

# The Spirit of God

The New Testament, Week 3, Multiply

## DAY 1: God, the Holy Spirit

The God we know and love is a Trinitarian God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He is not three gods. God is one Being, three persons. I know, tough to get your head around.

The Holy Spirit is not an "it." He is God, just the like God the Father is God.

*Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

1. In what ways does this verse illustrate that God the Holy Spirit is personal, and not impersonal?

2. God the Holy Spirit plays a number of different roles in our lives. Below each of the verses, jot down what He is trying to do, or what He is trying to do in you...

*Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

*Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;*

*Ephesians 6:18 ... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*

*Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

## DAY 2: The Need for Power Within You

*Ezekiel 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

1. What did Ezekiel identify as our human dilemmas? (Look for two inner problems and two outward broken actions).

a. Inward problems:

b. Outward broken actions:

2. Why couldn't man obey God's word? Is this a knowledge problem, or something worse?

3. Have you ever done something you later regretted and then castigated yourself with these words, "How could I have been so foolish? I *knew* better!"

4. That statement reveals what you *really believe* about sin--that's it's just a knowledge problem. Our dilemma is far worse! There is something broken in our hearts!

5. Look back at Ezekiel 36 at the top of this page. Do you read God's solution differently now than you did a few moments ago? How so?

6. Paul illustrates our personal dilemma in a personal way. Re-write the following verses in using your own words. (Personalize the following verses, turning Paul's story into your story).

*Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*

7. Do the same exercise for the following two verses...

*Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

8. Our human dilemma lies *within* us. Trying to fix that which is in us is like trying to fix a computer virus by changing what you see on your screen! Humble yourself before God...

### **DAY 3: The Need for Power Within You (cont.)**

*Romans 7:21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*

1. Paul is describing our human dilemma as a Christian. Two "laws" are at work inside us.

a. What good "laws" are at work within him? (Look for two).

b. What bad "laws" are also at work within him? (Look for three).

2. These verses provide a spiritual "MRI" of your heart. Do you see yourself in this same way, as a battleground between two "laws?" What thoughts strike you about these verses? This human reality?

*Romans 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

3. Paul sees his inward dilemma as humanly hopeless! There is nothing he can do to change his own heart! How might embracing this "bad news" actually propel him in a good direction?

4. Thankfully, Paul recognizes our only hope, and he is DELIGHTED to realize it...

*Romans 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*

5. What is Paul's hope of inward change?

6. What will continue to be his nemesis?

7. But, what will Paul have in which to fight the law of sin within him?

8. Thank God that He has not left you alone in your battle against sin!

#### **DAY 4: The Power of the Holy Spirit Within You!**

*Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

1. The last two days, we've looked at the battle within the human heart of the Christian. How does Romans 8:1 add some encouragement to you?

2. In Romans 8:2 ...

a. How does Paul elaborate on what we are fighting inside us?

b. What is "the law of sin and death?"

c. What does Paul promise?

d. Paul attributes our freedom to overcome sin to the Holy Spirit. He describes the Spirit by one of the blessings He brings to us. What phrase does Paul use?

e. What do you think Paul is saying by referring to the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of life?"

*Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

3. In Eph. 5:18, Paul tells the people to "not get drunk with wine...but be filled with Spirit." He is illustrating what it means to be filled with the Spirit. When you are drunk with wine you are *controlled* by the wine. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are to be *under His control!* To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by Him, not you!

4. What effects should we expect from being filled with the Holy Spirit? Next to each one, jot down what you think we should see if you're filled with the Spirit...

a. "Addressing one another in psalms..." -

b. "Singing...to the Lord with all your heart" -

c. "Giving thanks always and for everything" -

d. "Submitting to one another out of reverence..." -

5. Being filled with the Spirit has nothing to do with feelings. It is about Who is controlling you!

## **DAY 5: The Holy Spirit's Power Within You! (Cont.)**

*Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

1. Paul sets out two ways to live: by the flesh (our human nature in charge) or by the Spirit (our human nature submitted to the Holy Spirit).

2. List what those who live according to the flesh do:

3. What are the consequences of living according to the flesh?

4. List what those who live according to the Spirit do?

5. What are the benefits of living according to the Spirit?

6. What is your biggest takeaway from today's passage?

7. Every day you live under the control of someone, either yourself or the Holy Spirit. Each day, yield yourself to God. Ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be controlled by Him and not your desires!