

Title: THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, JOHN 15:26-27 & 16:4-15
(Chatham, NJ; 05/27/12, AM) [D – Exegetical]

Theme: God is present in the church and with the Christian by the power and help of his Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Purpose: To provide a deeper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit and to encourage us to recognize his power and presence.

Introduction:

1. The Holy Spirit is a distinct person of the Trinity.
2. Though symbolized as a dove or a flame of fire, he is not just an inanimate force but the living presence of God.
3. Though he can be drawn upon for strength and comfort, he cannot be manipulated for strictly human purposes.
4. Jesus defines his role.

I. He Bears Witness to Christ, John 15:26

- A. Peter and Cornelius, a case study, Acts 10
 1. Cornelius receives a vision, 3-8
 2. Peter receives a different one, 9-16
 3. The Spirit speaks to him, 19
 4. Peter eventually preaches the Gospel of Christ, 34-43
 5. That the Holy Spirit falls on Cornelius affirms the message, 44-48, and bears witness to Jesus
 6. In this entire episode, the Spirit has been active to witness to the Gospel
- B. Glorifies Christ, John 16:14
 1. The Holy Spirit does not reflect glory upon himself
 2. He takes what belongs to Jesus and declares that
 3. Perhaps this is why we know so little about him; he performs his work without reflecting on himself but on Christ
 4. However, we see the effects of his work, John 3:8.

II. He Convicts the World of Sin, John 16:8

- A. Felix, another case study, Acts 24:24-27
 1. Paul is in prison, and Felix, the governor, speaks to him frequently
 2. Felix already has an “accurate knowledge of the way,” verse 22
 3. He and his Jewish wife come to hear Paul speak, 24
 4. Everything is fine up to self-control, righteousness, and judgment, 25
 5. For many these are the great stumbling blocks
 6. You can say all you want about faith, love, and good works, but these things put people off more than anything else: they demand change from us
 7. Not to mention Felix’ ulterior motive: bribery
- B. The world resists judgment
 1. The Jews resisted Jesus’ teaching that they were slaves to sin, Jn. 8:34.
 2. The men of Athens scoffed at the resurrection, but more importantly it represented judgment against sin and the need to repent, Acts 17:31
 3. That many non-religious types quote, “Judge not, etc.” simply demonstrates that they resist any notion that they are sinners before God
 4. They prefer to take the teeth out of the demand for righteousness.
 5. It is the Holy Spirit’s role to convict them.

III. He Will Guide You into All Truth, John 16:13

- A. Not speak on his own authority, 13
 - 1. Won't contradict what has been revealed
 - 2. "Hold to the teachings," 2 Thess. 2:15
 - 3. "The faith once delivered," Jude 3
 - 4. Certain doctrines and moral codes are perpetual; they don't change
 - 5. These are collected and maintained in the Bible
- B. Each generation affirms them.
 - 1. By constant practice we learn to distinguish good from evil, Heb. 5:14
 - 2. We are "trained in righteousness" by them, 2 Tim. 3:16
 - 3. Although he will grant us insight and wisdom, God will not speak to our hearts something different from these teachings

IV. He Will Help Us, John 15:26

- 2xs he is called the "Helper" (15:26 & 16:7)
- Also in 14:16 & 26; sometimes known as the advocate, counselor, or paraclete
- Jesus also is called our advocate for forgiveness in 1 John 2:1
- The Holy Spirit provides the strength and encouragement needed to live holy lives
- We know of one specific instance when the Holy Spirit helps us: prayer, Rom. 8:26-27
- His power and help is available to us

Conclusion:

1. When Israel struggled to rebuild after the captivity, there were many obstacles.
2. Zechariah 4:6 assured the leaders that the rebuilding would take place "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."
3. By God's power, by Christ's glory, and by the Spirit's help we will live out our lives in righteousness and holiness before God.
4. It is the Spirit of the living God who gives us the victory in Christ Jesus.