

HOLY SPIRIT 101: “PREPARING FOR IMPACT”

Joel 2:28-32

Pew Bible page 1416

Memory Verse:

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. —Joel 2:28

“When do we get to do the Jesus stuff?”

For the past three hundred years men have been pointing out how similar Jesus Christ’s teachings are to other good teachings. We have to remember that Christianity, if it is not a supernatural miracle, is a sham. (Oswald Chambers, *The Highest Good*, 548)

Jesus said: “But if I go [away], I will send him [The Advocate] to you.” —John 16:7

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever”
—John 14:16

I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. He is G

1. He is not a force or an energy field.
2. He is a Person—the third member of the Trinity

B. He is the most M Person of the Godhead

1. We have a frame of reference for God the Father
2. We have a frame of reference for God the Son.
3. We don’t have a clear frame of reference for God the Holy Spirit.
Jesus said, He is like the wind. John 3:8

C. He is the most “P” Person of the Trinity

1. He makes known the presence of God.
2. He is the **immanent** presence of God in us.
3. He indwells and empowers us. (More about that later.)

II. How has Western Civilization Impacted our view of the Holy Spirit?

A. Western civilization has an “**A -S**” bias that’s a result of Modernism, which was birthed out of the Enlightenment.

1. Scientific method, logic, and reason take precedence.
2. Greek philosophy (i.e. logic-driven intellectualism called *Hellenism*).

B. The Reformation resulted in Western Christianity’s emphasis on a “**F of G**” that denies the “power” of the Gospel (2 Timothy 3:5)

1. The Reformers had a strong reaction against the superstition and papal abuse.
2. Reformers focused upon the solas: sola scriptura (by Scripture Alone), sola fide (by faith alone), and sola gratia (by grace alone).

- C. Western Christianity has lost the “**R**_____ of **R**_____” with God in intimacy, power, and Divine leadership.

III. What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit?

- A. **The Holy Spirit was intricately involved in Jesus’ L_____ and M_____**
1. The Holy Spirit was involved in:
 - a. Jesus’ incarnation (Mathew 1:20)
 - b. Conception and birth (Luke 1:35)
 - c. Life (Mark 4:1, Luke 4:1)
 - d. Ministry (Luke 4:14-15, 18, 21)
 - e. Miracles (Luke 5:17, 11:20), 5:17
 - f. Methodology (Acts 10:38), to Cornelius’ house.
 - g. Resurrection (Romans 8:11)
 2. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power (Christ = “Anointed One” in Greek).
 3. Leading up to His ascension, Jesus had more to say about the Holy Spirit than anything else.
- B. **Jesus said He had to leave so that the H_____—could come (John 16:7-8).**
1. The Holy Spirit takes the disciples deeper in their understanding of the Gospel, empowers them for service, gives them boldness, and enables them to endure persecution for the Gospel’s sake.
 2. Jesus Christ demonstrated how a fully human person should walk in relationship with God in the power of God’s Holy Spirit.

Application:

- Faith in active opposition to common sense is mistaken enthusiasm and narrow-mindedness.
- Common sense in opposition to faith demonstrates a mistaken reliance on reason as the basis for truth.
- The life of faith [Life in the Spirit] brings the two of these into the proper relationship.

Life in the Spirit brings faith and reason together in a proper relationship.

1. Jesus was often misunderstood.
2. Jesus did not speak common sense, but revelation sense.
3. The Holy Spirit explains these things to us.

Faith, **life in the Spirit**, always works in a personal way, because the purpose of God is to see that perfect faith is made real in His children.

Faith is the entire person in the right relationship with God through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.—(My Utmost for His Highest, Oct. 30).

- Is my entire person and life in right relationship with God?
- This is only possible on the basis of the Atonement through the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit! Take me, Mold me, Use me, and Fill me. Amen.