

SERMON SERIES: *Fire Fall*

SERMON TITLE: *Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit*

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-18

SERMON DATE: 4.25.21

#1 The Holy Spirit is a PERSON.

- A. A person is a being that has certain capacities.
 - a. **Consciousness**- a person is aware that they are a person and that they exist.
 - b. **Reason**- a person is able to consciously make sense of things, apply logic, and adapt or justify their practices and beliefs based on new or existing information.
 - c. **Moral**- a person is able to make decisions between right and wrong.
 - d. **Emotional**- a person can feel sad, angry, happy, disappointed, etc.
 - e. **Volitional**- a person has a will that they make choices with, plan with, and take action from.
 - f. **Time**- a person understands that there is a past, present, and future.
 - g. **Relational**- Persons can engage in personal relationships with other persons. "Persons can talk to each other, make choices that shape their relationships with each other. Persons can know each other-not just know about, or store information on, but comprehend, care for, and commit to."¹

- B. The Holy Spirit is...
 - a. He is aware that He exists.
 - b. He can reason, think, and apply logic.
 - c. He knows right from wrong.
 - d. He has emotions.
 - e. He has a will, and therefore, makes choices, plans, and chooses to take action
 - f. He understands time.
 - g. He can engage in personal relationships. He can talk to, know, care for and commit to other persons. Persons can commit to him, listen to him, and know him.

#2 The Holy Spirit is a DIVINE person.

- A. The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead.

¹ <https://thebrooknetwork.org/2012/02/07/the-personhood-of-god/>.

- B. As distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are three distinct centers of consciousness that reason, have their own feelings, will, morality, sense of time, and who interact with one another and with us.
- C. And yet despite the fact that the members of the Godhead are three distinct and separate persons, they are one in being, character, nature, and essence. That is why we can say that the Father is fully God. Jesus is fully God. The Holy Spirit is fully God.
- D. The Holy Spirit is both GREAT and GOOD.

a. GREAT

- i. **Self-existent:** The Holy Spirit is totally self-sufficient, depending on nothing external to Himself. The source of the Holy Spirit's existence is completely within Himself.
- ii. **Eternal:** The Holy Spirit has always existed and will always exist.
- iii. **Immutable:** There is no change in the Holy Spirit's nature, character, or purpose. He never becomes greater, better, or worse; He never learns, grows, develops, improves, evolves, or gets younger or older.
- iv. **Omniscient:** The Holy Spirit always acts with all the facts. His knowledge is all inclusive (past, present, and future) and complete. He does not grow in knowledge.
- v. **Omnipresent:** The Holy Spirit created space, and He cannot be localized. He has access to the whole of creation at all times.
- vi. **Omnipotent:** The Holy Spirit can do all things consistent with His nature. His energy is constant and never will be diminished.
- vii. **Sovereign:** The Holy Spirit is the Supreme Being and Ruler in the universe, is total and absolute, and is in control of all things.

b. GOOD

- i. **Holy:** The Holy Spirit is both completely unique and absolutely pure.
- ii. **Righteousness:** The Holy Spirit is absolutely right beyond all comprehension in reference to His law, His actions, and in His relationships.
- iii. **Truthful:** There is no deceit in the Holy Spirit. He cannot lie.
- iv. **Faithful:** He always performs his role and keeps his promises.
- v. **Loving:** He always works for the highest good of others.
- vi. **Full of Grace:** The Holy Spirit deals with women and men on the basis of His goodness and generosity, not on any merit in us but according to our needs. He also empowers us to do what we can't do on our own which is another dimension of his grace towards us.
- vii. **Full of Mercy:** The Holy Spirit is tenderhearted and demonstrates loving compassion for His people.

#3 The Holy Spirit should be TREATED as a REAL, DIVINE PERSON.

A. Treating the Holy Spirit as a **PERSON**.

- a. We disrespect the personhood of the Holy Spirit when we treat him as a force.
- b. The Holy Spirit is a person to get to know. He is a person to communicate with. He is a person to share our heart and lives with. He is a person who has thoughts, feelings, desires, and plans that can be known. He is a person who works in the world and the ways he goes about it can also be known.

B. Treating the Holy Spirit as a **DIVINE** person.

- a. WORSHIP is the only logical way to relate to the Holy Spirit!
 - i. Worship is the reverential response of creation to the all-encompassing magnificence of God.²
 - ii. The Holy Spirit magnificence is all encompassing. He is great, and because he is great, He is worthy of our praise! We owe our existence to Him. We are because He is.
 - iii. Because the Holy Spirit is not only great but also good, we have even more reason to worship Him.
 1. The Holy Spirit is the best friend we've always wanted.
 - a. The friend that is always truthful to us, always has pure motives, always does right by us, always follows through, doesn't turn His back on us, merciful towards our weaknesses, and gracious towards our mistakes, and who is constantly at work for our highest good.
 2. Because of His greatness and goodness, the Holy Spirit was able to accomplish our salvation.
 3. The glory of God is the SUM TOTAL of His greatness and goodness.

C. Treating the Holy Spirit as a **REAL** person.

- a. Seeing is not always believing.

² Lexham Theological Workbook

- i. Wind, gravity
- b. We know unseen things exist because we can see their effect.
- c. It is reasonable to believe the Holy Spirit exists because we can see its effects.
 - i. The resurrection of Jesus.
 - ii. The birth of the church and the explosion of Christianity all over the world to all races, cultures, and geographic regions.
 - iii. The changed lives of Jesus's first followers.
 - iv. The unlikeliness that the Trinity is a made up concept.
 - v. The changed lives of people today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you typically thought of the Holy Spirit? As a force or a person? What influenced your way of thinking?
2. The Holy Spirit has the capacities of a person. Which one surprises you the most?
3. The Holy Spirit is also a Divine person who is both great and good. What aspect of His greatness do you find most comforting? What about his goodness?
4. How can we treat the Holy Spirit as a person? Practically what does that look like?
5. How can we treat the Holy Spirit as a divine person? Practically what does that look like?
6. How did the Holy Spirit accomplish our salvation? Why was it necessary for our salvation that the Holy Spirit was both great AND good?
7. Is it hard for you to believe in the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? What evidence for the Holy Spirit do you see in the history of the world? What evidence do you see in the world today?