

SUNDAY MORNING 1 AUGUST 2021

The Spirit of Truth

John 16: 7-15

It is a few hours before Jesus' death. He tells them that He loves them deeply and He promises that the Holy Spirit will come. He warns that they will be hated and will be killed, as He was killed.

Know Him and Grow. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' heart, we heard last week, do go astray. He himself has been through hardship. Emotional trauma. He was deeply upset when He told them that Judas was going to betray Him, He was sad at Lazarus' tomb and experienced anguish in Gethsemane. He knows what suffering, persecution, temptations, etc., do to people. Hear His heart "Do not fall away." To help us His children, He gives His Spirit.

The Spirit of TRUTH - John 16: 7 and 16:13

When He comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will guide us into all truth. Never ever will you be deceived by the Holy Spirit, or will He preach false truths, or give you anything, or teach you anything that is against His Word.

The world will. Friends will. The devil will. They say, do as you please, as long as you just enjoy it, but they do not warn about the consequences. They do not warn against addiction, disease, broken families, brokenness, destruction and death that are the consequences of people's sinful deeds.

How would you like the Holy Spirit of God to be? The Spirit of half-truths? The Spirit of the White Lie. The Spirit who lies to you, and will one day quietly laugh when you are lost, because He appeased you and did not tell the full truth.

He can only be the Spirit of Truth or the Spirit of Lie. And if He is the Spirit of Truth, then His Word, God's Word, will not always sound so politically correct, or be acceptable to us.

The Holy Spirit has two focus groups under which and with whom He works.

The World (unbelievers) and the believers – John 16: 8-11

The work of the Holy Spirit – The World (not yet) – Romans 3: 23-24

The work of the Holy Spirit is not limited to the believers. God, who wants no one to be lost, is still working through the Holy Spirit among the unbelievers or, as I like to call it, the - not yet's. The people who have never heard of the salvation of Jesus, or people who have been hurt by the church and the actions of believers, or who are just not interested.

John 16: 8a and 9

The work of the Holy Spirit is not to make people feel bad about sin or just to address people or disagree. His job is to condemn them to judge them.

Judge

A legal term - means that a prosecutor has made his case so clear that it is clear that the accused is guilty. To convict the world of sin means that the truth of who Jesus and what He came to do is set out so clearly that people can understand it so that they then can make an informed decision to accept or reject it. In other words, they understand the consequences are that without God they will enter eternal death in hell and they are ok with that.

And what is this one sin that the world is guilty of. The only sin that will alienate you from God forever.

Do not believe in Me

People think of sin as murder, and rape and child abuse, and maybe lies, but the sin that causes people to be lost is the sin of not wanting to believe in Jesus.

Think of someone who is a good swimmer and falls overboard in the middle of the sea. It will only be a matter of time until he drowns, because no one is good enough to swim thousands of miles to shore. But if a lifeguard were to throw him a rope or lifebuoy, and the person say, "I just won the good medal at the Olympics for swimming, I do not need to be rescued," what do you think is going happen? He or she is going to drown. Not because the lifeguard is cruel, but just because he or she does not believe in the efforts of the lifeguard. He is guilty and is going to drown because He did not grab the rope or lifebuoy and cling on to it. What

must he do to be saved? Grab the rope. He does not have to try to swim now, he or she is safe in the hands of the lifeguard.

The Holy Spirit comes to convince the people that Jesus Christ is the Savior God provided for the world. People who pursue their own values and standards and think they are good people are still lost because good people do not go to heaven, only saved people.

Good people do not go to heaven, forgiven people do

Maybe you're sitting here thinking all the things I did are just too much. Jesus will never be able to pay for it. For you, the life-saving rope of salvation and forgiveness is offered.

Now Jesus goes further and deeper and tells what the Holy Spirit has yet to do in the world.

John 16: 8b and 10

There are only two sets of moral rules, and standards that follow John 16: 8c and 11

Judgment

Where sin and God's righteous judgment meet, there will be punishment. This is a matter of life and death. Eternal life and eternal death. Sin must be punished, that's what God has decided. So the punishment can only be taken in one of two ways.

The one way is to say perhaps unknowingly, or by arrogance, "I will take the punishment. I will open my way to "negotiate", because inherently I am not a bad person. "

Eternal Death - Romans 6:23

Or the other way is to let Jesus take the punishment.

Justified - Romans 3:25-26

Child of God - John 1: 12-13

The theology, the story of Christianity is so simple and easy. If you accept Jesus as the substitute for your punishment and believe in Him, you are a child of God. If you do not want to believe in Jesus, and do not accept it, you stand in for your own punishment. That's the most important decision you and I can make. People think, maybe you too, I live a good life and everything works out for me. I do not have to believe in Jesus, until the day of my death, then nothing will work out for you, for all eternity. And then you cannot change your "faith". That is what the Holy Spirit wants to warn us against and to come and warn the world. All the while, the Holy Spirit is at work convincing people's hearts.

So now Jesus continues and gives a wonderful encouragement to those who believe in Him, those who are now children of God.

John 16: 7

For children of God, there is this assurance from Jesus. When He leaves, the Holy Spirit of God will be with you and me as His children forever. It is not the absence of: pain, sadness, longing, suffering that makes life worth living. It is the presence of God through His Spirit that makes life, life here and life eternally, worthwhile.

The presence of God

It is the presence of God in you and my life through the Holy Spirit that allows us to go through the suffering, sorrow and pain, because Jesus' departure meant that we who are children of God will never be alone again.

The Holy Spirit is not just the presence of God, hear what Jesus says He will do when He comes. He will be the Helper. He speaks here in verse 7 of the Advocate, the parakeletos, the one who will come to lie beside you if you are broken because of the bad things of life. Sometimes we need this suffering and sorrow just to realize again, we need God, and then the Comforter, Holy Spirit will be there.

But Jesus says the Holy Spirit will also guide and teach us in the Truth.

Teacher - John 16:13

He is the Divine, Indwelling, Holy God, who guides and teaches you and me in the truth.

Guide in all Truth - John 16: 13b and 14:26

The Holy Spirit is selfless. He's just talking about Father and Jesus. The Holy Spirit was not sent so that we could feel good or do strange things, or act strange. I have seen terrible things in my life that people do under the influence of the "Holy Spirit". From falling and laughing and even "vomit in the Spirit." Churches sometimes focus so much on the gifts and working of the Holy Spirit, that they forget that the work of the Holy Spirit is never focused on Him. Never will the Holy Spirit proclaim Himself. Never will the Holy Spirit focus believers away from Christ.

The work of the Holy Spirit in my and your life is simple. More like Jesus. Learn the behaviour of Jesus. Be like Him. Think like Him. Love like Him.

2 Corinthians 3:18

The Spirit teaches us about obedience, humility, boldness. He teaches us what the fruit, the consequences of the work of the Spirit are. All attributes of Jesus.

Galatians 5: 22-25

The Holy Spirit's ultimate task and work in my and your life is:

Glorify Jesus - John 16:

We live in a world where other things sit on the throne of our lives. Other things determine our time and priorities. Other things and people dictate what we should believe and what we should focus on. God is not something that is part of our busy lives, one of the irons in the fire, if Jesus is not the fire in your life, but just one of the many irons in your fire in your busy life, then the focus is not on glorifying Him but yourself.

Then it's about what's important to you and good and acceptable and enjoyable. The Holy Spirit wants to teach you and me to grasp who Jesus is. This same John who wrote this book also writes the book of Revelation and hears what he says:

Revelation 4: 1-2

He sees God on His throne. 43 times in the book, John refers to God on the throne. In 15 of the 22 chapters, reference is made to God or Jesus on the throne. That's how it's going to be in heaven forever.

God does not need you and my worship, you and I need to worship God. When you sit on the throne of your heart, then life just revolves around you. Then you must be loved and served and obeyed. Consider "my feelings, forgive me, encourage me." If you are on the throne, then we give glory to ourselves and not to Jesus.

To glorify Jesus means that we say, "There is only One throne and One worthy to sit on that throne and that is Jesus." That's why we sing is to take our focus away from things and put us on the throne. We do not sing songs about you, but about Jesus and to God. Humble worship is to know your place, and our place is not on the throne, but before the throne in worship. And this is what the Holy Spirit would like to help us with.

Die Heilige Gees se werk/The Work of the Holy Spirit

