

Meeting the Holy Spirit

Who Is He, and Why Don't We Know Him So Well?



Meeting the Holy Spirit

- *The Spirit Before Pentecost*
- *The Explosion at Pentecost*
- *New Life in the Spirit (part 2)*
- *The Spirit and the Flesh*
- *Where the Rubber Hits the Road*
- *The Gifts of the Spirit*



New Life in the Spirit

- Why are many churches called “New Life”?
 - How would you describe to a non-Christian the idea that the Holy Spirit breathes “new life” into us?



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 - Read John 3:1-4
 - Read John 3:9-10
 - When we talked about these verses last week, what elements of this “new life” did we discuss?
 - What consistencies do we note between what Jesus is saying here and other Biblical precedents?
 - Note Hosea 1:9-10, Ezekiel 18:31 and 36:25-27, 1 Samuel 10:6, etc.
 - Note 1 Peter 1:3-4, James 1:17-22, Ephesians 4:22-32, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, etc.
 - What is this “new life” supposed to be doing in us and through us?



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 - Read John 3:1-4
 - Read John 3:5-8
 - Read John 3:9-10
 - So what does Jesus say is the crucial importance of the Holy Spirit at this stage of our salvation?
 - Why does the Spirit give us *new* life through *new* birth—or, why can't the Spirit just give you *improvement* in your *existing* life?
 - What does Jesus suggest in John 14:15-17?
 - Why might an unregenerated world be unable to accept or even perceive the Spirit?
 - In fact, in John 16:7, Jesus suggested that the Holy Spirit *couldn't* permanently indwell us until after Christ's death on the cross—why might that be?



New Life in the Spirit

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - Read John 16:8-11
 - How are the Spirit's actions here consistent with His overall Biblical mission that we've seen?
 - What three things is He convicting the world of here?
 - 1) Convict the world of guilt "in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me"
 - *How does the Spirit convict the world of this?*



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 - 3) Convict the world of guilt "in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned"
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 - What does Jesus suggest in John 14:15-17?
 - How does Paul explain the process of death leading to new life in Colossians 2:13-14 or Ephesians 2:4-5 or even Romans 6:4?
 - How is this *new* life supposed to be fundamentally different from your *old* life?
 - So what exactly is Jesus talking about in John 3:5?

(NOTE: There are no texts from that time that use “born of water” to refer to normal, physical births—i.e.; nodding to amniotic fluid)



New Life in the Spirit

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - I ran across a heated online argument recently between Catholics and Evangelicals over John 3:5
 - The Catholic stance expressed is that this verse is referring to the transformation brought about by God's grace through baptism at the hands of a valid priest in the Catholic Church
 - To them, there's no regeneration unless there's a water baptism by the correct church authorities (which Evangelicals dismiss as hierarchical ritualism)
 - The Evangelical stance expressed is that this verse is referring to the transformation brought about by the Holy Spirit when someone comes to faith—say, by genuinely praying the Sinner's Prayer, for instance
 - To them, there's no regeneration unless there's a personal commitment to letting God change you (which the Catholic Church dismisses as anarchistic and disregarding the “water” part of John 3:5)
 - So, given what we've read in Scripture so far today, how would you speak to *both* sides about how to understand John 3:5 most *fully*?
(i.e.; how would you describe that “new birth” to a non-Christian—or to a confused Christian?)



New Life in the Spirit

- Funky little teaching moment²...
 - Think of it like a red-letter, spiritual math equation:

“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again... For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life... but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”
(John 3:3, 16, 18)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”
(Revelation 21:6-8)

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So how should that inspire us on a daily basis?

