians 5. 15-21**

### 3. Would the Jews of Jesus' day have understood not only that Jesus was God but that the Holy Spirit was as well?

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**John 16. 12-15**

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

**Luke 24. 25-27**

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup> "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

**Acts 1. 15-17**

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit ...

**Jude 1.20**

**Bonus (and related) question – what does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"?**

<sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Ephesians 6. 16-20**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Romans 8. 26-27**

...praying in the Spirit should be understood as praying in the power of the Spirit,  
by the leading of the Spirit, and according to His will...

**Jl Packer, Keep in Step With The Spirit**

### 4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in decision-making?

<sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with

all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Matthew 22. 35-40**

*You don't need a special gift to read God's Word, trust it, and obey it. We're free in Christ to obey God's publicly revealed will and we're free to ignore the spurious claims of all sorts of prophets. We're not missing out. They don't have anything we need. What we need is the moral will of God which is plainly revealed in the Word. What we need is the work of the Spirit to illumine that Word to us and to give us wisdom, and the self-appointed prophets don't have anything to do with that. You and I are free from the tyranny of human opinion because we are bound to the Word of God.*

**Kevin DeYoung**

If you look to the Bible to seek God's will for your life, what will you find? You will find that God is speaking to you. He is speaking to you about his will for you, for your life. You will find verses like 1 Thessalonians 4:3 which says, "This is the will of God, your sanctification." There is God's will for you in the big picture. He wants you to be sanctified. He wants you to be holy. His will is clear! Just one chapter later we are told, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." God wants you to be thankful in all things, he wants you to rejoice in all things, he wants you to pray about all things. In other words, he wants you to be constantly aware of his sovereignty and to be constantly in communication with him, submitting your whole life to him.

There are all sorts of other passages like that. This is not the place to look at them all, but even if we did, the message would not change. The consistent message is this: God's will for you is that you would live like a Christian, like a person whose life has been transformed by his power. God's will for you is that you would seek to imitate Christ and that more and more you would serve as a greater reflection of Christ, prayerfully submitting yourself to him and his sovereignty. That is God's will!

What you will *not* find? You won't find the Bible saying, "You should marry this fine, Christian girl instead of that fine, Christian girl." You won't find the Bible telling you, "Go ahead and buy the Honda and I will bless you" or "Don't buy that Toyota or I'll remove my hand of blessing." You will find lots of principles and lots of wisdom and lots of clear guidance on how you can honor God. But you will see that God does not reveal his *secret* will to you and he does not reveal his *complete* will for you. He guides you and he guides me and all of us in the same way and with the same words. The will he reveals for you is the will he reveals for me.

Some people are disappointed by this, but they shouldn't be. They should be thrilled! You need to see that there is a lot of joy in understanding that God is not going to tell you whether you should marry *this* girl or *that* girl. He will do better. He will tell you that if you are going to marry, you need to marry a member of the opposite sex who is a Christian. That is all the direct guidance he is going to give you. He has spoken to you through the Bible and said all he needs to say on the matter. He wants you to choose who to marry, as long as she meets those basic criteria.

He won't speak from the sky. Instead, he'll do something far better. He will let you make a choice and promise to be with you regardless of what you choose. Not only that, but he will love and support you and bless you, because what you do is in accordance with his revealed will as he has given it in the Bible.

Do you see the freedom this brings? Now we are free from worrying about whether or not we are marrying just the right person; we don't need to worry that we've married the wrong person. We simply look at the basic principles God has given us and do what honors him and know that we are doing his will. People who always feel the need to hear from God on every decision often live their lives in captivity to doubt and to circumstances. "I decided to enroll my children in the local Christian school and the very next day I received a homeschooling catalog in the mail. Is God trying to tell me something?" Don't look to the catalog, look to the Bible! And regardless of how you educate your children, God is going to bless you because you are not defying his revealed will in the Bible.

Tim Challies, *"God's Will For Your Life"*