

WEEK 3: THE SPIRIT

RESOURCES:

- <https://www.thomasnelsonbibles.com/blog/the-holy-spirit-in-the-old-testament/>
- “Who is the Holy Spirit?” RC Sproul

SCRIPTURE:

- John 16:7
- John 3
- Acts 1

INTRO:

- Hey Faith Students! Welcome to the best night of the week! So glad each + every one of you is here!
- Tonight we're ending our series on the Trinity! This is a theological term that points to the reality that God is triune, or 3 in 1.
 - Trinity
 - Tri: 3
 - Unity: one
 - 3 equal persons, 1 God
 - NOT multiple gods, all 1
- In week 1 we talked about the father, who is creator + redeemer, and desires to have a personal relationship with us.
- In week 2 we talked about the son (Jesus)
- Tonight we are talking about the 3rd person of the trinity, **the Holy Spirit**
 - a. He is a person
 - b. Not an “it”
 - c. Didn't randomly show up in the New Testament
 - Active in creation (**Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Isaiah 32:15**).
 - The Spirit gives life to humanity and the other creatures (**Psalm 104:29, 30**). It is interesting that when Genesis says God endows people with life by breathing into their nostrils the “breath of life” (**Genesis 2:7**), the word for “breath” is the same word translated elsewhere as “spirit.”
 - The Spirit came upon certain judges, warriors, and prophets in a way that gave them extraordinary power: for example, Joshua

(**Numbers 27:18**), Othniel (**Judges 3:10**), Gideon (**Judges 6:34**),
Samson (**Judges 13:25; 14:6**)

- d. The Holy Spirit was/is incredibly crucial! Truly the most personally connected to us of the trinity
- e. Holy Spirit can at times be overlooked/forgotten, but we even see Jesus revealed how important the Holy Spirit is when telling them he was going to leave:
 - f. **John 16:7** I tell you the truth. It is better for you that I go away. If I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you
- It seems crazy that Jesus says it's BETTER that He leaves so the Holy Spirit can come
- That says a lot about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in our lives
 - g. Jesus describes him as the helper
 - h. Some translations use the word "Com-forter" instead of "Helper." The Greek word that is translated as "Helper" or "Comforter" is parakletos; it is the source of the English word paraclete. This word includes a prefix, para-, that means "alongside," and a root that is a form of the verb kletos, which means "to call." So, a parakletos was someone who was called to stand alongside another. It usually was applied to an attorney, but not just any attorney. Technically, the parakletos was the family attorney who was on a permanent retainer. **Any time a problem arose in the family, the parakletos was on call, and he would come immediately to assist in the struggle. That is the way it is in our relationship with the Holy Spirit. We are part of the family of God, and the family attorney is the Holy Spirit Himself. He is always present to come alongside us and help in times of troubles.**
- The Holy spirit helps us in 2 main ways:

1// SANCTIFICATION

- Sanctification is essentially the lifelong process of looking/living more like Jesus
 - *Reminder of fruits of the spirit*
- This starts on the inside, it starts with our heart. We won't live like Jesus until our heart/spirit is changed. We have to be renewed!
 - This is referred to as being "born again"
 - Jesus says this in his conversation with Nicodemus (**John 3**)
 - V. 3 "unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.
 - V. 7-8 "You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

- We have to be made new/born again! The Holy Spirit does this when we choose to follow Jesus!
 - It's a beautiful and powerful thing! And it begins this life-long process of sanctification/becoming more like Jesus daily
 - Becoming holy/set apart
 - In the OT, Israel had these laws/customs that set them apart from the rest of the world
 - Now the Holy Spirit is that seal/mark that sets us apart!
 - The Holy Spirit is called the Holy Spirit, not because He's the holiest person of the trinity, but because he is the one that makes us Holy from the inside out

2// STRENGTHENING

- The Holy Spirit not only sanctifies us, but also strengthens us!
- He gives us supernatural ability/gifts for God's glory/ministry
- This was part of Jesus' reasoning for telling the disciples to stay put after He ascended to Heaven, before they continued their ministry
- **Acts 1:4-8** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: **"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with] the Holy Spirit."
- **6** Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- **7** He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8 But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 - He told them to not leave until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - He went on to say they would receive power when they received the Holy Spirit
 - This isn't like superpowers, but it is a spiritual gifting/ability given by the Holy Spirit to do what God has called/created us to do
- God created us to minister to/reach others
- God has created us each with a divine and specific purpose
- But He didn't make us to do it on our own, that's why He gives us His Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is deeply important/crucial in our lives! He may be the most personal of the trinity because when we choose to follow Jesus we literally become dwelling places of the Holy Spirit who fills/resides in us!

- He sanctifies/changes us from the inside out, and strengthens us to do incredible things for God's kingdom

ALTAR//

- Salvation
- Sanctification- What areas do I need to allow the Holy Spirit to clean up in my life/ heart?
- Strengthening- What gifts/burdens has the Holy Spirit given me? How can I utilize these for God's glory?
 - ****Small group/response activity could be taking the spiritual gifts assessment and discussing how students can use them!****
 - <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>
 - ****Could also be a great segue for student leadership or even fine arts****