

1 Corinthian Series #30
"Spiritual Gifts" - Part 2 1 Cor. 12:4-11

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Holy GHOST

1. I grew up reading the Old KJV
2. Holy Spirit was called the Holy Ghost
3. That scared me!
 - a. Heavenly Spook
 - b. like Casper, 'cept not friendly
 - c. He was the HOLY Ghost, so I figured He haunted churches
4. Wasn't real interested in learning about Him
5. In fact, the impression I got from the church we went to back then that the Holy Ghost was the black sheep of the Godhead
 - a. Father - good & kind
 - b. Jesus - gentle & loving
 - c. Holy Ghost - a mysterious character

B. Later

1. Teen years -
 - a. Charismatic Movement
 - b. renewed interest in the Person and work of the Holy Spirit
2. But at first, what I saw in the Charismatic churches I visited pretty much confirmed the fears of my childhood
3. People, under the "anointing" of the Spirit, did and said some pretty spooky things

C. Today

1. We continue our study of the Holy Spirit
2. Last week
 - a. began 1 Cor. 12
 - b. 3 chapters dealing with spiritual gifts
3. Before we go any further, need to back up and take a more comprehensive look at the person and work of the Holy Spirit
4. Reason? We come from diverse backgrounds
5. So today - more of a Bible Study than a sermon

II. BODY

A. The Person Of The Holy Spirit

1. Best place to begin: What is the Holy Spirit?

2. The Bible is quite clear that there is only one God
 - a. Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
 - b. In NT too; Jesus repeats it
 - c. Isa 44:6 "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God."
3. But Christians, since the first decades of the church, have believed that while there is only one God, there are three persons who comprise Him.
 - a. called the Trinity
 - b. although a better term, Triunity
4. In short, the doctrine of the Trinity says that while there is only one God, three separate and distinct person's comprise that God.
5. Christians believe in the Triunity of God because the same bible that says there is only one God also reveals three persons claiming to be that God . . .
 - a. the Father
 - b. the Son
 - c. the Holy Spirit
6. We get a glimpse of the Triunity of God as early as the Creation . . .
 - a. Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
 - b. The word translated "God" here is "Elohim"
 - the plural form of God
 - singular is "El"
 - dual is "Elah"
 - plural is "Elohim"
 - c. so, literally, v. 1 reads, "In the beginning, Gods created . . ."
7. A bit later, at the Creation of man, we find God saying this in Gen. 1:26
 - a. Gen 1:26 "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."
 - b. who was God talking to?
 - c. not angels, because we know that man was not created in the image of angels
 - d. God was talking to Himself;
 - e. that is, the persons of the Godhead were taking counsel together.
8. The Triunity of God transcends our understanding
 - a. yet it is a truth clearly defined in Scripture
 - b. God, by His very nature is infinite
 - c. we, on the other hand, are finite and our understanding is limited
 - d. most of us can't even figure out how to

- program our VCR's so what makes us think that God has to be completely understandable or we won't accept something like the Triunity of God?
- e. while we may be able to understand much about God, we could never understand Him completely and finally
 - f. if we did, then our intellects would be bigger than God
 - g. and He would no longer be infinite - so no longer God
 - h. the Triunity of God is part of His infinite mystery
9. Because it is a mystery, the cults universally attack the doctrine of the Trinity
- a. for example, the JW's have an especially tough time with it
 - b. I've had many get downright angry when I have told them I believe in the Triunity of God.
 - c. they tend to make God the Father the true God whose name is Jehovah
 - d. Jesus is not God, but merely the incarnation of an angel
 - e. the Holy Spirit is not a person but is merely a force, and influence that moves upon people like the wind or like electricity
10. But the Bible is very clear about the identity of the Holy Spirit - He is a person who is God!
11. For instance, consider this . . .
- a. **knowledge is ascribed to the Holy Spirit**
1 Cor 2:10-11 . . . The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
 - b. **will is credited to Him**
1 Cor 12:11 One and the same Spirit works all these [gifts] distributing to each one individually as He wills.
 - c. **the Holy Spirit has a mind**
Rom 8:27 He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
 - d. **the Holy Spirit loves**
Rom 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,
 - e. **emotion is ascribed to the Holy Spirit**
Eph 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

f. the Holy Spirit can be lied to

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."

12. Finally, the Holy Spirit is referred to time and again, not as an "It" but as "He."
13. So - the Holy Spirit is a Person who is God
14. This means that we can have a relationship with the Holy Spirit
15. In fact, we are supposed to
16. 2 Cor 13:14 Paul concludes the letter with these words, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."
17. I guess the next question we should turn to is to ask, "What is the relationship of the Christian to the Holy Spirit?"

B. The Presence Of The Holy Spirit

1. The relationship between God's Spirit and God's people has changed over time
2. In the OT, the Holy Spirit was with God's people but He did not live in them
 - a. Hag 2:5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'
 - b. In fact, one of the outstanding prophecies of the OT is Eze. 36 in which God promise's to place His Spirit within them.
 - c. Ezek 36:26-27 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."
3. It took the work of Jesus Christ to bring about this change so that the Holy Spirit could not only be with us, but IN us.
4. In fact, Jesus said that very thing in John 14:15-17
 - a. John 14:15-17 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may

abide with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

- b. this is such an important passage, let's dig into it a bit deeper . . .
4. V. 15 = **"If you love Me, keep My commandments. "**
- a. last week - basic ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring people to Jesus as Lord & Savior
 - b. here Jesus reminds the disciples that a real relationship with Him is marked by obedience to Him.
5. V. 16 = **"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever"**
- a. the context of this passage is that Jesus has told them that He is going away
 - b. they were seriously bummed
 - c. He speaks these words to comfort them
 - d. the comfort He gives is the promise of a Helper
 - e. He has just told them that He was going to the Father
 - f. now He says that when He gets there, He will ask the Father to send someone back to them to help them
 - g. "another" = *allos* - another of the same kind; one like Him
 - teacher, guide
 - protector, provider
 - comforter, advocate
 - h. "Helper" = *paraklete* - one who comes alongside to help
 - translated as *Comforter, Advocate*
 - *Helper* is probably the best
 - i. Who is this Helper?
6. v. 17 = **" . . . the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."**
- a. the Helper is the Holy Spirit
 - b. Jesus tells them that they already know the Helper because He is with them
 - c. the Holy Spirit was with them in the Person of Jesus Christ
 - d. but once Jesus had risen from the dead, the

Holy Spirit would come back and dwell *in* them.

- e. as we'll see next week, that is exactly what happened

III. CONCLUSION

A. Our Helper

1. What Jesus promised the disciples is a present reality
2. The Holy Spirit is not just with us, if we have been born again, He lives IN us.
3. We have a Companion who has come to us to bring comfort and help.
4. And since the Holy Spirit is a person, we can have a living relationship with Him.
 - a. like any relationship with a real person, we can grow in it
 - b. we can learn more and more about Him and deepen our intimacy with Him
5. Since the Holy Spirit is God, there is no end to the Help he can bring
6. Who among us doesn't need help?
 - a. the Holy Spirit is here to give us that help
 - b. no matter what the need
 - c. He is ready, willing, and able to help
7. What is your need today?
 - a. take it to God
 - b. and trust in the Holy Spirit to meet your need

B. Next Week

1. The Program and Power of the Holy Spirit
2. We'll be taking a look at the controversial subject of the baptism of the Holy Spirit