

John 14 –16, pt.6, 8.23.09

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, pt.2

The Holy Spirit...

Intro.

1. Read Text – using NIV (more literal) b/c NLT does some interpretation
2. Understanding why Jesus had to ascend – the work of God would be limited to Jesus and those he could reach.
3. Review last weeks message
  - a. Spirit of truth on three levels – past, present & future
    - i. 14.26 – everything I have told you; (for the Biblical record)
    - ii. 16.13 – tell you what he has heard;
    - iii. 16.13c – tell you about the future.
- I. Testifies about Jesus, (15.26)
  - a. Legal terminology. He will substantiate the truth about Jesus through testimony to our spirits.
    - i. **Yard Darts example** – In a court case regarding a defective product, the prosecution will make a truth claim and then they'll substantiate it with testimony. The testimony also personalizes the truth claim.
    - ii. The HS does the same in revealing Jesus. He substantiates in our hearts who Jesus really is, who we are in Christ, what we have in Jesus, all the truth claims of the Bible, etc.
      1. R.J.'s testimony substantiates the truth claim of Scripture. We normally think of testimonies as personal stories of God's activity in your life, but biblically it's more than that. Testimonies are actually ways of validating the truth of God & His claims.
      2. Testimonies do more than inspire; they build faith. They take a truth claim and build a strong argument for it.
      3. If all you have is the Bible and not the testifying work of the HS, you end up in death – 2 Cor.3.6. The Bible w/o the Spirit leads to death.
  - b. Understanding Jesus as a groom and the body of Christ as His Bride, my identity in Christ, the joyful Jesus, the good God who is in a good mood,

Jesus our Healer, etc. have been substantiated in my life through the testifying work of the HS. This is how our faith grows and is strengthened.

- i. These truths moved from being words on a page to revelation in my heart!
- c. He uses any and every way under the sun to testify.
  - i. **Del Tackett with the Truth Project** & his revelation of the revisionist history in America while standing in the Capitol rotunda and looking at the painting.
- d. It is the testifying work of the Holy Spirit that motivates and changes me. He stirs me to action

## II. Convicts of Sin, (16.9)

- a. The word means to expose, bring to light. The word can be understood in a couple of ways. It has both an objective, judicial sense and a subjective, personal one
- b. Ultimate conviction – this word is a courtroom term. The HS is the one who sentences unbelievers to damnation. He has a record of every sin for he knows all truth about each person. He will sentence the unbelievers to eternal judgment b/c of their sins and rejection of the truth. He is the Convictor.
- c. Ongoing conviction – He will lay bare our sins. When we do something wrong he reveals it. When we feel crushed, embarrassed, like we're hiding something, or guilty that is the wonderful work of the HS. He is convicting of sin.
  - i. For the unbelievers, it's to reveal their need for Christ. 16.9 – (He convicts) in regard to sin, b/c men do not believe in me. The reason the HS convicts unbelievers of sin is so they will see their need for Christ. If he doesn't convict, then unbelievers would not understand the purpose of the Cross.
    - 1. As a child, I remember that crushing conviction bearing upon my heart. I saw my sin and its wretchedness. I was condemned and I realized my need for Jesus.
    - 2. Pain can be a good thing. It reveals that something is wrong. If there's no pain when something is wrong it can lead to major problems.

3. **Picture of two boys who feet no pain.** Their neurological center did not register pain. Pain is needed to pinpoint a problem.
4. Holy Spirit brings conviction to create pain so that we know we have a problem and will seek help.
5. If you're in emotional or spiritual pain ask the HS, "What are you trying to show me?" Often, we think if we can fix
  - ii. For the believer, he convicts of sin so that we will live in our destiny as God's children and Jesus' friend. If you see your child messing up, wouldn't you call them to life's best? Absolutely. Believer if you're feeling lousy about some recent sinful choices then praise God! It's the kind hand of the HS upon you.
    1. He doesn't want you to stay there! He brings conviction to create change.
- d. The motivation behind the HS's convicting work is love. He wants us to live in the full blessings of God's love and joy. If you are a sinner outside of Christ, he convicts you b/c he wants you to know God's love through faith in Christ. If you are a saint inside of Christ, he convicts you b/c he wants you to remain in God's love through obedience to Christ.
- e. Concluding thoughts:
  - i. As believers, we carry the HS inside of us. His presence inside of us may create discomfort for others who are living in sin. We may not understand why people we're associated with react so wildly or coolly when we bring up matters of faith and ethics and choices. All things being equal, it is b/c the HS inside of us is convicting them of sin and they think it's you.
  - ii. The HS convicts to reveal need and to point the way out. We aren't helping anyone when we try to console a person in their sin...when we try to justify their sinful choices, beliefs and behavior. When we enable sinful behavior we are disabling the work of the HS in that person's life. You can still love the person, but don't clean up their sin or make excuses or downplay their behavior.
    1. Ex of lady who always cleaned up her husband after a night of drinking – one day she said enough, let him lay in his filth, he had to call his boss, etc. This was the beginning that led to this man's recovery.
    2. When you enable a person (bailing them out, justifying their actions, cleaning up their mess, giving them what they

want), it's like the HS is trying to shoot the person with a conviction bullet and you keep jumping in the way thinking you're being a hero! (I'm just being a good parent, a committed spouse, a loyal employee, etc.) You aren't a hero but a hinderance! You aren't helping, but hurting.

- iii. Don't play the HS. We are to confront in love and follow the Biblical model. We can't change a person's heart and no amount of arguing or building your support will do. You do your part and let the HS do his.
- iv. As the return of the Lord draws closer, the times will become more like Noah & Lot's day. The chief characteristics of those days were moral restraints had been removed and moral obligations were discarded. 2 Thess tells us that the one restraining lawlessness will be removed before the return of the Lord. I believe this is the HS. I don't believe He'll be completely removed, but His job of restraining evil will cease. There will be an increasing acceptance of sin as normal. is that theyone who is restraining lawlessness will be lifted

- III. Righteousness, (16.10 – NIV, in regard to righteousness, b/c I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer.)
  - a. Jesus is righteous – Js is in the presence of God. The righteousness of Christ is best demonstrated by the fact that God accepted Christ back into His presence. That's what "because I go to my Father and you see me no longer" speaks of. On the cross God laid sin upon Christ. However, through His obedience Christ was raised in righteousness. And His righteousness was proven because the Father accepted Him back.
  - b. His righteousness proves He is the way to God. He is the door to the Father and eternal life. He isn't a way, but the way. The HS convinces us that only Jesus can save.
  - c. A person can't be argued into relationship with God. You can provide him with convincing proofs and persuasive words, but only the HS will convict him of sin and prove to him that Jesus is the way to forgiveness. It isn't up to you to do the convincing, but rather the HS.
  - d. **Video of Kirk Cameron witnessing to a person.** The HS convicts the person of sin and convinces him of the righteousness of Jesus.

