

1. Get Acquainted: Fellowship w Christian and Not yet Christians

- What are the roles of the Godhead? 1 to 5 word summary
 - Father
 - Jesus
 - Holy Spirit
- Which one do you like the most?
- Which one disappoints you?

2. Worship: “Worship your way out and then worship your way back!”

My flesh whips me all the time. I am so easily seduced and reduced to being a “Flesh Follower” and am so quick to forget that I should be a “Spirit Server”. Everything, good or ill, turns me inward, self-ward or flesh-ward. Even a crisis of faith, where what is required is greater than my resources, which is a gift from God and is designed to cause me to cry out to Him for help, even then I will get stuck on ME.

So what to do. What to do. Worship! Worship my way out of the flesh and then Worship my way into Heaven and the lap of my Father and then Worship my way back to earth with the love and hope of God then back to heaven again. One of my all-time favorite worship launchers is a poem by Robert Service. He starts with how amazing his Hands are then his Eyes, his Heart, his Brain, then YOU his friend, then concludes all creation, “in everything from sun to sod, the wonder and the awe of God”. His thoughts move from musing over what God has done, to His Works, to who God is. He becomes Wonder-filled!

The Wonderer

I wish that I could understand
The moving marvel of my Hand;
I watch my fingers turn and twist,
The supple bending of my wrist,
The dainty touch of finger-tip,
The steel intensity of grip;
A tool of exquisite design,
With pride I think: "It's mine! It's mine!"

Then there's the wonder of my Eyes,
Where hills and houses, seas and skies,
In waves of light converge and pass,
And print themselves as on a glass.
Line, form and color live in me;
I am the Beauty that I see;
Ah! I could write a book of size
About the wonder of my Eyes.

What of the wonder of my Heart,
That plays so faithfully its part?
I hear it running sound and sweet;
It does not seem to miss a beat;
Between the cradle and the grave
It never falters, stanch and brave.
Alas! I wish I had the art
To tell the wonder of my Heart.

Then oh! but how can I explain
The wondrous wonder of my Brain?
That marvelous machine that brings

All consciousness of wonderings;
That lets me from myself leap out
And watch my body walk about;
It's hopeless -- all my words are vain
To tell the wonder of my Brain.

But do not think, O patient friend,
Who reads these stanzas to the end,
That I myself would glorify. . . .
You're just as wonderful as I,
And all Creation in our view
Is quite as marvelous as you.

Come, let us on the sea-shore stand
And wonder at a grain of sand;
And then into the meadow pass
And marvel at a blade of grass;
Or cast our vision high and far
And thrill with wonder at a star;
A host of stars -- night's holy tent
Huge-glittering with wonderment.

If wonder is in great and small,
Then what of Him who made it all?
In eyes and brain and heart and limb
Let's see the wondrous work of Him.
In house and hill and sward and sea
,In bird and beast and flower and tree,
In everything from sun to sod,
The wonder and the awe of God.

Worship Holy Spirit for His Heart work! If we worship the Father for His creation and redemptive plan, Jesus for His work on the Cross, then we can worship Holy Spirit for His work of conviction and wonder at His brilliance and skill at His craft too. So have someone read each group of verses then pause at the end and praise Holy Spirit for his work to convict and change our hearts to love God and all that is good and to hate evil and the workings of the flesh.

Psalm 119:25-48

My soul clings to the dust;

give me life according to your word!

²⁶ When I told of my ways, you answered me;
teach me your statutes!

²⁷ Make me understand the way of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

²⁸ My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word!

²⁹ Put false ways far from me
and graciously teach me your law!

³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I set your rules before me.

³¹ I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;
let me not be put to shame!

³² I will run in the way of your commandments
when you enlarge my heart!⁵

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes;
and I will keep it to the end.⁶

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

³⁶ Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.

³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
that you may be feared.

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
for your rules are good.

⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!

⁴¹ Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
your salvation according to your promise;

⁴² then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me
for I trust in your word.

⁴³ And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
for my hope is in your rules.

⁴⁴ I will keep your law continually, forever and ever,

⁴⁵ and I shall walk in a wide place,
for I have sought your precepts.

⁴⁶ I will also speak of your testimonies before kings
and shall not be put to shame,

⁴⁷ for I find my delight in your commandments,
which I love.

⁴⁸ I will lift up my hands toward your commandments,
which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

3. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His grace and trustworthiness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is merciful to save people like us, not merely forgiving us but working to transform us!
2. How have you lived more confident in your own will power than trusting Jesus? Confess your foolishness and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and restore you from your guilt and brokenness.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to cleanse us so that we could be indwelt by His Holy Spirit. Thank Him for *removing* all that's wrong with us, and filling us with all the goodness of *His very Presence!*
4. Who do you know that seems to know very little of the work of the Holy Spirit? Pray for them, asking the Lord to lead them beyond mere will power to true repentance and faith in Jesus' power.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love! Pray that He would help you grow in your knowledge of Him and His ways, and that He would empower you to live more and more on mission in His love.

4. Sermon Reflection:

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Galatians 3:1-6; Romans 8:9-11 (ESV) **Title:** The Spirit of Christ

Teacher: Tim Rice

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? ... ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Introduction: Why did Jesus believe it was better for Him to go away?

Holy Spirit – Wind, Water, Fire – Described. Which is your favorite description?

Wind, Breath, Spirit – Genesis 1 – The Breath of God

Water – Not just water but Rivers of Living Water,

- John 7 from you will flow rivers of living water
- Ezek 47 – Water flowing from the Temple of God

Fire – Holiness, Shekinah Glory

- Exodus 3 Burning Bush
- Fire by night in the Wilderness – to warm and gives light
- Burn out impurities

Without Holy Spirit – Lifeless, Arid and Corrupt –

We are dead without Holy Spirit – No Breath, No Water, No Fire

Life without Breath

- What is it life for you when you cannot “catch your breath”?
- What is a hot day like with no breeze?
- What is your life like when you are breathing in the flesh rather than the Spirit?

Life without Water

- What is it like to be “dying of thirst” or just “thirsty” physically?
- What are the red flags that you notice when you are drinking from the flesh rather than Holy Spirit?
- How has Holy Spirit cleansed your heart?

Life without Fire meaning both passion for life and refining out your impurities

- How can you tell when you have lost your fire for life? When does it show up first?
- What is difference between the fire of God fueling your efforts and the fire of revenge?
- Why do we flinch at God’s use of fire to burn out of us our wickedness and sloth?
- What would we be like if Holy Spirit did not cleanse us with water and fire?

Jesus’ End Game – ONENESS - Us in Jesus, Jesus in Us, Jesus in the Father, Us in the Father, Holy Spirit in the Father, Holy Spirit in Jesus, Holy Spirit in Us

Jesus’ goal – more than for you to escape Hell

Jesus’ Goal – Intimacy with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The Sign of Holy Spirit’s Indwelling

- Love to God and love to neighbor
- The instincts of Jesus shaping our passions, dreams, goals and practices.

Where have you noticed your instincts becoming like those of Jesus?

5. Mission: Mission by Comparison.

“Timothy Oliver, pay strict attention to the details of your assignment!” My Dad would yell that at me after I had pointed out something my older brother Ted was or was not supposed to be doing. Dad was pointing out that correcting my brother was not my assignment. I was suffering from “mission creep”. I was worrying about what was not my responsibility. So if I am capable of doing that with my Dad then I am certainly capable of doing that with God.

What is the work or mission of each of the following?

- God, the Father –
- God, The Son, Jesus –
- God, Holy Spirit –
 - TimO –
 - Details of my assignment - Love God and Love My Neighbor
 - Not my assignment –
 - Father’s work - Creation, Plan of Redemption,
 - Jesus’ work - Be anyone’s Savior, Save the world from its sin,
 - Holy Spirit’s Work - Convict of Sin, Righteousness and Judgement.
 - YOU

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