

LIVING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are part way into our series of sermons on the Holy Spirit.

I began the series with a quote from R. A. Torrey.

It is a quote that is worth repeating.

It needs to be repeated until our thinking about the Holy Spirit is Biblical.

There is an abundance of unbiblical perspectives about the Holy Spirit.

We will never be the people God calls us to be without the Holy Spirit.

Our work will be in a spiritual vacuum without the Holy Spirit.

Our worship will be in a spiritual vacuum without the Holy Spirit.

Our devotion will be in a spiritual vacuum without the Holy Spirit.

This is what R. A. Torrey said

"If we think of the Holy Spirit ... as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, 'How can I get more of the Holy Spirit,' but if we think of Him in the Biblical way as a Divine Person, our thought will rather be, 'How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?' ... The Holy Spirit is not merely a gracious influence but a real Person, just as real as Jesus Christ Himself." (*The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*, pp 8-9)

The Bible clearly portrays the Holy Spirit as Person.

He is one of the co-equal persons of the Trinity.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one God.

The Trinity comes through with clarity in our Scripture.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, not how to pray.

They called Jesus **Kurios, Supreme One, Controller, God, Lord, master, sir.**

The disciples saw Jesus as supreme in authority.

They knew that John the Baptist had taught his disciples about prayer

If John taught about prayer they figured Jesus could do even better.

If Jesus taught them about prayer they would be power houses.

If they prayed like Jesus they would be invincible.

If they prayed like Jesus they would leave John's disciples in the dust.

If they prayed like Jesus they would get everything they wanted.

So Jesus, the Lord, taught them.

Jesus said prayer is first and foremost being humble before the "Father".

Jesus, the Supreme One, begins by humbling Himself before the Father.

Two Persons living in perfect harmony, caring fully for each other.

Luke's account of Jesus' teaching really fine-tunes prayer.

Pray for God's Kingdom to become real on earth, in your life.

Pray for what you need in your life to make it through a single day.

Don't pray for extravagance, the superfluous, or the luxuries of life.

Just ask the Father for the bread I need for this day.

Pray about relationships in your life that depend on forgiveness.

Make forgiveness the focus of your life

And pray for God's protection in your life to live a holy life.

Humbly ask God to do what is impossible for you to do.

This is not instruction on how to pray.

No this is the spirit of our prayer life - humility.

We cannot approach God in any other way.

This prepares us for the climax of prayer (vs. 13).

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how

much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Here we see the Father, Jesus as Lord, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus instructs the disciples to pray to the Father to receive the Holy Spirit.

By teaching His disciples to pray Jesus taught one essential truth.

Before praying is effective we must know God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the middle of His teaching on prayer Jesus tells a story about bread.

He tells us to pray, "Give us each day our daily bread."

Jesus then talks about two friends and bread.

One goes to the other with the need for bread.

It is a basic, simple request.

It is a selfless request because he was not asking for himself.

But the timing was miserable.

He brought his request to his friend at midnight.

Who do you call at midnight?

That is either a test of friendship or a sign of desperation.

In this case it was a little friendship but mostly desperation.

And his friend refused.

He tried to send him away empty handed.

He didn't even go to the door.

He didn't even get out of bed.

But the calling and knocking, the seeking continues.

The friend is relentless.

He shows shameless audacity.

He refuses to stop knocking and calling.

He doesn't care who sees him or hears him.

He isn't embarrassed by the fact his visitor knows.

He doesn't sneak out of the house and go next door.

Social custom is thrown out the window.

He is humbled, totally broken, and knows it.

He calls out with reckless abandon.

When is the last time you prayed like that?

His importunity breaks down his friend.

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When is the last time you prayed like that?

I want, I want, I want; I need, I need, I need!

Keep asking to the level of absurdity.

If we don't pray like that we risk depersonalizing God in our praying.

We treat Him like a vending machine.

What do you do with a vending machine?

You put in your money and then what?

You expect the machine to deliver right now.

I gave you what you wanted now give me what I ordered.

That is how I approach a vending machine.

I expect an instant pay back.

And I start to get anxious if something doesn't drop out.

Something is wrong if my pop or candy bar doesn't appear.

That attitude can creep into our prayer life.

"God, I put in my prayer time so give me the answer."

We expect Him to spew out an answer in response to our deposit.

It should be automatic.

In the story it was not automatic.

It required humble perseverance.

Ask, Seek, Knock!

We will receive, we will find, the door will open!

We know how to give good gifts to our children.

And we are a far cry from God's holiness.

Jesus said if we are evil and give good gifts to our children, God is better.

But His good gifts rely on relationship.
 We must have a personal encounter with God.
 It is an encounter that is continuous.
 We don't show up once a week and say, here I am now give me what I want!
 We don't give our token worship and expect God to respond.
 It isn't a clap on - clap off arrangement.
 I clapped my hands on that last song God so time to deliver.
 We don't turn God on and off with our worship.
 Our relationship must be continuous.
 When we are in fellowship with Him there is something we desire.
 We desire a more intimate, continuous relationship.
 We desire a relationship that never ends.
 We desire a relationship that has no limits.
 We want the fullness of God's presence.
 No more barred and shut doors.
 We want everything open.
 And that is experienced only through the Holy Spirit
 God gladly gives His Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
 Living in His Holy Spirit enables us to experience the wonder of God.
 The Holy Spirit reveals God's will.
 He is the One who brings spiritual intimacy to our relationships.
 He is worthy of our adoration, our faith, our love, our surrender.
 Those are actions expressed only to a person.
 I don't adore or love electricity or any power.
 Power continues whether I adore it or not.
 It is impervious and unmoved by my affection.
 But, when I demonstrate these things to a person, life changes.
 Life becomes richer, fuller, vibrant.
"How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
 Jesus did not say the heavenly Father will give more of the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
 When we ask to receive the Holy Spirit the Father is ready to respond.
 There is never a bad time to ask for the Holy Spirit's infilling.
 There is no midnight shut-down in the Holy Spirit's work.
 God does not reply, "come back tomorrow and we'll talk."
 God gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask Him.
 He is given out of an encounter that is continuous.
 He gives us all good things that enable us to do His will.
 Until we receive the Spirit from the Father we are alien to God.
 Without the gift of the Holy Spirit we are actually hiding our soul from God.
 We live life, even spiritual life, on an earthly plain.
 We remain outside the eternal harmony ordained of God.
 We erroneously equate spiritual life with the improvement of social life.
 We live a sensible form of Christianity so people speak well of us.
 We are content with the appearance of religion but lack its power.
 God created us for so much more than this.
 In His Spirit we are set free for God's divine, life transforming purpose.
 We are used by God to impact the world.
 We live in obedience to the Word of God.
 The Word of God and the Spirit of God working harmoniously bring life.
 Imagine seeing and hearing what the Father has in store for you.
 Imagine your ministry, your home, your relationships impacted by the Father.
 He has already poured out His Holy Spirit.
 His presence is here.
 How much more ... when we ask.
 Have you asked your heavenly Father to give you His Spirit?