**The Holy Spirit of Acts**

**02/19/23**

Last week we read through Acts 2:1-13.

In this passage, the promised Holy Spirit comes upon (fills) the apostles in dramatic fashion on the day of Pentecost.

A crowd comes to see what the commotion is, and the apostles begin declaring the “Mighty deeds of God” in over a dozen foreign languages to the Jews from around the world who are gathered in Jerusalem for the spring feasts.

This event ushers in a new revelation, something referenced first by Jesus in Matthew 16.

Of course, I’m referring to the church, the body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-22 tells us that we

**“...are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, 21in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”**

Last week’s passage is the launch point for the church.

There is an emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing the church about that runs through the entire book of Acts, but this overt action of the Holy Spirit as He comes upon people only happens four times in the establishment of the church.

This happens in chapters 2, 8, 10, and 19.

Since that formative time, this activity of the Holy Spirit has been sensationalized and made to mean something it never meant.

People have tried to wield the the Holy Spirit like some kind of super power.

Unfortunately, when the word is taken out of context, error lies just around the corner.

Within the last 130 years or so, the Holy Spirit has been maligned and hi-jacked by an experience seeking, signs-based movement that has at the least made a mockery of the Spirit, and at worst, has led people away from the work of Jesus on the cross and the true, witnessing power of God’s Holy Spirit.

So today I thought it would be an appropriate time to slow down and remind ourselves of who the Holy Spirit actually is, what His roles within the Trinitarian Godhead are, and how He relates to us.

These then, are our three areas of emphasis today.

Who the Spirit is, what His work is, and how He relates to us.

We will start with God as a Trinity, and then look at how the Holy Spirit figures within that.

**Regarding God:**

**SLIDE 1**

Wheatland Bible Church Doctrinal Statement –

*“We believe there is one and only one living and true God, and infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.”* [Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthian 8:6; Revelation 4:11; 1 John 5:]

In regard to any of these WBC statements, you can find them on our website under the “About” tab. Just Google Wheatland Bible Church, and you will get there.

**Regarding the Trinity:**

**SLIDE 2**

My Statement on the nature of the Trinity: Each of the divine Persons possesses His own personal characteristics and is clearly distinguished from the other Persons (John 15:26), yet the three Persons are equal in essence, being, power, and glory. Each being is God (Hebrews 1:8, Acts 5:3-4), possessing all the divine attributes (James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8, Hebrews 9:4), and each performing divine works (James 5:21, Romans 8:11).

In reference to the order of Trinitarian roles and subordination or order, the Father is first, the Son second, and the Spirit is third. The general formula being as follows:

**From the Father (1 Cor 8:6), through the Son (John 3:17), by the Spirit (Eph 3:5).**



The Bible clearly teaches the existence of the Trinity - it is implicit throughout, although the term “Trinity” wasn’t used to describe the doctrine of the three-in-One Godhead until it was used by early church father Tertullian in about 200 AD.

**SLIDE 3**

**Here are some scriptures that allude to or mention the Trinity:**

Isaiah 48:16 - “Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit.” Verse 17 says, “Thus says the Lord your Redeemer.” In other words, Jesus is speaking here to Isaiah.

Deuteronomy 6:4 - “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! (The word “God” is the plural “*Elohim*,” and the word “one” is “*ehad*,” a cardinal number)

Matthew 3:16-17 – “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, **17**and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Matthew 28:19 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”

2 Corinthians 13:14 – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

So let’s talk about the Holy Spirit, the so-called 3rd Person of the Trinity.

I say so-called because we tend to think of Him that way, like He’s the third-string or third-team God.

In actuality, we ought to feel more connected to Him since He is the means by which God accomplished things.

Again, it goes “From the Father, Through Jesus, By the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit dwells within us who believe in the atoning work of Jesus.

In fact, He is our very breath (Genesis 2:7).

So, let’s see what we can recall regarding the Holy Spirit...

**SLIDE 4**

**Holy Spirit:**

Wheatland Bible Church Doctrinal Statement –

*“We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God’s purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.”*

**SLIDE 5**

**The Person of the Holy Spirit:**

Our doctrinal statement asserts that “We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person.”

What this term, “person” is referring to is that the Holy Spirit is not an “it,” an impersonal wind or force of God sent out to accomplish God’s will or heaven forbid, OUR will, but that He is a true Person having intellect, sensibility and will.

Everyone who denies the Trinity, whether they are Unitarian, Jehovah’s Witnesses or Mormons, reduces the Son to a mere man and the Spirit to a mere force.

So what the term Person is guarding against is the idea that the Holy Spirit is the mere wind of God, an impersonal force that God sends out to accomplish things, or within the Charismatic movement that we can invoke or conjure as a means to have a religious experience.

**Scripture:**

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

**SLIDE 6**

**The Work of the Holy Spirit:**

*“He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God’s purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.” – WBC Statement of Faith*

Let’s go through each of these functions...

**Restrains Evil:**

2 Thessalonians 2:7

**Convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment:**

John 16:8-11 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

**Bears witness to the Truth:**

Acts 5:30-32 - “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

**Agent in the New Birth:**

John 3:5-7 - **“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into 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 be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”**

\* (of = from, out of, by)

**Sealing Agent in the New Birth:**

Ephesians 1:13-14 - “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.”

**Endues Us:**

Acts 1:8 “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

**Guides and Teaches:**

John 16:13 - “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

**Witnesses to us as believers**:

1 Corinthians 12:3 **– “**Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

**Sanctifies the Believer:**

2 Thessalonians 2:13 - “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”

**Helps the Believer:**

Romans 8:26 - “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words...”

There is a quick view of the work of the Holy Spirit.

That is by no means an exhaustive list, but it is a good one.

Now, how about taking a look at how the Spirit interacts with or relates to us?

**SLIDE 7**

**How the Spirit Relates to us – “With, In, and Upon (filled)”**

**The Holy Spirit is “with” us – this indicates the approach of God to our soul, meaning that He convicts of sin, shows Christ to be the object of faith, gives us faith, and regenerates us.**

John 14:16-18 - “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

**The Holy Spirit is “in” us: This indicates the abiding presence of the Spirit in the Christian’s body.**

1 Corinthians 6:19 – “...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

**Evidence of the indwelling Spirit: When the Spirit lives in us, there will be fruit.**

Galatians 5:22-25 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24**Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25**If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

**SLIDE 8**

**The Holy Spirit “Comes Upon” us – This indicates the Holy Spirit’s imparting His power to people. This relationship always results in the glorification of Jesus.**

This one gets its own slide, since I want to make sure we know what this means, and what the result of it is.

I’m going to go ahead and cite quite a few examples of this, because I really want us to understand what the result of the Holy Spirit’s coming upon someone ALWAYS is.

It always glorifies Jesus.

Luke 1:35 – “The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

Luke 2:25 – “And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26**And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. **27**And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, **28**then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, **29**“Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; **30**For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
**31**Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32**A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

Matthew 3:16 – “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him...”

Acts 19:6 – “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.”

**SLIDE 9**

**The Spirit and the Church**

**Finally, The Spirit forms the church by baptizing all believers into the body of Christ.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – “For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **13**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:18-22 “...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. **19**So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, **20**having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, **21**in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **22**in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

These scriptures tell us what the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.

All believers have received that baptism, and it is for the edification of the body of Christ, not our own.

That’s a lot of information, I know.

We covered a lot of ground today.

I want for you to come away with a scripturally determined picture of who the Holy Spirit is, His work among us, and how He relates to us.

**SLIDE 10**

**The Holy Spirit is God, and as such, is a Person of the Trinity:** (John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”)

**The Holy Spirit works to:**

**Restrain evil:** 2 Thessalonians 2:7

**Convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment:** John 16:8-11

**Bears witness to the Truth:** Acts 5:30-32

**Be the Agent in the New Birth:** John 3:5-7

**Be the *Sealing* Agent in the New Birth:** Ephesians 1:13-14

**Endue us with power:** Acts 1:8

**Guide and Teach us:** John 16:13

**Witness to the believer of the Truth:** 1 Corinthians 12:3

**Sanctify the Believer:** 2 Thessalonians 2:13

**Help the Believer:** Romans 8:26

**SLIDE 11**

**How the Spirit Relates to Us:**

**The Holy Spirit is “with” us – This indicates the approach of God to our soul (reconciling us to Him), meaning that He convicts of sin, shows Christ to be the object of faith, gives us faith, and regenerates us.** John 14:16-18

**The Holy Spirit is “in” us: This indicates the abiding presence of the Spirit in the Christian’s body.** 1 Corinthians 6:19

**The Holy Spirit “comes upon (or fills)” us: This indicates the Holy Spirit’s imparting His power to people. This relationship always results in the glorification of Jesus.** Luke 1:35, Mark 3:16, Luke 2:25, Acts 19:6

The most concise way I can conceive of the Holy Spirit is first that He is God, and He has drawn me to Jesus and helped me to believe in Jesus.

He has sealed my just standing before God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ.

He is always here with me and in me to help me worship Jesus and do the will of my Father in Heaven.

I know that He is not a tool to be used.

I need not call Him down since He is ever with me.

With His help, I can grow in the knowledge of Jesus my Lord and do the will of my Father, which is to witness to others of the truth of Jesus Christ.

When I am prompted from within by the Holy Spirit to testify to the truth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes upon me to give me the strength and ability to carry out His will.

In all of this there is no hysteria.

There is no emotional mountain-top, though at times I am overcome by the Spirit’s powerful presence.

There is no magic.

There is no edification or lifting up of myself.

In fact, I am humbled by His awesome power.

His effect on me always results in the glorification of Jesus.

I regard Him carefully and reverently. He is God.

This is not a comprehensive statement regarding the infinite Holy Spirit of God.

There are layers and aspects of His nature that we will spend eternity discovering as we worship Him in heaven.

Today is just a start...

**The Work of the Holy Spirit (Expanded)**

**And**

**How the Spirit Relates to Us (With, In, and Upon)**

***“He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God’s purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.” – WBC Statement of Faith***

**Convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment:**

**John 16:8-11 - “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”**

**Bears witness to the Truth:**

**Acts 5:30-32 “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”**

**John 1:32-34 - “John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ 34I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:3 – “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.**

**Agent in the New Birth:**

**John 3:5-7 - “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into 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 be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”**

**Sealing Agent in the New Birth:**

**Ephesians 1:13-14 - “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

**Endues Us:**

**Acts 1:8 - “...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**

**Guides and Teaches:**

**John 16:13 - “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”**

**Sanctifies and Helps the Believer:**

**Romans 8:14 - “for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” 16The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”**

**1 Peter 1:2 - “To those who...who are chosen 2according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.”**

**Acts 9:31 – “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”**

**How the Spirit Relates to us – “In, With, and Upon”**

**The Holy Spirit is “with” us – this indicates the approach of God to our soul, Meaning that He convicts of sin, shows Christ to be the object of faith, gives us faith, and regenerates us,**

**Mark 1:8 - “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”**

**John 14:16-18 - “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”**

**The Holy Spirit indwells all believers: This indicates the abiding presence of the Spirit in the Christian’s body.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19 – “...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”**

**John 7:38-39 – “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” 39But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”**

**Galatians 4:6 – “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**

**Romans 8:9-11 – “...you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11But 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.”**

**Ephesians 6:18 – “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints...”**

**2 Thessalonians 2:13 - “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”**

**Evidence of the indwelling Spirit:**

**John 14:16-17 – “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”**

**Galatians 5:22-25 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”**

**The Holy Spirit “Comes Upon” us – This indicates the Holy Spirit’s imparting His power to people. This relationship always results in the glorification of Jesus.**

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**Luke 2:25 – “And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29“Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; 30For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
31Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”**

**Acts 19:6 – “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.”**

**1 Peter 4:14 – “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”**

**Finally, The Spirit forms the church by baptizing all believers into the body of Christ.**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – “For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”**

**Ephesians 2:18-22 - “...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, 21in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”**

**Ephesians 4:4-6 - “*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”**