
Encounter(ing) God

Holy Spirit Part 1

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Today

We start the third section of our *Encountering God* series. We started off studying about the Father, then the Son, and now the Holy Spirit. I am praying and believing for an increased encounter with Him for all of us.

Introduction — We live in very interesting days — politically, culturally, and spiritually. Spiritually speaking, we have a desperate need to find a biblical balance between two dangerous extremes:

- the **denial** of the miraculous, supernatural work of the Holy Spirit — which seems to be at **war with all things supernatural**
- and the **overzealous wackiness** — that seems to be **at war with sound Bible teaching**.

Goal — to encounter the **balanced biblical middle**, *wanting everything the Holy Spirit has for us*, no less and no more.

- that requires a foundational, doctrinal study of the Person of the Holy Spirit.
 - then we'll get into the power and the work of the Holy Spirit.
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The Trinity

As Christians, we believe in the Trinity — one God, three distinct Persons. “God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.”

Definition — **Trinity** — there is One God in essence, power and authority — manifested as three distinct, non-created, co-eternal, co-equal Persons. Each is of the same essence, nature and divinity.

All three seen in the same verses...

- **Matthew 3:16-17**
When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
 - **Matthew 28:19**
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
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Attributes the Father, Son, and Spirit all share in common

It proves their equality, unity, and divinity

- **Sovereign** — the ability and authority to self-rule... to do what you decide without outside hindrances or obstacles.
 - Father is Sovereign — **Psalm 115:3**
 - Son is Sovereign — **John 5:21-23**
 - Spirit is Sovereign — **1 Corinthians 12:11**

Application — all 3 are mentioned as being Sovereign, yet there is an equality and unity among them.

- **Eternal** — all 3 have no beginning and no end. They always have been and always will be.
 - Father is Eternal — **Psalm 90:2**
 - Son is Eternal — **John 8:58**
 - Spirit is Eternal — **Hebrews 9:14**

Application — all 3 have always been. **One didn't give birth to another, One didn't become One of the Others.** All 3 always and forever!

- **Omnipresent** — all 3 are everywhere.
 - Father is Omnipresent — **Jeremiah 23:23-24**
 - Son is Omnipresent — **Matthew 28:20**
 - Spirit is Omnipresent — **Psalm 139:7**

Application — there is nowhere you can go where God isn't.

- **Omniscient** — all 3 know everything.
 - Father is Omniscient — **1 John 3:20**
 - Son is Omniscient — **John 16:30**
 - Spirit is Omniscient — **1 Corinthians 2:10-11**

Application — all 3 know everything — we'd be wise to seek Them for truth and answers to life's most important questions.

- **Omnipotent** — all 3 are all-powerful.
 - Father is Omnipotent — **Jeremiah 32:17**
 - Son is Omnipotent — **Colossians 1:16**
 - Spirit is Omnipotent — **Job 33:4**

Application — Nothing is too hard for God, the creation of life itself speaks to that fact, and all 3 are credited with the creation of life... “In the beginning God created.”

**From these scriptures alone it is clear that there is One God
in essence, power, and authority —
manifested as three distinct, non-created, co-eternal persons.
Each is of the same essence, nature and divinity.**

Clincher for the Holy Spirit’s Divinity

He is as much God as the Father and the Son

- **Acts 5:3-4**

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

**The Holy Spirit is God, equal in every way to the Father and the Son.
He must be known and encountered
with the same understanding, passion, and dependence!**

The Holy Spirit — Our Advantage

Important — knowing this about the Holy Spirit helps us make more sense of **John 16:7**

- **John 16:7**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

- Jesus’ departure and the Holy Spirit’s arrival was/is for **our advantage**, we could easily call the Holy Spirit, the Advantage, the Helper, the Advocate.
- **The Advantage** — He is the difference between dead religion and living kingdom adventure! This is why Jesus commanded in **Acts 1:4** *to wait for the Holy Spirit’s power* before they tried to obey the Great Commission.

Notice — before Jesus departed He told us some amazing things about the advantage the Holy Spirit would be to His followers...

- **Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- power for you — dunamis, dynamite, ability and authority to...
- be a witness to the entire world, starting at home and moving out from there

What happened next? — Jesus sent the Holy Spirit!

- **Acts 2:1-4**

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- supernatural power and gifting came upon 120 persecuted religious minorities
- Peter preaches a 3-minute sermon and 3,000 get converted, boldness and power
- miracles start happening, lame man walks, boldness and preaching continues
- gospel spreads like wild-fire, conversion, miracles galore, controversy, persecution — nothing could thwart the power of the Advantage! **Acts 17:6**
- in the last 2,000 years, those 120 Advantaged disciples became the world's largest religion with billions of followers throughout history. Think about that!
- 1910 — 600 million; 2010 — 2.18 billion, nearly quadrupled in 100 years

**It's all by the power of the Advantage.
He's still filling, empowering, working.
He's still willing, are we???**
**The need is incredible —
only 1/3 of the world claims Jesus.**

IMPORTANT — 5 billion people don't claim Jesus.

It's time for the church...

...to get **reacquainted** with the Person and work of the Holy Spirit,

...to encounter Him,

...to be transformed by Him and

...to see others transformed through our witness.

“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95% of what they did would stop. And everybody would know the difference.”¹

Discussion Questions

1. How would you explain “the Trinity” to someone who is trying to understand?
2. Have you ever been guilty of thinking of the Holy Spirit as “it”? How has this sermon changed your perspective — and your relationship?
3. Explain who the Holy Spirit is as “our Advantage.”
4. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait before moving out into the world to do kingdom work? What directive does that still hold for us today?
5. Are you hungry, obedient, and receptive enough to let the Holy Spirit transform your ordinary Christian life into one filled with his person, power, and work?

¹ A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy: The Attributes of God* (General Press, March 8, 2019)

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