

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*
- *The Spirit and the Flesh*
- *Where the Rubber Hits the Road (part 1)*
- *The Gifts of the Spirit*



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and *empower* them—so what did that mean, exactly?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - Super-quick review—
 - We've looked at how active the Holy Spirit was in His people's everyday lives, even from the very beginning of time, throughout the Old Testament, and even in the life and ministry of Christ and the pre-Pentecost church
 - How so?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - Super-quick review—
 - We've looked at how active the Holy Spirit was in His people's everyday lives, even from the very beginning of time, throughout the Old Testament, and even in the life and ministry of Christ and the pre-Pentecost church
 - We've looked at how things changed at Pentecost, with the Spirit's punctiliar infilling, but also His *ongoing* indwelling, leading, and active empowering in our lives
 - What's the distinction between those "fillings"?
 - Snarky obnoxious theological question:
 - The Holy Spirit used to fill, lead, and empower God-following Jews for centuries leading up to Pentecost—so does He still do that *now*, even if He isn't necessarily *indwelling* them like He is Christians? (Note passages such as Psalm 51:9-12, Isaiah 59:20-21, etc.—i.e.; is Stephen being descriptive or prescriptive in Acts 7:51?)
 - If not—or if so—then what does that mean for us today?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - Super-quick review—
 - We've looked at how active the Holy Spirit was in His people's everyday lives, even from the very beginning of time, throughout the Old Testament, and even in the life and ministry of Christ and the pre-Pentecost church
 - We've looked at how things changed at Pentecost, with the Spirit's punctiliar infilling, but also His *ongoing* indwelling, leading, and active empowering in our lives
 - We've emphasized how, as Christians, we don't just “have the Spirit in us,” but actually have a totally “new life” in the Spirit, with a new identity as children of God
 - How should that effect how we view interact with the world around us—and/or with each other?



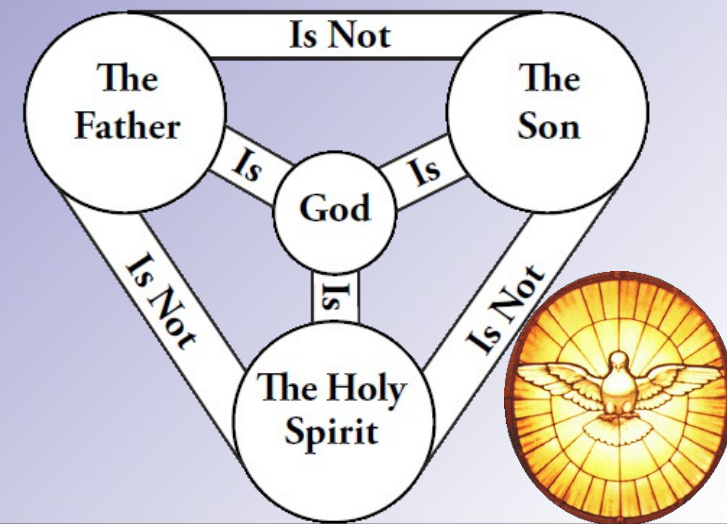
Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- Funky little teaching moment...
 - Super-quick review—
 - We've looked at how active the Holy Spirit was in His people's everyday lives, even from the very beginning of time, throughout the Old Testament, and even in the life and ministry of Christ and the pre-Pentecost church
 - We've looked at how things changed at Pentecost, with the Spirit's punctiliar infilling, but also His *ongoing* indwelling, leading, and active empowering in our lives
 - We've emphasized how, as Christians, we don't just "have the Spirit in us," but actually have a totally "new life" in the Spirit, with a new identity as children of God
 - We've seen how that "new life" and new identity are inherently and functionally at odds with our old life and old identity *without* God
 - How does *that* play out in our everyday lives as Christians?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - How do you see the Trinity present here?
 - How do you see that “new identity” and “new life in the Spirit” that we've discussed?
 - How do you see the ongoing indwelling of God's Spirit in Christians here?
- (NOTE: Careful, this one's tricky...)



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-19
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
(let's cheat and include vs. 16 here)
 - 1) Strengthen us with power
(so that Christ may dwell in us)
 - Discuss that one a smidgey bit...



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-19
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
(let's cheat and include vs. 16 here)
 - 1) Strengthen us with power
(so that Christ may dwell in us)
 - 2) Empower us to be able to grasp the *immensity* of the love of Christ
(*having been rooted in that love in the *first* place*)
 - Now discuss *that* one a smidgey bit...



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-19
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
(let's cheat and include vs. 16 here)
 - 1) Strengthen us with power
(so that Christ may dwell in us)
 - 2) Empower us to be able to grasp the *immensity* of the love of Christ
(*having been rooted in that love in the *first* place*)
 - 3) Empower us to **know** this love that **surpasses** stuff that you can **know**
 - Now discuss *that* one a smidgey bit...



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-19
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
(let's cheat and include vs. 16 here)
 - 1) Strengthen us with power
(so that Christ may dwell in us)
 - 2) Empower us to be able to grasp the *immensity* of the love of Christ
(*having been rooted* in that love in the *first* place)
 - 3) Empower us to *know* this love that *surpasses* stuff that you can *know*
(so that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God)
 - Now discuss *that* one a smidgey bit...
(NOTE: The word used here isn't the same word as "filled with the Spirit" in Acts 4, etc.—this isn't a punctiliar *överflöd*, but an ongoing *completion*)



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-19
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
(let's cheat and include vs. 16 here)
 - 1) Strengthen us with power
(so that Christ may dwell in us)
 - 2) Empower us to be able to grasp the *immensity* of the love of Christ
(*having been rooted* in that love in the *first* place)
 - 3) Empower us to *know* this love that *surpasses* stuff that you can *know*
(so that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God)
 - What theme(s) do you see in all of this about what the Holy Spirit is actively doing in us?
 - Is that the sort of empowerment you usually think of as coming from the Holy Spirit?
 - How should that affect your everyday life?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-21
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
(let's cheat and include vs. 16 here)
 - 1) Strengthen us with power
(so that Christ may dwell in us)
 - 2) Empower us to be able to grasp the *immensity* of the love of Christ
(*having been rooted* in that love in the *first* place)
 - 3) Empower us to *know* this love that *surpasses* stuff that you can *know*
(so that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God)
 - What theme(s) do you see in all of this about what the Holy Spirit is actively doing in us?
 - How is it important to note in vs. 20-21 that even then, God's Spirit is "able to do *immeasurably more* than *all* we ask or *imagine*" we could ask?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-21
 - What is Paul saying that the Spirit's empowering will do within us, on an ongoing basis?
 - If this is something that the Spirit is doing within us naturally (i.e.; it's the natural fruit of the Holy Spirit), then why does Paul have to *pray* that it happens?



Where the Rubber Hits the Road

- This is where things get really interesting...
 - In general, Paul saw his suffering as a prisoner to be endured as the Father's will, following the Son's example, through the Spirit's strengthening, for the sake of ministering to the Church
 - Read Ephesians 3:14-17a
 - Read Ephesians 3:17b-21
 - Read Ephesians 4:1-6
 - How would you summarize Paul's "urging" in vs. 1?
 - How does that live itself out in vs. 2-3?
 - How is the Holy Spirit an active part of that?
 - Have you ever struggled to love people—even other brothers or sisters in Christ—the way that Paul is calling us to? If so, then why is that?
 - "Come to Jesus Moment" for the day:
Were you trying to love them in your own strength, trying to love them through nurturing the natural fruit of the Holy Spirit, or not really trying to love them much at all?

