

Sermon Notes for October 30, 2016

Sermon Series On The Holiness Of God
“The Blessing Of The Holy Spirit”
John 14:15-27

Introduction

A. We Continue Our Sermon Series On The Holiness Of God

1. During this sermon series, we have attempted to show you:
 - a. **God is holy**
 1. we should not “minimize” God to be “only”:
 - a. our pal
 - b. our friend
 - c. one who is “just like us”
 2. if you read the Scriptures, you will see that the word holy is repeatedly used to describe God
 - a. **Exodus 3:5** – “Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, **for the place where you are standing is holy ground.**”
 - b. **Exodus 15:11** – “**Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?** Who is like you - **majestic in holiness**, awesome in glory, working wonders?”
 - c. **Psalm 96:9** – “**Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness;** tremble before Him, all the earth.”
 - d. **Isaiah 6:1-3** – “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;** the whole earth is full of His glory.”
 - e. **Baker Dictionary of Biblical Theology** – “**Everything in the Old Testament begins and ends with the holiness of God.**”
 - b. **man is sinful**
 1. since the fall of man into sin in the Garden of Eden, man has “fallen away” from this holy God
 - a. NOT wanting to follow God
 - b. BUT, wanting to go his own way
 2. **AND**, the “**ONLY**” thing that saved man in his sin was that this holy God fixed and repaired the tremendous gap between a holy God and unholy man
 - a. by the death of His own son, God offered sinful man a solution to this problem of spiritual separation
 - b. and, not only did God reconcile sinful man with a holy God, but He brought sinful man into an intimate, personal relationship with a holy God

2. So, the Christian, the believer in Jesus must not miss what God has done for him
 - a. we no longer live in the days of fearing the touching of Mount Sinai
 - b. but, we have come to Mount Zion to “be with our holy God.”

B. Today, We Will See Just What God Did To Create That Closeness To Those Who Have Been Saved

1. For, God did not simply “tell us” that we can come close to God
2. HE HAS GIVEN US “A TOOL,” a VEHICLE, A WAY OF INTIMACY – **THE BLESSED HOLY SPIRIT.**
 - a. not just “any spirit”
 - b. but, God’s **Holy Spirit**

C. What Do YOU Think About The Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit often “scares” a lot of people.
 - a. in the Apostles’ Creed – I believe in the **“Holy Ghost”**
 - b. many believers don’t seem to be able to identify with the Holy Spirit as easily as they do the Father and the Son; for how do you understand “a Spirit?”
 - c. there is much controversy about the Holy Spirit today
 1. a “movement of the Holy Spirit”
 2. “speaking in tongues”
 - d. as a result, many in the fundamental, evangelical church have run away from the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, almost to the point of rejection
 1. **“The Trinity” of the fundamental church – “The Father, the Son and the Holy Bible”**
 2. so; Let me ask you: What do **you** think of the Holy Spirit?
2. Are we simply to wonder about and avoid the Holy Spirit?
 - a. **WHAT AN ABSOLUTE SHAME IF WE DO SUCH A THING!**
 - b. **J.I. Packer** – “Christian people are not in doubt as to the work that Christ did. They know that He redeemed men by His atoning death. **But the average Christian is in a complete fog as to what work the Holy Spirit does.”**
 - c. **Can I be so bold as to say: if you do not have a vibrant and daily relationship with the Holy Spirit, you are not living the Christian life!**
 1. I see so many people in the church who believe: “If I just try harder, I can live the Christian life.”
 2. so you look at other people who seem to be walking with Jesus and wonder; “How they do it?”
3. **WHY Is There A Holy Spirit?**
 - a. We must first understand the **“function” of the Trinity** (The Economic Trinity)
 1. the **“task” of the Father**
 - a. to create this world and sustain it
 - b. to sovereignly oversee all that happens in the world

2. the **“task” of the Son**
 - a. He comes to this earth to take the place of man by dying for his sins
 - b. but Jesus must take that finished work to His Heavenly Father and take His place at the right hand of God to intercede for us
 - c. so, Jesus is with the Father in heaven
 - d. **HOW WILL GOD RELATE TO MAN IF THE FATHER AND THE SON ARE BOTH IN HEAVEN?**
3. the **“task” of the Holy Spirit**
 - a. please note that after Jesus came back from the dead and took His rightful place at God’s right hand
 - b. Jesus then “sent” the Holy Spirit to this earth
 - c. so that He could actually “enter” the life of the believer – a “physical” Jesus could not do that.
 - d. so, if God will enter our lives, it **must** be by His Spirit
- b. and specific “function” of the Holy Spirit was to literally “enter” the life of the Christian
4. **WHO Is The Holy Spirit?**
 - a. now, it is not enough to merely know that there is a Holy Spirit.
 - b. the believer **MUST** have an active intimate, personal relationship with the Holy Spirit
 - c. in today’s text, we will see the various ministries that the Holy Spirit has in the believer in Jesus

I. The Holy Spirit, The PRESENCE.

A. The World **DOES NOT** Know Him.

Vs. 17 – “The world cannot accept Him, because it **neither sees Him** nor **knows Him.**”

1. Unbelievers are **TOTALLY** confused about the Holy Spirit.
2. They cannot “know” Him (the Greek word is **ginosko**)
 - a. to become acquainted
 - b. to come to know
 - c. a Jewish idiom of knowing someone sexually, intimately
3. So, if the Holy Spirit is “foreign” to you, if you are uncomfortable talking about the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, perhaps it is because you do not **“know”** the Holy Spirit.

B. The Christian **DOES** Know Him.

Vs. 17b – “**But you know Him**, for He lives with you and will be in you.”

1. **BUT**, the Christian does “know” the Holy Spirit
 - a. at conversion, the Christian is actually **“introduced”** to the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. for, at conversion, the Holy Spirit enters into your life and becomes “intimate” with you.

- c. my first experience with the Holy Spirit was a week after I asked God to change my life (my experience in high school)
- 2. and; the Holy Spirit “**knows**” us.
 - Vs. 17b** – “for He **lives with you** and will be **in** you.”
 - a. notice the prepositions here – they are the “most intimate” of all prepositions: **with** and **in**
 - 1. **with**
 - a. Greek word **para**
 - b. at, by
 - c. besides, near
 - 2. **in**
 - a. Greek word **en**
 - b. in, by, with
 - c. through
 - b. **IN OTHER WORDS, THE HOLY SPIRIT ENTERS INTO OUR VERY PHYSICAL BEING!**
 - c. **THIS IS THE “MAJESTY OF THE TRINITY!”**
 - 1. the Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to actually indwell the Believer, **FROM WITHIN!**
 - a. a child – “If I invite Jesus into my life, won’t He stick out?”
 - b. **THAT IS WHY THERE IS A HOLY SPIRIT!**
 - 1. He **must** be “a Spirit” if God is going to indwell our very bodies!
 - 2. how else is God going to enter your life except through a Spirit!!!
 - 3. **J.B. Phillips – Plain Christianity** – “Every time we say, I believe in the Holy Spirit, we mean that we believe that there is a living God **able and willing to enter human personality and change it.**”
 - 4. **SO, BELIEVER, DO YOU REALIZE THAT GOD; THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU!**
 - a. let me ask you, how could God enter a person’s life and not make an impact?
 - b. so, if a person does not sense any change in their life, the Holy Spirit is not there.
 - 2. **Chuck Swindoll - The Holy Spirit, the Transformer** – “A number of miles from The Los Angeles basin, there is a river. The river has been dammed up by man, and through the genius and innovation of engineers, they have put together a dam that has, in its process of working, housed electricity -- hundreds of thousands of volts that are fed into the Los Angeles basin. And if you were to go out to the plant, and follow the lines that come into the city, you would come to various transmission

plants along the way that would be marked:

“Danger, High Voltage.” “No trespassing, Danger.”

Hundreds of thousands of volts are available in energy for your home, but who needs a hundred thousand volts, unless he wants to burn up his home? Knowing that, the engineers have built transformers into the system—not transmitters, but transformers. And the transformer does nothing more than break down into meaningful units just the electricity you need.”

3. my trips to South America and Europe
 - a. my first trip to Peru – **220 volts instead of 110 volts**
 - b. since then, I always take a transformer with me when I travel to another part of the world

II. The Holy Spirit, The PARACLETE.

A. The FACT Of A Counselor.

Vs. 16 – “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counselor** to be with you forever.”

1. Please notice the “name” or “title” that John gives to the Holy Spirit; John calls Him the Counselor, or, in greek; the **paraclete**
 - a. Greeks understood the word; **paraclete**
 1. Greek soldiers went out in two’s. The “other soldier” was to help at all times, especially during battle, when both men would back up to one another so that they would be protected on each side
 2. this “other soldier” was called the paraclete
 - b. John obviously wanted to use a word that could be easily understood by his readers
2. The English word counselor also suggests:
 - a. a helper
 - b. one called to one’s side to help lift a burden
 - c. the Message Bible calls the Holy Spirit “another friend”
 - d. one who is our advocate in a court of law
3. The word counselor is seen in Jesus.
 - a. in this text in John, Jesus says that He will send “**ANOTHER**” Counselor.
 1. Jesus used a particular Greek word to describe “another” to make a strong point
 - a. Jesus did not use the word **heteros** – “of a different kind”
 - b. instead, Jesus used the word **allos** – to mean “**of the same kind**”
 2. because **Jesus** was the “**FIRST** Counselor,” the **Holy Spirit** would be the “**OTHER**” counselor or THE “**SAME KIND**” OF COUNSELOR!

- b. so, we can understand what “kind of counselor” the Holy Spirit would be by watching how Jesus “counseled” others
 - 1. how did Jesus “counsel” the **woman at the well**?
 - a. He was patient; He was kind
 - b. He did not attack her because of her sin
 - 2. how did Jesus “counsel” the **man born blind**?
 - a. He was tender and kind
 - b. and, when the man was not healed the first time that Jesus touched his eyes, Jesus touched the man’s eyes again until he could see perfectly
- 4. so, if the Holy Spirit is called a counselor, and the counselor will treat people as Jesus treated people, **WHY DON’T WE GO TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR COUNSEL?**
 - a. it is “just like” having a trained therapist with you all day long!
 - b. can you imagine never talking to a trained therapist who walked with you every day of your life?

B. The FOCUS Of This Counselor.

- 1. **He counsels us legally.**
 - a. the word paraclete speaks first of legal representation
 - b. the “war” with God is over for the believer, because Jesus, our advocate, goes before the Father’s throne and pleads our **legal case** before Him
 - c. we often call lawyers “counselors” – or “of counsel”
 - d. over almost 40 years of discipling men, I would say, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that most Christians doubt if they are really saved
 - 1. so, instead of the believer doubting his eternal security
 - 2. **REALIZE THAT BELIEVERS HAVE THE GREATEST LAWYER REPRESENTING THEM AND HE HAS NEVER LOST A CASE!**
- 2. **He counsels us personally.**
 - a. in addition to pleading for us legally before the Father’s throne, the Holy Spirit pleads our personal problems and their solutions before the Father
 - b. the Scripture says that the Holy Spirit speaks to the Father “with groans” that we cannot understand
 - c. so, as believers are struggling in an area in their lives and don’t know how to speak to God – the Holy Spirit goes to the Father to “interpret” your pain to Him
 - d. I do a lot of counseling and I groan with those who are struggling

III. The Holy Spirit, The PEDAGOGUE.

A. The Holy Spirit Will Be Our TEACHER.

Vs. 26 – “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, **whom** the Father will send in my name, **(He) will teach you all things.**”

1. The next ministry of the Holy Spirit is that He will be our teacher
 - a. now, let me ask you; Is a teacher an “it” or a person?
 - b. don’t teachers have personalities?
2. SO, PLEASE NOTICE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS “A HE!”
 - a. **most people don’t believe in the “personality” of the Holy Spirit -**
 In a Barna survey in 1997, **61% of US residents** surveyed agreed with the statement that the Holy Spirit is **“a symbol of God’s presence or power, but is not a living entity.”**
 - b. **A TEACHER MUST BE A HE!**
 1. **How can a teacher be anything other than a HE!**
 2. I fear that many Christians see the Holy Spirit as some kind of “super computer;” something like an iphone. (God is not Siri!)
 3. in fact, in the **NASV**, the translation says –
Vs. 26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
 - c. **THE FIRST THING THAT WE HAVE TO GET STRAIGHT IS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A HE, NOT AN IT!**
 1. **YOU CANNOT RELATE TO AN IT!**
 2. and you certainly will not sit under the teaching of an it!
 3. so, think of the ramifications of this “personal” aspect of the Trinity!
 - a. **IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A HE, BELIEVERS MUST RELATE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT PERSONALLY!**
 - b. **A.W. Tozer - “Spell this out in capital letters. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON. He is not enthusiasm. He is not courage. He is not energy. He is not the personification of all good qualities, like Jack Frost is the personification of cold weather. Actually, the Holy Spirit is not the personification of anything . . . He has individuality. He is one being and not another. He has will and intelligence. He has hearing. He has knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think. He can hear, speak, desire, grieve and rejoice. He is a Person.”**
 - c. think of the difference it would make if you thought of the Holy Spirit as a HE!
3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS.**
 - a. in teaching believers, the Holy Spirit will teach believers **ABOUT EVERYTHING!**
 1. life
 2. who you are
 - a. your goals; your reason for living
 - b. your personality

3. your family
 - a. what a father is, what a mother is
 - b. the place of children
 4. the church
 5. evangelism
 6. your spiritual gifts and place in ministry
 7. **WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT!**
- b. now, I don't know "how" the Holy Spirit teaches us about "all things," but He does
- II Timothy 3:16** – "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may **be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**"

B. The Holy Spirit Will Be Our REMINDER.

Vs. 26 – "He will **'remind** you of everything I have said to you."

1. and, besides teaching believers, the Holy Spirit will remind believers of what He has already taught us
 - a. the Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, once said of teaching:
 1. Tell them what you will tell them
 2. Tell them
 3. Tell them what you just told them
 - b. I can assure you that what Aristotle said is true
 - c. that is why the Holy Spirit continues to remind us of what He has taught us because we don't get it the first time, or a second time or even a third time.
2. **Aren't you glad that the Holy Spirit is committed to teaching us until we learn it?**
3. **The Holy Spirit will remind you in three ways:**
 - a. **from His Word**
 1. as you read the Word of God daily, the Holy Spirit will show you what that Word means.
 2. now, if you are not one who reads the Word of God on a daily basis, **DON'T EXPECT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TEACH OR REMIND** you
 3. but, the person who is **DAILY** reading the Word of God, **WILL BE TAUGHT!**
 4. let me, once again, encourage you to read the Word of God daily, reading over and over a small passage of Scripture "until you strike oil!"
 - b. **from your life**
 1. **AS YOU** saturate your mind in God's Word, you will be preparing your heart for spiritual truths to grow in your "spiritual garden"

2. but the plants may not “bloom” the very day that you read the Word
 3. for, “the blooming” may come some time later, when you don’t expect it
 4. God will often make a point in your life at the strangest time. But you will **know** that it is from the Lord, because you would never think of anything “that spiritual” by yourself.
 5. I have learned lessons from God at:
 - a. a football game
 - b. family reunions
 - c. while driving my car
 - d. listening to a conversation
 - e. looking out into the ocean
- c. **from your trials**
1. God will teach you from the struggles in your life.
 2. remember that **He** is the potter and we are the clay
 - a. at our conversion, we are “thrown down” on a moving table
 - b. and then the potter puts his hands around the clay to shape it
 - c. until the potter has shaped the clay into something that can be used.
4. **JESUS IS ULTIMATELY SAYING THAT A BELIEVER CANNOT LEARN SPIRITUAL TRUTHS WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
1. **J.I. Packer – Your Father Loves You**
 “I remember walking to church one winter evening to preach on the words; “**He will glorify me**” (John 16:14), Seeing the building floodlit as I turned a corner, I realize that this was exactly the illustration that my message needed. When floodlighting is well done, the floodlights are placed so that you do not see them; in fact, you are not **supposed** to see where the light is coming from. What you are meant to see is just the building on which the floodlights are trained. **The intended effect is to make it visible when otherwise it would not be seen for the darkness, and to maximize its dignity by throwing all its details into relief so that you can see it properly.** This perfectly illustrated the Holy Spirit’s role. He is, so to speak, the hidden floodlight shining on the Savior.”
 2. Early church father, **Tertullian** – “Imagine God the Father and the Son, the source of all light and life. God the Son is akin to the sunbeam going forth from God bringing light and truth. **God, the Holy Spirit is the warmth of the sunbeam, striking one’s face. And yet the sunbeam touching the face is intimately bound to the sun from which it sprang.**”

IV. The Holy Spirit, The PEACEMAKER.

Vs. 27a – “Peace I leave you: my peace I give you. I do not give to you **as the world gives.**”

A. The WORLD’S View of Peace.

1. the last ministry that the Holy Spirit gives to the believer is peace.
 - a. Jesus says that He does not give peace **“AS THE WORLD GIVES.”**
 - b. in other words, according to Jesus, the world **does** give “peace of a sort.”

1. when Tennessee won the National Championship in 1998, did Tennessee fans have peace?
 - a. well, they had peace for a little while – and then, it wore off.
 - b. And now they are pursuing yet another National Championship. **ONE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH!**
 - c. I have some friends who attend The University of Alabama
 1. they ask other Alabama fans; “How many national championships did they win when you were in school at Alabama?”
 - 2, there is no one more fearful than Alabama fans about losing a football game; Why? Because they don’t lose!
 3. success for an Alabama fan is “life.”
2. retired professional athletes miss a lot of things but they especially miss the accolades and the crowds – **THEIR SUCCESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH!**
 - a. athletes who retired more than once:
 1. Boxer, **Sugar Ray Leonard**
 - a. 1982
 - b. 1984
 - c. 1987
 - d. 1991
 2. Boxer, **George Foreman**, twice
 3. Basketball player – **Michael Jordan**, twice
 4. Football player – **Brett Favre**, twice
 - b. **Michael Ervin**: the former Dallas Cowboys’ wide receiver and Hall of Famer, left his 12-year career with three Super Bowl rings, but he believes that if Coach Jimmy Johnson would have stayed as the coach of the Cowboys beyond the 1993 season, they would have won at least five Super Bowls

“When Troy Aikman and I get together we look at each other, and I’m telling you, that there’s **not a time that we don’t get together and say: We should have won at least five ourselves. We should have walked away with a minimum of five Super Bowls. It still gets to me, man. I’m telling you, it really does.**”

- c. when athletes have had “that kind of success,” WHY CAN’T THEY BE CONTENT OR AT PEACE WITH THEIR SUCCESS?

2. The world’s view of peace consists of two things:

a. **an absence of war**

- 1. In 3,358 years from 1496 B.C. to 1862 A.D. there were 227 years of peace and 3,130 years of war. Within the last three centuries there have been 286 major and minor wars in Europe. From the year 1500 B.C. to 1860 A.D. more than 8,000 treaties of peace, meant to remain in force forever, were negotiated. The average time they remained in force was two years. This means that only 286 years of peace in 4,000 years.
- 2. chances are slim for a peaceful time

b. **an abundance of things**

- 1. “As long as I have all the bills paid, a beautiful house and family, I will be at peace.”
- 2. “Until I lose it!”
- 3. how America “finds peace”
 - a. Do you realize how much money is spent each year in America for people to have peace?
 - 1. **100 billion dollars** are spent on recreational drugs
 - 2. **646 billion dollars** is spent on outdoor recreation
 - 3. Halloween costumes for pets **310 million**
 - 4. romance novels – **10 billion**
 - 5. chocolate – **16 billion** dollars
 - 6. coffee – **11 billion**
 - 7. tatoos – **2.3 billion**; tatoos removed – **66 million**
 - 8. Twinkies – **500 million**
 - b. Do you see it? The peace that the world gives is expensive!

B. JESUS’ View of Peace.

- 1. Jesus speaks of “another kind of peace; a peace that only He can give
Vs. 27 – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

- a. the disciples were being told that Jesus was going to leave them in a hostile, unspiritual world when He left this earth
- b. **BUT**, He would not leave them alone; **He would leave them the “Holy Spirit of peace.”**
2. This peace would not be a peace **“because of,”** but a peace **“IN SPITE OF:”**
 - a. EVERY DISCIPLE OF JESUS, EXCEPT ONE, would eventually die a martyr’s death
 - b. every disciple would be rejected
 - c. **BUT**, every disciple would have peace – “because of” the internal work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
3. DO YOU FULLY REALIZE HOW AMAZING THIS GIFT OF INTERNAL PEACE IS PROVIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Conclusion

1. **SO, WHY DID JESUS GIVE BELIEVERS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**
 - a. **BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT WE ARE NOT HOLY!**
 1. For, if Christians “were” holy, we would not need any help at all
 2. But, Jesus knowing that believers ARE **NOT** HOLY, HE HAS GIVEN US **THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US.**
 - b. The question is: DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU NEED HELP?
 1. or, are you living the Christian life in your own power?
 2. my experience in high school: “I gave God all of my marbles.”
2. Believers can’t do it alone.

A college Professor had his Sociology class go into the Baltimore slums to get case histories of 200 young boys. They were asked to write an evaluation of each boy’s future. In every case, the students wrote, **“He hasn’t got a chance.”** Twenty-five years later another sociology professor came across the earlier study. He had his students follow up on the project to see what had happened to these boys. **With the exception of 20 boys who had moved away or died, the students learned that 176 of the remaining 180 had achieved more than ordinary success as lawyers, doctors, and businessmen.** The professor was astounded and decided to pursue the matter further. Fortunately, all the men were in the area and he was able to ask each one, “How do you account for your success?” In each case the reply came with feeling, **“There was a teacher.”** The teacher was still alive, so he sought her out and asked the old but still alert lady what “magic formula” she had used to pull these boys out of the slums into successful achievement. The teacher’s eyes sparkled and her lips broke into a gentle smile. **“It’s really very simple,” she said. “I loved those boys.”**

1. What do you think about the Holy Spirit? Is it hard to grasp the concept because He is a “Spirit?”

2. What do you think is the “task” of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer? How is this “task” different than the “task” of the Father and the Son?

3. How intimate is the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, based on **John 14:17b** – “but, you know Him, for He lives **with** you and will be **in** you.”

4. As the Holy Spirit is called “The Counselor,” how should that change your relationship to the Holy Spirit?

5. If the Holy Spirit is our “legal counselor” before the Father, how confident can we be in our eternal security?

6. How does the Holy Spirit teach you?

7. If the Holy Spirit is supposed to give us internal peace, what does it indicate if our hearts are NOT at peace?