

## *The Mission and Work of the Holy Spirit*

### As Evidenced in the Gospel of John

#### Summary

##### Introduction:

A. When we speak to God, and when we speak of God we do so with extreme care, great reverence and awe, and with a realization, a consciousness, and an understanding of who God is and who we are in relation to Him

B. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (**Isaiah 55:8-9**)

C. In prayer to God, Solomon declared “Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you.” (**I Kings 8:27**)

D. When Solomon’s father, David, looked at those same heavens, gazed at the work of God’s fingers, the moon and the stars which He set in place, he asked in the 8<sup>th</sup> Psalm, “What is man that you (such a mighty God) are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him.” (**Psalms 8:4**)

E. In all of these passages, there is an awestruck awareness of the greatness and holiness of God!

F. What does *that* introduction have to do with *this* message?

G. It is the fact that our subject this afternoon is God. We are discussing the mission and work of Deity, the Divine Nature.

H. Specifically, the mission and work of the distinctive person within the Triune God whom we know from the first chapter of Genesis (second verse of the Bible) to the last chapter of Revelation as the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the eternal Spirit, and, notably in John’s Gospel, the Spirit of Truth, the *Parakletos* (Comforter / Counselor / Helper / Advocate /)

I. It’s critical that we not lose sight of the *One about whom* we are speaking so that we don’t find ourselves reducing the infinite, sovereign, omniscient, Almighty God to a set of bullet points.

J. We can speak Biblically and truthfully about the Spirit, but we can never speak adequately of Him, or exhaustively or categorically. Truth though we may possess, we must never think that we have mastered the mystery of God, as if His nature and work could be fully contained within our understanding of Him or limited to our commentary about Him, as if God's work, the work of the Spirit, could be expressed as a job description, a "to do" list, or a punch list; again, a set of bullet points.

K. This is not a dissertation about some distant Deity, but about One who is literally in the room with us; in the room with us *and* within us, in these bodily sanctuaries, these temples in which he has taken up residence among those who have been bought with a price and who belong to God.

L. So, this afternoon, we tread lightly and reverently, with sandals removed on holy ground.

M. The Mission and Work of the Holy Spirit as Evidenced in the Gospel of John

## I. Spiritual Regeneration

A. **John 3:3**, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

C. The Spirit of God was to have a unique role in that new birth.

D. **John 3:5**, 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."

E. **John 3:6**, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

**Note:** The new birth, the second birth, spiritual rebirth, being born again needs to be a part of our vocabulary about salvation; because it is the vocabulary of Jesus.

F. **John 3:8**, "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

G. We rightfully connect being born of the water and spirit with our baptism into Christ; there is nothing else in the New Testament that embodies those elements of water and Spirit.

H. **Titus 3:5** reads like a commentary on **John 3:5**

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

I. **John 6:63**, “It is the **Spirit** who gives life.”

J. **I Corinthians 12:13**, “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.”

## II. A Gift of Help to All Believers

A. **John 7:38-39**

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

B. **Acts 2:38**

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Like all of God’s gifts (who knows how to give good gifts to his children), the Spirit is given in love for our benefit and blessing.

C. **Acts 5:32**

And we are witnesses to these things, as so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

D. **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

Or 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? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

E. A purposeful gift – given for a reason, or, more correctly, multiple reasons.

F. Given as a Helper

G. **John 14:16-17**

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

I. Moral, spiritual strength in our inner being

### **Ephesians 3:16**

“... according to the riches of his glory, he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being...

### **Romans 8:13**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

#### I. Incentive to holiness

##### **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

#### J. Intercession in our prayers

##### **Romans 8:26**

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.

K. Lack of knowledge about the Spirit was the telltale sign to Paul that the dozen disciples in Ephesus had not received baptism in the name and authority of Jesus. (**Acts 19**)

L. God does not give superfluous, unnecessary gifts. His Spirit is given to His children to meet the needs of His children. We would be spiritually impoverished, spiritually weakened, spiritually vulnerable, and diminished in our discipline of prayer without the aid, strength, and help of the divine gift we have received.

M. When did the apostles receive this blessing for all believers?

**John 20:22**, “And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Possibly? I don’t know for sure.

### III. A Gift of Special Help to Some Believers

A. While all believers enjoyed these benefits of the gift of the Spirit with universality, some of Jesus’ promises of help were limited by particularity, including the particularity of those to whom Jesus was immediately speaking.

#### B. **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.

**C. John 16:13**

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.

A revelatory promise – both in what they would proclaim and what they would write for the benefit of the church in the first century and succeeding centuries.

**II Peter 1:21**, “No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

**D. The Particularity of Pentecost**

**E. I Corinthians 12:4, 8-10, 29-30**

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

<sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge... to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

<sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

<sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

**IV. Testimony, Glorification, and Conviction Concerning Jesus**

**A. John 15:26**

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

**B. John 16:14**

“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

**C. John 16:7-8**

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

D. Read Acts to see how the testimony of the Spirit and the testimony of the apostles were one voice; one witness

## V. Anointing/Identification As God's Children; Deposit and Guarantee of Our Inheritance

### A. Jesus' Baptism

#### **John 1:32-33**

John testified saying, "I have seen the **Spirit** descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I 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**.'

Synoptics – "This is my beloved Son"

### B. II Corinthians 1:21-22

<sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup> and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

### C. Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

D. **Romans 8:9-11**, "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

E. **Romans 8:14-16**, “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”