

## THE HOLY SPIRIT – TALK 2 – JESUS AND THE SPIRIT – I'm leaving but I'm not going

It's 2 o'clock in the morning. I've woken. I'm feeling depressed. I'm thinking about my own life. Things have been hard. But I just don't feel like I'm close to God. I know that I believe that Jesus died for me and that I am only saved through him. I believe all that stuff that Dave and others were teaching from Galatians about the gospel and there is nothing we can add to it to be right with God. But I thought I had the Holy Spirit in me when I turned to Jesus and believed in him. Has the Holy Spirit left me? Why am I feeling like this? We're continuing our talks about the Holy Spirit today. It's Week 2 and we're talking about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Amanda read from John 14 – Jesus says, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever. What will this Counsellor be like? The answer is that we need to look at Jesus, because

**1. Jesus is the unique bearer of the Spirit;** the Holy Spirit is with Jesus. But now the Holy Spirit is here to stay. In the OT the HS came and went, he touched people, there would be prophecies, touches of power, but he was never a permanent fixture in their hearts. Now Jesus comes and because he is God the HS is with him, the Father is with him. Do you remember when the disciples asked Jesus in John 14:8 – Philip says, "show us the Father". And Jesus replies, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after all this time I've been with you. Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." In the same way when we see Jesus we see the HS – the Father, the Son and the HS are one. But what is unique at this point of time in Jesus is that we see the HS with Jesus in a unique way, in a new way from the OT.

So when Luke says in chapter 4:1 "Jesus full of the HS, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert" what is he wanting us to understand about the relationship of Jesus with the Spirit. That Jesus was not like ordinary people that only had part of the HS & that he had all of the HS? Or does he want me to understand that Jesus **really did** have the HS and permanently now. Luke is saying Jesus really did have the HS. It's permanent. There are no half measures with Jesus and the HS, you can't separate the 2 of them; this is the 2 of them working in full total agreement, there is a complete union of power. It's not as though he's drawing a distinction between Jesus having or not having the HS; he's emphasizing that, yes, he really does have him. The 2 are really working in concert at this point; rather than this is the point that the 2 of them met up and started working together. Luke's not trying to make a point like that, because there is only one of them. But Jesus is displaying in the fullest way what it means to have the power of the Spirit. And this is what will be given to his disciples when he goes – not just for a particular task, but to remain in us permanently.

Do you remember when Jesus' announced on the Sabbath in the tabernacle in Luke 4:18 – "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor ...."; Jesus is quoting from Isaiah 42 :1-4 and in this announcement he is telling the people of the new things that God is doing. The Holy Spirit is with Jesus permanently in a new way from the OT. The OT Scriptures were being fulfilled, the Spirit was with Jesus and this Holy Spirit remained with him throughout his ministry.

**2. Jesus is the unique giver or dispenser of the Spirit** – So we've established that Jesus is the unique bearer of the Spirit. Everything of the Spirit is indeed his, but not for himself alone; rather that he should shower it upon his followers. All of the gospels stress this. Jesus is the one who is going to give the Spirit. He is the one who gives out the Spirit. **You cannot get the Spirit except through Jesus, or get to Jesus except through the Spirit.** When Jesus says in John 14 that he has to go he actually wants us to have the Spirit living in us, empowering us just like the Spirit had been living in him and empowering him. **"It is BETTER that he goes away so that we can receive the Spirit."** But remember also that in John 14:16 Jesus says "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor. So yes, it is Jesus who gives the Spirit but it's also the Father – all three work together because they are One. I find that mind boggling. Jesus who has all power and could be the greatest person on earth with the greatest kingdom with millions of adoring fans. He says, "No, no. I must go so that the Spirit can live in you. The Spirit will live in you just like he has been living in me and empowering me. So Jesus is saying 2 things. 1. It is better for you as individuals that I go because when I go, the way that God's arranged it is that he will send the HS to dwell in your hearts, just like the prophecies in Jer 31 and Ezek. So this new thing is going to happen for you, so it's better for me to go because all I'm doing at the moment is I'm delivering the goods as it were, but for them to get put into your heart, that's going to happen in a little while. 2. My ministry to you as disciples is limited by my physical reality, because I can only minister to a few

of you, but when I go and I send the HS he'll be able to minister all over the world all at once. So it's better that I do this thing because my role, as it were, in coming and dying and making atonement and doing all those sorts of things, well I will have done that, and then I will come back and do my other role – ie of coming and dwelling in your hearts and creating this new people of God, or the people of God in a different way. So he is not saying it's better that I go away because in some way my ministry is limited or that I'm not giving you the best or whatever it might happen to be and that the HS will come and give you something that I can't give you. It's that he will come and give you what I have given you but he'll give it to you in a slightly different way, and he'll do it for everyone throughout the world. So Jesus is leaving but he's not going.

**3. Jesus stamps a new character on the Spirit.** Ok, we've seen, so far that the Spirit of God which appeared in the Old Testament, but only for short period for specific purposes, this same Spirit shone brightly, personally and fully in Jesus. We know what the Spirit is like even more now, because we see the Spirit with Jesus. Jesus is like the full and final revelation of the Spirit. We see the fullness of the Spirit in Jesus. As John said in John chapter 1 v.14 – “The Word, that is Jesus, became flesh, became human, and made his dwelling with us, he came to earth to live here with us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” We might add we saw the Spirit too and what it was like for the Spirit to fully indwell someone and empower someone. So what follows is that Spirit is for ever afterwards marked with the character of Jesus. *In fact, Luke uses the phrase, “the Spirit of Jesus” in Acts 16:7 when describing how the Holy Spirit stopped Paul from going into Bithynia.*

As I have already said, Jesus said that he needed to go away so that the Spirit could come on his disciples. The Spirit's task was to make Jesus known throughout the world. He would disseminate, or spread, the presence of Jesus as the Spirit lived and breathed through the followers of Jesus. Jesus' physical departure would make it possible for the coming of the Advocate, the Counsellor, the Spirit and there would be no barriers of space and time to prevent disciples being in intimate contact with him. Indeed, they would find the relationship even closer than companionship with Jesus in the days that he walked with them. They had known Jesus as their Advocate and Counsellor during his ministry. He had lived **WITH** them, but the one who he promises as another Counsellor will live **IN** them. (John 14:17). It is as if there will be lots of little Jesus' running around because the same Spirit that was with Jesus indwells us who are his followers. There is a difference though. We are not Jesus. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus, this same Spirit now comes to be in us. Am I messing with your mind a bit when I say this? Yes, it sounds too good to be true- but there it is.

Basically, the Spirit is to be another Jesus. He is sent to replace Jesus among the disciples and do for them what Jesus had done on earth. Now this is not surprising in one sense, because the Father, the Spirit and Jesus are One. In addition, the Spirit is to equip them for their mission just as he had equipped Jesus for his. Yet there is no complete autonomy for the Spirit, just as there had been none for Jesus. He had lived his life in dependence on his heavenly Father; And if the Spirit was to truly represent Jesus, he had to remain bound to the person and character of Jesus. Jesus was God's last word to man; and the function of the Spirit was not to give some new revelation of his own, but to bear witness to Jesus, to point to Jesus, the one who was God's last word.

The Spirit is just wanting to shed light on Jesus – the Three Sisters at night; floodlight lights up the rocks which make up the Three Sisters. We don't look at the floodlights and where they start from - our eyes are drawn to what they are shining on -this is what the Spirit does with Jesus. The Spirit shines the floodlight on to Jesus so that all we see is Jesus.

*Michael Green says “If the Spirit is fully personal, and the personality he wears is the personality of Jesus, two very important consequences follow. **1. The Spirit will only teach us things which shed light on Jesus, or 2. The Spirit will only give us religious experiences which will point us to Jesus and be consistent with the life of Jesus.**”*

*I want to encourage you to be open to the wind of the Spirit, to be open to how he may blow in our lives. I think sometimes we are too cautious and we restrict the Spirit working in us. But we also need to beware of people who say that they have had a special experience of the spirit or they have a special teaching about the Spirit which is not in the Bible. We can test these by asking, “Are these experiences leading us, pointing us to Jesus? Are they glorifying Jesus? Do they fit in with the kind of life that Jesus lived or the things that he taught. Someone has expressed the work of the Spirit in this way: **It is the Spirit's ministry to bring the sinner to the Saviour and to make the sinner like the Saviour.** In other words, the Spirit brings us to know Jesus and to desire to repent and follow him and then the Spirit works in us to make us more and more like Jesus. That's a*

*great way to summarise it. This process of becoming more and more like Jesus there is a big word that is sometimes used, helpful to know it – sanctification.*

Oh I could go on but I better stop there. 2 brief applications

**Application:** Coming back to our initial question. Can I lose the HS? Well, what does it mean to express that Jesus had the HS? For us sitting here, we now have the HS the same way that Jesus had the HS, you don't have it like they had it in the OT. So the HS is not going to leave you. When you are feeling miserable at 2 am in the morning and you're racked with guilt and shame, doubt and all those sorts of things – at that point has the HS left you? NO, the HS is still here with me. And for me what I have to do at 2 o'clock in the morning when I'm racked with guilt and shame and all those sorts of things is not concentrate on , "Oh dear I have all these terrible things', but to concentrate on the fact that, 'Oh, I still have the HS constantly with me. I'm still his beloved child. I haven't been abandoned at this point because I'm not in the OT system where the spirit come and goes.' I don't have to ask God to send the Holy Spirit to me again. He's already here. All I need to do is concentrate on him and his strength rather than concentrating on my failings. It's the same as we were saying in our studies in Galatians – cry out to God, seek him – just like a child goes to Mum and Dad, go to the Holy Spirit, go to Jesus – they are with you, ready to hear you, strengthen you, teach you, change you.

So the significance of Jesus saying that I'm going to send the HS to you is that he's going to dwell in your hearts and he will never leave you and therefore when I feel miserable that's not a sign that the HS has left me; that is an aspect of my humanity and Satan lying to me, rather than the fact that the HS has left me. So what I have to do is to take my mind off, turn my attention away from the lies that Satan is telling me, I've got to turn my attention back on to reality which is that God's spirit is in me. The fact that I might feel wretched might be the work of the HS where he convinces the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. So we do have the HS, it's just that we're not thinking about it, paying any attention to it.

Secondly, Jesus said that the Spirit blows where it wills, we cannot tame the Spirit or decide when and where the Spirit should act. But we need to be like a sailor. John Bunyan said, "Sailors cannot create the wind, but they can hoist their sails to welcome it; neither can we create the breath of the Spirit, but don't let us miss the wind because we failed to have our sails unfurled and ready to catch the wind." How does the Spirit want to blow in your life that your life might point others to Jesus? The answer my friend is not blowing in the wind but we need to be ready for the wind to catch us up and blow in and through us. How does the Spirit want to blow in and through us during this time of coronavirus? What new things is the Spirit wanting to teach us through this time? ( eg of me praying in the night – later in the night/early morning an idea comes into my mind – the Spirit speaking; the nudges)

#### **Extra notes – not in the sermon:**

Mark begins his account of Jesus in Marks Gospel with the baptism of Jesus. Mark 1:9-11 God had been silent for 400 years. This silence of God is now broken – this is a direct address from the God who had been silent. The words God uses combine 2 well-known OT passages: a) "you are my Son" from Psalm 2:7 and b) "with you I am well-pleased" from Isaiah 42:1 the picture of the servant of Yahweh. Thus, at his baptism Jesus publicly assumed a double role: the role of the Messianic Son and the role of the Suffering Servant – this was the destiny that he willingly undertook. In the OT the king would be equipped with the Spirit in Isaiah 11:1, so it is with Jesus as the Messiah; but also the Suffering servant would have the spirit – Isaiah 42:1 – "I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations." In the person of Jesus the last days have come – Mark 1:15 – "the time is fulfilled: and God's kingly rule has drawn near."

Mark has 2 ways of emphasising that Jesus is empowered by the Holy Spirit – a) struggle with Satan in the desert and b) the healings and exorcisms which follow during the ministry. Jesus is the man endued with the Holy Spirit and he is more than a match for the unclean spirits which are such a feature in Mark's account. Jesus is the conqueror. And people are amazed. They see in the presence and power of Jesus a cameo of the final victor over the forces of evil. "With authority he commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." (Mark 1:27)

One interesting sidelight here is what Luke mentions in **Luke 11:13** – he quotes Jesus talking to his disciples– he's just taught them the Lord's prayer and Jesus says, "If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." Luke saw the

H.S. as the supremely desirable object of prayer. This gift of the Spirit is the supreme characteristic of the kingdom and this is the gift that Jesus is going to give.

Now you might have noticed I used the word “paraclete” just a moment ago. This is the Greek word for the Holy Spirit – it is variously translated as the Advocate, the Comforter, the Counsellor. Basically the word means “one who is called alongside to help. In John’s epistle we find Jesus referred to as the “paraclete” -he is the one who represents us before his heavenly Father. The righteous Lord Jesus having died on the cross for our sins and risen again, now stands in for us, before the Father. He’s our paraclete – he’s described as the one who is the guarantor of our acceptance before the Father. Notice when Jesus is talking to his disciples in John 14:18 Jesus says, “I will not leave you orphans: I will come to you.” Not one bit of the personality of the Spirit that is present in Jesus will be lost when the disciples come to experience the Spirit as paraclete. John actually makes it very clear that the Spirit is not an “it” but personal because he does something strange, breaking the rules of writing proper Greek – now I don’t understand all this language stuff but uses the masculine pronoun to describe the Spirit. The Spirit is not an “it”, the Spirit is as personal as the Jesus who was walking around and who now causes the Spirit to come into the lives of Christians. So what’s this paraclete going to do: he’s going to do exactly what he has done in Jesus while he was on earth. Just as the Father sent the Son into the world as his representative, so the paraclete will be sent in Jesus’ name into our lives; just as Jesus remained with and guided the disciples, so will the paraclete – see 14:26; just as Jesus taught them the truth because he was the truth, so the Spirit of Truth would lead them and us into all the truth about Jesus 14:6,17; just as Jesus testified about the Father, so the Spirit will work in us ( 15:26,27) and he will give us the courage to witness to Jesus in the face of a hostile and apathetic society. Through the witness of the disciples which he will apply to the hearts of the hearers, the Spirit will convict men of being in the wrong. As we saw in John 16 last week the Spirit will convict us and the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. Basically, the Paraclete, the Spirit, takes over the role of Jesus. Just as the world refused to accept Jesus, so it will refuse to accept the Paraclete.

*Sometimes people say, and I’ve said it too, “Oh if only I was able to walk around with Jesus, listen to him, watch him.” I get it, yes it would be awesome. I think. Gee it would it have been much easier to believe if we were with Jesus. But remember, a lot of people didn’t believe on Jesus. On that day of Pentecost it wasn’t a big crowd in that house – 120 people. Is that all the people that believed on him? But let’s listen to the words of Jesus again, “It’s to your advantage I go away, for if I do not go away the Advocate or Paraclete will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” And that is what he has done. The Spirit is his parting gift to the church to make his presence as real to them as if they were listening to him teaching beside the Sea of Galilee: and the Spirit can do more for us than ever Jesus could have done had we been by his side 2,000 years ago. He can come with us, and take up residence within our very beings. He can not only bring to our remembrance what Jesus taught, but can reveal to us the deeper significance of his person, his death and resurrection which we could never have grasped if we’d been next to Jesus. We are indeed not worse off but better.*