**What we Believe #8 - The Holy Spirit**

"Now the Lord is the Spirit" 2 Corinthians 3:18

# Pray

The Holy Spirit - Much confusion; Divergent teaching - experience driven. Dangerous practices. Misplaced faith. So there will be a number of 'corrective statements' today as we need to realign our understanding to Biblical Revelation.

It is so unfortunate - because what we are about to see is the incredible Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, and our urgent need of Him.

But therefore it isn't surprising - Because if the Holy Spirit is God with Us today - that's where Satan will try to confuse and supplant.

# Read the confession - Point 8

*We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit, His regenerating work, and abiding presence in the true believer*

I will simply use this as an outline for our time this morning.

# the Person

**"the Personality":** John 14:16 "another Helper" like Jesus -> 1st corrective statement: Not a force, drug, buzz that comes over one.

* One of the proofs of the Trinity, paragraph 2, ("We believe in One God, eternally existing in 3 persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit") - Titles:
  + "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Jesus/ Christ" **Rom 8:9** - *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.*
  + = "the Holy Spirit" Rom 15:16
* Other Titles : of attribute: "Spirit of counsel and might, of faith, of glory, of grace, of holiness, of life, of truth, of wisdom and of revelation"
* And so we worship the Holy Spirit, 3rd person of the Trinity, one like Jesus, described by these incredible attributes...
  + APP: Eph 2:12, "*Without God and (=) without hope*"! - without the Holy Spirit of counsel, might, faith, glory, grace, holiness, life, truth wisdom and revelation... without Hope! Spirit-lessness = Help-lessness
  + >> How do we receive the Holy Spirit? **Act 2:38**. A gift of God to believers.

# the Work of the Holy Spirit - Regeneration

* Different functions/roles within the God-head

**We will deal with 2 general works:**

**cf "His Regenerating work"**

* 2 Cor 5:17 "he is a new creation"; Titus 3:5, how this comes to be "*regeneration and renewal*"

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour

* + as the HS was working with the Father and Son in Creation, so also in this New Creation
  + **regenerated**: re-birthed - a new person - different from the old!
  + **renewed**: new-quality - like *difference in quality* between winter and summer
  + >> an actual experience; different degree of experience depending on previous closeness to/ distance from true Christian community (not religious community!) e.g. myself, Dean. - this is the Regenerating Work of the Holy Spirit.
* This reminds us of our spiritual Condition before salvation: ***Dead*** - see Eph 2:1-4. How does God make us alive like that? Theologians call it the "regenerating work" of the Holy Spirit.
* So what is new? Desires. Convictions - affecting your course. Most of all, Love for Christ.
* Now I think it is important to show you that there are 2 Ingredients of Regeneration:
  + 1. rebirth by the Holy Spirit - John 3:5-6
  + 2. the Gospel message! - 1 Pet 1:23 - *you have been born again, ... through the living and abiding word of God* (cf Rom 1:16)
  + APP: We pray for the salvation of people. Is that Legit? Yes! But more than prayer is needed - the Message of the Gospel!
* APP: Maybe you have no experience of this regeneration: Eph 2 describes you: "living in the passion of your flesh, living by your body and your mind - no different to the rest of the world" - - that's called spiritual death. And you desperately need the saving work of God - His Promise to all who will deny self and trust Christ alone - the Holy Spirit; Jesus died for your sins - God raised Him on the third day, and declared Him to be Lord and Saviour. Repent and be Baptised for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the promised Holy Spirit.

# the Work - Abiding

**the 2nd general work: cf "and His Abiding Presence"**

* "*abiding*" - old word, useful because it captures 2 senses: 'to make home', + 'to remain' ["dwell"]. Key passage on the Holy Spirit is Jhn ch **14-16** : John 14:**16-17** "dwells with you, will be in you"
* The Gift of God is always more than we expected! Not only received at Repentance (Act 2:38), but we are sealed forever by... Eph 1:13-14 "sealed with the promised Holy Spirit"

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, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory (Eph 1:13 ESV)

* another 'corrective statement' - the Holy Spirit doesn't come and go! Answers the Q: Will God ever give up on me? No!

The Holy Spirit's work is "sanctification" - Regeneration Sanctifies, and so does Abiding

* + Positional sanctification: Adopted by God - Rom 8 (another great HS passage):15-17, "*the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!*" - [Guarantee; pledge]
  + Progressive sanctification: Ongoing transform - 2 Cor 3:17-18,..

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

***Real Help - Immeasurable Love*** *- which we might not understand!! (Eph 1:18,3:18)*

My Personal Favourite blessings of the Abiding Holy Spirit within me

* **Prayer** - Rom 8:26-27 *we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words*
* **Power over sin** - Gal 5:16 *walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*
* **Gifts for service** - 1 Cor 12:1-11 *All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills*
* **Enlightenment** - 1 Cor 2:14 (stated negatively) *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*
* **[ILLUS**: Plug socket]

## 'the Holy Spirit was moving'

Lastly, a corrective statement on evidence of the Holy Spirit moving

* "Have you been baptised in the Spirit?" : referring to a so-called second blessing, a mantle of extra which only the truly spiritual believers have. [] - Take heart: This Baptism is Explained in 1 Cor 12:13 *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and all were made to drink of one Spirit*
* Similar language, "The Spirit was moving" - referring to some hightened feeling - interpreted as spiritual buzz. But no where in the Bible is the Spirit's work described as something affected by music (which Eskom load-shedding can interrupt) or excitement (which disappointments and agendas can interrupt)...

**Seven Signs of "the Holy Spirit Moving"** (not comprehensive, but food for thought!)

1. Conviction of Sin - John 16:8 he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment
2. Transformation - 2 Cor 3:18 beholding the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into the same image ... For this comes from ... the Spirit
3. Service - 1 Cor 12:11 the same Spirit [gifts] ... each one individually [for service] as he wills (1Co 12:11 ESV)
4. Appetite for the Word - Psa 119:97 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
5. Honouring Christ - John 16:14 He will glorify Me
6. Fruit of the Spirit - Gal 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit is love...
7. Church Unity - Eph 4:3 the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

# Reflection

Eph 5:18!! Spirit-lessness = Help-lessness

**Knysna Baptist Church, 1995:**

We believe in

8. "the personality of the Holy Spirit, His regenerating work, and abiding presence in the true believer"

**Proposed Updated statement, 2017:**

We believe (1) that the Holy Spirit is the Lord, the giver of life, who formed the world, empowered certain individuals for God’s purposes, and who speaks in the Holy Scriptures; (2) that God anointed Jesus Christ with the Spirit for His ministry and that the Spirit was given to the Church at Pentecost to indwell, lead, and unite believers, gifting each of them for various works of service; (3) that the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, gives understanding of the Word, convicts people of their sin, unites believers to Jesus, and forms the character of Christ within them; and (4) that the Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts, enables prayer and witness, and seals the believer for the day of the redemption of their bodies.