

JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

- A.** A few years ago a Christian publisher said to me that there were over fifty books in print on the Holy Spirit but only three on Jesus.
- 1.** This is because of an ever-increasing interest in the Holy Spirit which emerged from the arrival of the charismatic movement.
 - 2.** People were keenly interested in ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit’, ‘speaking in tongues’ and the gifts of the Spirit.
 - a.** There is nothing particularly wrong in being interested in the Holy Spirit.
 - b.** But there is surely something wrong when we are not interested in Jesus.
- B.** This lesson focuses on Jesus’ teaching regarding the Holy Spirit.
- 1.** This teaching can be said to be two-fold.
 - a.** Jesus’ implicit teaching of the Holy Spirit – when the Spirit is not actually mentioned but must be implied.
 - b.** His explicit teaching of the Holy Spirit, when there is explicit reference to the Holy Spirit.
 - 2.** Jesus himself added: ‘I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.’ John 16:12.
 - a.** This is in the context of the teaching of the Holy Spirit.
 - b.** It is therefore fair for us to unpack what Jesus meant by this – at least in part – in order to be clear on what he himself wants us to understand.
- C.** Why is this lesson important?
- 1.** As our theme is ‘Millennium Challenge – Who is Jesus?’ it follows:
 - a.** We cannot really know who Jesus is but by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- b.** When Jesus said that the 'kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:21), it had to refer to the Holy Spirit.
 - (1)** The kingdom does not come by 'observation' that is, it does not come visibly. Luke 17:20.
 - (2)** It happens in one's heart.
- 2.** It is the Holy Spirit that makes sense of the Beatitudes, for example:
 - a.** One is made poor in spirit only by the Spirit. Matt. 5:3.
 - b.** One does not hunger and thirst for righteousness, much less to be 'filled', except by the Spirit. Matt. 5:6.
- 3.** Jesus' interpretation of the Law and its application presupposes conviction of sin – which the Pharisees knew nothing about – by the Spirit.
 - a.** Our awareness of hate and how we grieve the Spirit by name-calling. Matt. 5:21ff.
 - b.** Our awareness and feeling convicted of lust – and causing another to lust – is possible only by the Spirit. Matt. 5:27ff.
- 4.** Understanding the parables of Jesus is for the family of God only, and this is made possible only by the Spirit.
 - a.** Those outside the family are not heirs: 'In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."' Matthew 13:14.
 - b.** The saying 'He who has ears, let him hear,' shows the need for the Spirit to unstop spiritual deafness. Matt. 13:43.
- 5.** What is 'revealed' comes only by the Spirit.
 - a.** 'At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."' Matthew 11:25.
 - b.** 'Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."' Matthew 16:17.
- 6.** Unusual power to heal shows the manifestation of the Spirit: 'The power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.' Luke 5:17.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

7. Believing that you *have* received what you pray for could only come by the immediate work of the Holy Spirit. Mark 11:24.
 8. Note: Explicit references to the Holy Spirit by Jesus in the synoptics are rare:
 - a. He spoke of blaspheming the Spirit. Matt. 12:31-32. Cf. Mark 3:29.
 - b. He spoke of divine inspiration of the psalmist: 'David, speaking by the Spirit.' Matt. 22:43. Cf. Mark 12:36.
 - c. He motivated to prayer by promising the Holy Spirit. 'If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' Luke 11:13.
- B.** The Gospel of John.
1. The reference to water from within a person.
 - a. 'But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' John 4:14.
 - b. 'Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.' John 7:38. Note: John added, 'By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.' John 7:39.
 2. The Son giving life.
 - a. 'For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.' John 5:21.
 - b. 'I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.' John 5:25.
 3. The drawing power of the Father.
 - a. 'No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.' John 6:44.
 - b. 'He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.'" John 6:65.
 4. Knowing Jesus' voice.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- a. 'I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.' John 10:16.
 - b. 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.' John 10:27.
5. Note: there are a few explicit references to the Holy Spirit by Jesus in John's Gospel before he openly announced the coming of the Spirit:
- a. To Nicodemus:
 - (1) 'Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'" John 3:5.
 - (2) 'The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' John 3:8.
 - b. To the Samaritan woman: 'God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.' John 4:24.
 - c. When so many were deserting him: 'The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.' John 6:63.

II JESUS' EXPLICIT INTRODUCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Jesus waited until just before the end of his earthly ministry to introduce the Holy Spirit in a definite and explicit way.
 - 1. He spoon-fed the disciples as gently as possible, because he knew they would not be thrilled at first; they were 'filled with grief'. John 16:6.
 - 2. His aim: to help them make the adjustment from the level of nature to the level of the Spirit.
 - a. Level of nature: seeing Jesus in the flesh, knowing the sound of his voice, having him with them at all times – physically.
 - b. Level of the Spirit: seeing Jesus in the Spirit or by faith, getting to know his voice by the Spirit's impulse, having him with them at all times – but by the presence of the Spirit.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- B.** His opening line: 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever.' John 14:16.
- 1.** This verse is loaded with information, none of which was welcome.
 - 2.** Note: how often do we resist what God is saying at first?
 - a.** We all must – in varying degrees and from time to time – make the transition from what seems natural to what is higher and spiritual. 'And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.' 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - b.** Often our first reaction is negative; later, having made the adjustment, we see how it was for our good.
 - c.** Jesus had to say, 'It is for your good.' John 16:7.
- C.** Jesus' introductory statement says three things:
- 1.** He will put a petition to the Father:
 - a.** This prayer is described in part in John 17.
 - b.** His prayer was heard for he said just before his ascension: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Luke 24:49.
 - c.** In Acts 1:4 he tells the disciples to wait for the gift 'my Father promised'.
 - d.** When he took his place at God's right hand he fully carried out this promise. 'Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.' Acts 2:33.
 - 2.** The Father would give 'another Counsellor'.
 - a.** Both words are important:
 - (1)** Another – meaning one like Jesus himself.
 - (2)** Counsellor - one who comes alongside. Gr. *paracletos*.
 - b.** Jesus had been a *Paraclete* for some three years.
 - (1)** He had come alongside – physically.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- c. The Counsellor that would be coming would be with them 'forever'.
- d. There would be no fear of being deserted.
 - (1) He later said, 'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.' John 14:18.
 - (2) But his coming in this instance was not physical but by the Holy Spirit – which means they got Jesus back again!
 - (3) That is the meaning of John 16:16: 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.'
- e. This statement upholds the teaching of 'Once saved, always saved'.
 - (1) 'I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.' John 10:28.
 - (2) 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' Rom. 8:35.
 - (3) 'God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."' Heb. 13:5.

III THE CHARACTER AND PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. He is 'the Spirit of truth'. John 14:17.
 - 1. Jesus is the truth. John 14:6.
 - 2. It is impossible for God to lie. Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit cannot lie or deceive and can only witness to the truth.
- B. He will be our teacher. Cf. 1 John 2:27.
 - 1. Jesus had been a teacher; likewise the Holy Spirit will be a teacher.
 - 2. What would Jesus teach? 'But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.' John 14:26.
 - a. Everything that is true that Jesus did not share.
 - (1) Jesus admitted, 'I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.' John 16:12.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- (1) This refers to the righteousness of Christ, because he went on to say, 'I am going to my Father, where you can see me no longer.'
- (2) Jesus is already referring to himself, that he would have to be received by faith.
- (3) Faith counts for righteousness; it is the imputed righteousness of Christ – that is, righteousness put to our credit.

c. Conviction of judgement.

- (1) This refers to Christ's victory over Satan at the cross – but also to Christ's second coming. 'Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.' Hebrews 9:27-28.
- (2) This means the accuser of the brothers has been judged; his accusations are covered by Christ's blood. Rev. 12:10-11.
- (3) This indirectly refers to assurance of salvation.

Be Thou my shield and hiding place,
That, sheltered near Thy side,
I may my fierce accuser face,
And tell him Thou hast died.

John Newton (1725-1807)

D. The Holy Spirit, like Jesus, only does what he is told. 'But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.' John 16:13.

1. He is our guide.
 - a. If we try to guide ourselves, we will fail to see what is there.
 - b. Why do we need a guide? 'The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.' 1 Cor. 2:14.
2. As he is the Spirit of truth, he only guides into truth – 'all truth':
 - a. He will show us what is in God's word.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

- a. What Jesus taught.
 - b. What the original disciples learned.
 - c. What the rest of the New Testament revealed.
4. The purpose of the Holy Spirit, summed up:
- a. He took Jesus' place but makes him real.
 - b. He applies the Gospel.
 - c. He guides into all truth.
- F. Note: some of the things Jesus could have had in mind that the disciples could not bear at the time are:
- 1. The sensitivity to the Spirit that is required. Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19.
 - a. If we grieve the Spirit, he cannot be himself in us.
 - b. If we grieve the Spirit, we will not be led to all truth.
 - 2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit. I Cor. 12.

CONCLUSION

- A. Though filled with grief when they heard these teachings, there were no complaints on the Day of Pentecost.
- B. If we know the Holy Spirit *ungrieved* and *unquenched*, all Jesus promised will be true as with his first disciples.