

**2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives**

**Sermon Series - His Presence With Us**

**Sermon Title - What The Holy Spirit Does For Us Part 1**

**Sermon Text - Romans 8:8-9/Ephesians 1:13-14**

**Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry**

### **Full Sermon Notes**

“I won’t bow to idols, I’ll stand strong and worship You! If it puts me in the fire, I’ll rejoice ‘cause You’re there too!” Right before Jesus ascended back to The Father, Jesus said to His disciples: “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” And we know that He is with us by way of His Holy Spirit no matter what fires in life we may face! Today we will continue our study of The Holy Spirit. I’ve prayed many times this week for God’s leadership for this message. Let’s pray again and you can pray with me for God’s anointing and for His Spirit to lead our time together today. Let’s Pray.

Today we will begin a discussion of what The Holy Spirit does for us. Because He is God’s presence with us, it is so important that we understand not only who He is, He is personal, He is God, and He has the Attributes of God, but we need to understand what He does for us, in us and through us! One of the very first things The Holy Spirit does for us happens at the very beginning of our walk with God and one of the other things He does for us continues throughout our lives on this earth. So there will only be two points this morning because we need to get this right! The first thing The Holy Spirit does for us is this...

### **The Holy Spirit Invites Us (He Draws Us)**

The first part of our text is found in Romans 8:8-9...

Romans 8:8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

These verses open the important discussion of how a person comes to be in the realm of the Spirit and has the Spirit of God living in them in the first place. We discussed last week how these verses state that a person who does not have the Spirit of God does not belong to Christ. So it begs the question, how do we receive The Holy Spirit? When a person invites Jesus into their life, He comes in via His Holy Spirit. But before that happens, The Holy Spirit invites us to Christ! He draws us to a relationship with Jesus! Paul says you are in the realm of the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you! Notice Paul said The Spirit of God and because of that we know when Jesus said the following...

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them...”

...we know that the Father works through His Holy Spirit to draw them! But I want you to notice what Jesus said after this because it is so important. Jesus said...

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.

John 6:46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

John 6:47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

Why is this so important? Because God The Father draws us to His Son Jesus through the Holy Spirit! He draws us, not forces us! He draws us, not kidnaps us! He draws us, not overcomes us! It's fascinating the way Jesus portrays the drawing action of the Father. He paints the Father as a teacher, not a taskmaster...

John 6:45a It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God...'

But watch what He says next...

John 6:45b "...Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from Him comes to me."

We hear and learn from The Father through His Holy Spirit! In fact Jesus would later tell His disciples this...

John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

So we know The Father teaches us and draws us through His Holy Spirit and those who listen and respond come to Jesus. How do I know that's what this means? The context! Look what Jesus said next in John 6:47...

John 6:47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

He didn't say "The one who has been predestined to be saved, but the one who believes has eternal life." It is so important to know that the Heavenly Father invites us to Jesus by way of His Holy Spirit, but we have to respond and accept the invitation. God is Sovereign, but man is responsible! These two things coexist and to deny that fact is to deny Scripture! Responding and receiving is not working for our salvation, it is simply responding by receiving the gift of salvation God offers us and that Jesus died to give us. God made His choice to love us when He predetermined that He wanted everyone to repent and receive salvation! We are going to see that fact clearly in the second point of our message! It was God's choice to give us a choice. And we know from Scripture and from experience that not everyone receives the Spirit's

invitation. Some reject, and they can, because they are made in the image of God and have a free will and have been given that choice. Listen to what Paul had said earlier in Romans...

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

So we know salvation comes to those who believe, those who receive, those who accept God's offer. But we are also going to see that a person has the prerogative to reject the offer as we read Paul's words to some folks who had become a bit judgemental. He starts off by saying...

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Notice he said "lead you to repentance" not force you to repentance!

Some people believe the sovereignty of God is challenged if someone has the power to go against God's will! So if God wills for a person to be saved then they believe that person has no choice but to be saved. And since they know there are those who will not be saved, they assume that God must have chosen or willed that they would be lost. But that contradicts God's Word in many places and ignores the Biblical concept of man's responsibility to respond. God is all knowing, but just because He knows all things doesn't mean He wills all things! God knows about and sees abuse, injustice, unfaithfulness, wickedness, hate, murder, and every evil in the world, but that doesn't mean He wills it!

Five point Calvinists who base much of their doctrine on John Calvin and Augustine's interpretation of Scripture follow what is known as TULIP. And while I don't disagree with everything Calvin and Augustine wrote or believed, and I have quoted them on things before, I don't place their writings on the same level as God's Word and it's wrong when anyone tries to do so. And as I share with you the message today I believe you will get a good understanding as to why I disagree with four of the five points of Calvinism. They believe in the Total Depravity of Man, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace and the Perseverance of the Saints. In Total Depravity they believe that a man doesn't even have the ability to respond to God in faith. That God has to choose for them. I believe we are all sinners in need of God's grace, but I believe we have the ability to choose! The U stands for Unconditional Election and their belief that God has elected some to be saved and some to be lost regardless of their choice. In other words, choice is not a condition of salvation or an option. As a result, they believe that the Atonement Jesus died on the cross to give is limited to only those who were unconditionally elected and is unavailable to anyone else. As a result of this line of thinking, they believe when an elected person is confronted with God's offer of grace, it will be irresistible. As a result of this they believe a person who was chosen to be a saint will persevere because it wasn't their choice in the first place.

On the perseverance of the saints, I have a different reason for believing that a person who has accepted Jesus as their Savior will persevere, and that will be in our last point of the message

today! So, with that being said, let me continue and you'll see why I disagree with the TULIP theology of the reformed movement. Is your head spinning yet? Mine has been all week.

Paul makes a point of man's responsibility and culpability as he continues...

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Romans 2:6 God "will repay each person according to what they have done."

Romans 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Romans 2:8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Romans 2:9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

Romans 2:10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 2:11 For God does not show favoritism.

How about that, "God does not show favoritism!" If He chose some to be saved and others to be lost before they were ever even born, I would say that would be showing favoritism and God's Word plainly says He doesn't do that! The fact that God knows the decisions we will make in no way predestines our choices. Think of it from a parents perspective. Because of my kids' personalities and my experience with them and my perspective, I sometimes knew exactly what they were going to do, or say or how they would react beforehand. But that was certainly not me choosing for them to act that way! Right after Paul talked about his heartbreak for his fellow Israelites who had rejected the Gospel, he talked about Isaac and Rebekah's twins. He said this...

Romans 9:11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand:

Romans 9:12 not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

Romans 9:13 Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Romans 9:14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!

Romans 9:15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

Romans 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

You see, God had foreknowledge of Jacob and Esau's actions because He had foreknowledge of their hearts. Although Jacob wasn't perfect, God knew his heart and was going to be able to use him and bless him. God also knew about Esau's selfish and wicked heart and God hated that kind of attitude. But when we think of who God will have mercy on, we will discover that it is those who make a decision to accept and receive His mercy. No matter what you've done in the past, no matter how terrible those decisions may have been and yes, even though people were

hurt, if you are truly repentant and cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness He will grant it! He has already chosen to love you, accept you and forgive you, if you will respond to the drawing conviction of His Holy Spirit! Paul made this clear in verses 16...

Romans 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Aren't you glad God's invitation to salvation does not depend on your desire or effort? The night I got saved, I wasn't looking for God, had no desire to follow God, and I was certainly not thinking about putting any effort into spiritual things, but The Holy Spirit convicted my heart and invited me to come to Jesus. I'm so thankful He invited me and I've never once regretted accepting His invitation! God has chosen to have mercy on anyone who responds to His gracious gift of salvation through His Son Jesus and He elects to save those who believe. You know these verses very well...

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

I've talked to so many people who feel they are too far gone, that God couldn't possibly love them and that there was no hope for them. That's exactly what Satan wants you to believe. But I'm here to tell you, don't buy those lies. If there's any desire in your heart to be forgiven and to receive Jesus in your heart and life then that's the Holy Spirit drawing you and so you can rest assured that you have not committed the unforgivable sin, which is blasphemy of The Holy Spirit. I believe that happens when we totally and finally reject the drawing of The Holy Spirit and refuse to come to Jesus when given our last chance. No one knows when that last chance might come, but I can tell you this: even if you've rejected in the past, if you still have a desire to repent then The Holy Spirit has placed that desire in your heart and has not given up on you! You have not reached the point of a final rejection because as Jesus said...

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them..."

So if the Father is still drawing you with His Holy Spirit, then there's still time to respond!

God's Word says in 2 Peter...

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

It's not God's will that anyone perish! God told the people of Israel over and over that He desired for them to live righteous lives and not evil, unjust, selfish, destructive lives. God told Ezekiel this...

Ezekiel 33:10 “Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?” ’  
Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

There may be people in this room today and you stand at a crossroad! You are facing the decision of whether you will accept or reject God’s invitation, through His Holy Spirit, to come to Jesus and be saved. We know what God desires when we read Paul’s words to Timothy...

1 Timothy 2:3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,  
1 Timothy 2:4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.  
1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,  
1 Timothy 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people...

Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all people! God’s Word cannot be any more clear. We must understand that God sends His Holy Spirit to draw us and to convict us of our sins so that we will repent and be saved. The Holy Spirit convicts and calls and invites the wicked to turn from their wicked ways and come to Jesus! But not all people will allow Jesus to pay their ransom and free them from their slavery and bondage to sin!

Now someone might be tempted to say Romans 9:16 and Romans 2:7 seem to contradict because Romans 9:16 says...

Romans 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

And Romans 2:7 says...

Romans 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Wait, does this mean we have to work for our salvation and that our good has to outweigh our bad. Nope, Paul is not saying that. You must remember the all important concept of reading things in context. Paul is probably still in Corinth when he writes this letter to the Romans. He has yet to go to Rome. So when he begins his letter, he is beginning a conversation with them and is contrasting the lifestyles of those who respond to the drawing of the Holy Spirit and come to Jesus and those who chose to reject The Holy Spirit’s conviction and walk away from Jesus. As Paul gets just a little further into his letter he will explain to them that “those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality” are in fact those who have accepted God’s offer of salvation through Jesus Christ and are given eternal life! Once again, context! Look at Romans 3:21-25a...

Romans 3:21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

Romans 3:22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith...

Apart from the law! The righteousness of God given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe! Justified freely by His grace! Through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus and his sacrifice and shedding of blood! To be received by faith! Paul goes on to say this...

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

Romans 10:13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

So the Holy Spirit invites us and when we respond to that amazing invitation and allow the Father to draw us to His Son Jesus, then the Holy Spirit gets involved again in a very powerful way...

### **The Holy Spirit Insures Us (He Seals Us)**

Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 1:14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Did you catch when we are sealed with The Holy Spirit? We were included in Christ when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. Having believed we were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory! What a blessing, what a promise, what spiritual insurance. We become God's possession when we believe and respond to the invitation and conviction of The Holy Spirit. We confess our sins, and by faith receive God's forgiveness, His salvation, His adoption and the insurance of the seal of The Holy Spirit!! Paul is clear that we were included in Christ when we heard the word of truth and

believed. As a result we were marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. Listen to what Paul says in Romans 8:14-17

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

So I believe in the perseverance of the saints, but it's not because I was predestined to be saved and had no choice. The Holy Spirit of God convicted me of my sin, invited me into a relationship with Jesus and when I responded by admitting I was a sinner, believed Jesus died for my sins, and called upon His Name, The Holy Spirit took up residence in my heart and life! My body became the temple of The Holy Spirit, God's presence with us, and The Holy Spirit sealed me and marked me permanently and forever as one of the adopted children of Almighty God!! So my perseverance as a saint is not because of predestination, but because of God's promise to never leave me or forsake me after I accepted His divine invitation to receive His love and mercy! Folks I could never be good enough to deserve that! I could never do enough good to earn that! It is one hundred percent a gift of God's amazing grace and the only thing I did was to receive the gift by responding to the Holy Spirit's invitation.

Have you ever thought about how awesome God really is, how powerful, how majestic, how infinitely big He is and how small we are in comparison. If you think about our earth in comparison to the solar system and then to the galaxies and the universe, and then zoom down to us we are like a speck of dust! However, we must remember this: That big, awesome, infinite, all powerful God left the splendor of heaven, limited Himself by taking on human flesh and became a little speck of dust like us so He could show us His love for the people He had created in His image! And who would that be? Who does God love? Who does He want to have a relationship with? Who does the Father invite through the Holy Spirit to come to Jesus? I'll answer that for you right now! Are you ready for this?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God so loved THE WORLD! Not just part of the world, all of it! Not just certain ones. Not just the good ones, but the bad ones as well. NEWS FLASH:

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

So none of us are really good, we are all sinners, but you must understand this, while sinners are unworthy of God's love, they are not without worth! Why do I say that? Because God would

not send His One and Only Begotten Son to die for people who were worth nothing! In fact God's word backs up what I'm saying...

Romans 5:7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God so loved the world means that He not only loved the chosen ones, Jews, but the gentiles as well. While we are small in comparison to God, we are not small in God's eyes. In fact we are a really, really, big deal to God. So much so that we were created in His image and that's a big deal! God has the ability to make decisions independently from any other influence, and we were created in His image. Because of that we know we have a free will, and like God we make choices. The problem is, we've made bad choices. Really bad choices. We decided we didn't need God, His advice, His guidance, His help, or His friendship so we went our own way! Isaiah 53:6a says...

Isaiah 53:6a We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...

So the book of Isaiah and Romans agree that we all have gone astray, we've all turned away from God, we've all sinned, and we all fall short of the Glory of God! But don't forget, while we are small compared to God, we are a big deal to God and He loves us and went to extremes to show us that love.

John 3:16a "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...

We made bad choices and God the Father, in consultation with God the Son and God The Holy Spirit decided that The Son would leave heaven, take on flesh and make a way to right the wrongs! But look at the rest of Isaiah 53:6...

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Who's Isaiah talking about? Jesus! And this was written some 700 years before Jesus came to this earth. He took our iniquities and sins because as Paul says...

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Folks that happens by way of The Holy Spirit! When He invites us, He knows that He must convict us and convince us that we are lost in our sin and need to accept the forgiveness that comes through Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross. And while God predetermined that He wanted us to come to Jesus and He worked through His Holy Spirit to invite us, the placing of

The Holy Spirit as a seal on us does not happen until we respond to His divine invitation. Paul stated it this way...

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

Ephesians 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Ephesians 1:8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

Ephesians 1:9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

Ephesians 1:10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

Ephesians 1:12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

So God pre-chose, pre-determined, predestined that it was His will for all men to be saved, but He also chose to create humankind in His image! He breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and he became a living spirit! A spirit created by God and yet given independence by God with the hopes that man would choose to have a loving relationship with God. To be created in the image of God gives us some very powerful insight into God's nature. In human relationships, we don't want people to love us because they have to, but because they want to. Without that choice there is no relationship. God wants to be your Heavenly Father and He desires for you to allow Him to adopt you as His very own child, but it is not in His nature to force that on you! John stated it this way...

John 1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

John 1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Let's pray!!

