



The Simple Gospel Bible Study Series Weekly Session Plan

Curriculum Written and Facilitated by Pastor Lynice Pinkard

Session 3 [Video Link]

Teacher: Pastor Lynice Pinkard (lynice.pinkard@gmail.com)

Title: Who is the Holy Spirit? “You Better Ask Somebody”

SUMMARY OF SESSION CONCEPT

Christians sometimes like to think that the “persons of the Trinity” have exact and exclusive roles. But since God is an eternal community, all the persons of God take part in everything that God does. So it can be said that the Scriptures suggest that the Holy Spirit has some specialties, so to speak, but this is not true in any exclusive sense. So we study the things that the Holy Spirit particularly likes to do, without limiting the Spirit. This illustrates that in reading our Bibles we cannot always put everything in a nice neat category. There is a level of depth to God’s ways that must humble us and make us hold our knowledge lightly.

PASTORAL CONTEXT

People are often not accessing and utilizing the power of the Holy Spirit in their personal lives. They often do not understand the continuity between the Spirit’s work in creation, and the Spirit’s work in restoration--bringing us to life, birthing us into new life. We need to look at the quality of our lives and see whether we are fully taking hold of the Spirit’s promises to us. Learning to access the power of the Spirit is critical to our becoming disciples and growing as disciples. Discipleship, at the deepest level, is following the call of the Spirit of Life--the presence, purpose, and promise of God--by engaging the spiritual practices that are necessary to grow in this life. The Spirit’s call to us is that our faith is not just belief that we hold in spite of the evidence--faith is a life we lead in scorn of the consequences. We cannot follow Jesus living in opposition to dominant values without the power of the Spirit: the Spirit comes to change our agenda, orienting us towards life--our own life, and the life of our brothers and sisters, and the life of the living planet.

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 104:30; Isaiah 11:1-3; 44:3-4; 55:1; Jeremiah 2:13;
Ezekiel 47:1-12; Joel 2:28-32; Micah 3:8;
Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:16;
John 1:33; 3:3-8; 3:34; 4:10, 13; 6:63; 7:38; 14:14-16;
Acts 2:33; Romans 8:3-5, 9; 8:14-16; 8:26-27;
1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 12, 14; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5;
Ephesians 1:14; 4:4-13; Hebrews 2:4; Revelation 22:1-5

Scripture learning objectives:

The following are some key roles (not all the roles) in which we see the Holy Spirit active in the Scriptures:

Midwife in relation to creation (Genesis 1:1-2), in relation to our spiritual rebirth (John 3:3-8), in relation to new behavior in our lives (Romans 8:3-5, 9), in relation to our resurrection (Romans 8:10-11), and in relation to the new creation (Psalm 104:30). Since our resurrection is part of the new creation, and since the Holy Spirit is intimately involved in creation, we can be confident that the Holy Spirit is instrumental in bringing forth the new creation.

Giver of Life - (Psalm 104:30; John 6:63) Life infuser (Isaiah 44:3-4; Jeremiah 2:13; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Revelation 22:1-2) The Spirit brings ever-abounding, limitless life--John 3:34. In Jeremiah 2, God calls himself “your artesian well,” our life that flows freely on its own. We don’t have to struggle to draw on it; it’s literally under pressure from God coming up for us. In Ezekiel 47, this life of God is seen as a river that comes out from the Temple of God and that gets wider and deeper the further it goes, and it says, “everything will live where the river goes” (47:9). In Revelation 22, the “river of life” feeds the trees of life, and so provides the life-source for the paradise of the new creation. The Holy Spirit is the down payment, a foretaste, of the limitless life of the new creation (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; and Ephesians 1:14).

Conveyer of the Love of God and the Presence of Christ - (John 14:16; Romans 8:14-16). The amazing revelation about Jesus the Christ, the Holy Spirit Anointed One, is that he not only *has* the Spirit (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18), he *brings* the promised Holy Spirit to humanity. He *pours out the Spirit* upon and within all who put faith in him (Isaiah 44:3-4; 55:1; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; 4:10, 13; 7:38; and Acts 2:33).

Teacher (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13)

Strengtheners (“Comforters”) - (Micah 3:8; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:3-5, 9; 14:17; Galatians 5:22-24; 2 Timothy 1:7) The KJV word “Comforter” does not mean to give someone a warm and fuzzy feeling, saying “there, there, it’ll be ok.” The word in that Bible translation means “helper, strengthener, courage-giver.” The Holy Spirit is given to us so that we will have the power to live the life of true aliveness, to live pleasing to God. As Paul says, “The reign of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17).

Advocate, Prayer Assistant (Romans 8:26-27)

Giver of Gifts of Empowerment to the Community of the Faithful (Isaiah 11:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12, 14; Ephesians 4:4-13; Hebrews 2:4).

These are not strict and exclusive roles. The Holy Spirit is involved in everything that God does.

OVERALL SESSION OBJECTIVES

We want to reinforce the idea of the Spirit's work in creation and re-creation of the planet and of us. Just as in Session 2 we came to understand that our openness to the power and presence of Jesus to us personally is deepened when we see him revealed in his cosmic role as co-creator and upholder of the world, so we in this session want to celebrate the presence and life-giving power of the Spirit in the creation of life on earth and in the new creation, in order to deepen our understanding of the Spirit's role of transforming us into people who live as high-cost, dissident disciples. We are to be enabled by the Spirit to live a life of dissidence. When I speak of "dissidence," I mean a life lived in opposition to all forms of deathliness-- systems of domination and oppression, despair, addiction, lovelessness, meaninglessness of life, cynicism, numbness, and denial of suffering, stagnation. We have to be growing in lives of Spirit-empowered resistance to death and Spirit-empowered embracing of life and community.

KEY WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Paraclete, from Greek *parakletos*, Strong's #G385. A helper, advocate, literally "one called alongside." See John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7. Compare 1 John 2:1, where John calls Jesus our paraclete, our defense attorney when the devil accuses us before the Father. The Spirit can be called our *protector* or our *defender*.