

2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives

Sermon Series - His Presence With Us

Sermon Title - His Spirit His Presence

Sermon Text - John 14:1-10,16-20, John 16:7-15

Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry

Full Sermon Notes

“The reign of darkness now has ended, In the kingdom of light, Forever under Your dominion You’re the King of my life, You’re the King of my life” What Jesus did for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins and once again experience God’s presence in our lives like it was with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is absolutely astonishing! All I can say is He must love us a lot, Amen? Amen! And after Jesus left this world and ascended into heaven He sent His Holy Spirit to bring God’s presence into our daily lives. This morning we will begin a study of such importance that to get it wrong on this would be to miss out on God’s best for Northshore Church and for you as an individual. We must not only understand the Holy Spirit, we must walk in His presence! Let’s ask God to teach us the fact that His Spirit is His presence and the absence of His Spirit would mean the absence of God’s presence in our lives! Let’s pray!

In the coming weeks we will discover...

Who The Holy Spirit is, What The Holy Spirit does for us, What The Holy Spirit does in us, and What The Holy Spirit does through us!

Knowing these things are so important because His Spirit is His presence with us and we saw last week how critical this was to Moses...

Exodus 33:15 Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.

Exodus 33:16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

The Psalmist King David would later write...

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

The Psalmist understood that for him to have a clean heart and a steadfast spirit, he would need to walk daily in the presence of God. He also knew that without the Holy Spirit, he could not experience the presence of God. For the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Almighty God. His Spirit is His presence with us! Today we will have a discussion on who the Holy Spirit is. He is the very Spirit of God, The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity! This is the beginning of a series of messages on this amazing topic and obviously we will not be able to discuss

everything about who The Holy Spirit is. And why not? Because a huge part of who He is has to do with what He does in our lives. Those aspects will be discussed in detail in upcoming messages. But we must realize that The Holy Spirit is God's very presence in our lives! Over the coming weeks we will talk about how our extraordinary God transforms our ordinary lives by allowing His Precious Holy Spirit to be our Counselor, our Comforter, our Confidence, the One who convicts us of our sin, our Guide, our Teacher, and our Protector! We are transformed when we allow Him to be our peace, our wisdom, our inspiration! Our lives are further transformed when He anoints us and gives us vision, wisdom, understanding, discernment, and hope! And then that transformation overflows into others' lives when He causes us to have concern for them and a desire for them to come to experience what we've found in Jesus! The Holy Spirit continues that transformation as He helps us remember the life and teachings of Jesus and motivates us to want to live like Jesus and to be more like Jesus in our actions and attitudes! Can you see why this is a series and not one sermon?

As followers of Christ we come to understand just how important The Holy Spirit is to every single aspect of our lives. He brings the very presence of God into our personal life, our home life, our work life, our hobby life, our entertainment life, and every other area of our lives! We must come to realize that The Holy Spirit is the way in which our extraordinary God connects with us ordinary people in order to transform our lives! And we have to realize that The Holy Spirit, God's presence with us, is absolutely critical if we are to be the church God wants us to be!

Augustine put it this way...

"What the soul is to our body, the Holy Spirit is in the body of Christ, which is the church."

Francis Chan, in his book "Forgotten God", stated...

"If the Holy Spirit doesn't move, we will not produce genuine fruit--no matter how much effort or money we expend. The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation..."

"We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God."

Dr. Steve Echols called a staff meeting one day at a church we served together. Speaking of the organization and administration of the church he said something to this effect...

"We've created a well oiled machine. I fear we may have lost our dependence on God's power and presence!"

Dr. William W. Stevens, one of my professors at Mississippi College, a powerful mentor in my life and a wonderful theologian stated this in His book *Doctrines of the Christian Religion*...

“There is a place in every church for organization, but this organization must be imbued with fervor by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise there will be only dead formalism. Every church decision should be in conformity to the will of the Spirit, for every church vote should be cast with the desire of doing the Spirit’s bidding. Every undertaking should seek the power of the Spirit. The worship service should be conducted in a manner that is conducive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit...The presence of the Holy Spirit will give warmth and feeling to the worship service, where otherwise there will be only a frigid dullness...When ritual replaces the Spirit, it has defeated its purpose...The study of church history shows one undisputable fact. As the leadership of the Spirit is progressively rejected, there is a turning from evangelistic zeal and benevolent warmth to institutionalism and ritualism.”

William W. Stevens, *The Doctrines of The Christian Religion*. Broadman Press, 1967. p. 109

If The Holy Spirit is that important to us as individuals and as a church, I think it would be wise of us to know who The Holy Spirit is. Much of what we know concerning who The Holy Spirit is, we learn from The Master Teacher Jesus! And notice I said, Who The Holy Spirit is not What The Holy Spirit is! So let’s look at three defining characteristics of The Holy Spirit. Characteristic number one is this...

The Holy Spirit is a Person

“Who the Holy Spirit is” not “What The Holy Spirit is!” Jesus was having a deep conversation with His disciples about His relationship with The Heavenly Father when He said this about The Holy Spirit...

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept **him**, because it neither sees **him** nor knows **him**. But you know **him**, for **he** lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

John 14:20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

We see Jesus refer to The Holy Spirit in this passage as a person five times!

Jesus said “the world cannot accept **Him**, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**. But you know **Him**, for **He** lives with you and will be in you.”

So we know He is not a substance, He is a person! He is not something, He is someone! He is not some magic potion or incantation to be called on at your whim to get what you want.

In fact Jesus goes on to say this in John 16 about The Holy Spirit...

John 16:7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send **him** to you.

John 16:8 When **he** comes, **he** will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

John 16:9 about sin, because people do not believe in me;

John 16:10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

John 16:11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

John 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

John 16:13 But when **he**, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he** will guide you into all the truth. **He** will not speak on **his** own; he will speak only what **he** hears, and **he** will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:14 **He** will glorify me because it is from me that **he** will receive what **he** will make known to you.

John 16:15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what **he** will make known to you."

Thirteen times in this passage, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit using the personal pronoun He or His! So we know The Holy Spirit is a person, but we also see in verse 14 and 15 that Jesus is alluding to another of His characteristics.

The Holy Spirit is God

In fact Jesus, just before His ascension back to heaven made it clear when He gave the disciples what is known as the Great Commission...

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus tells the disciples to baptize in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! He then says, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age!" And how is that possible since Jesus ascended back into heaven? By way of His Holy Spirit! God's presence is with us and thus Jesus' presence is with us! How can I say that? Because of what Jesus said to His disciples in our text...

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

John 14:2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

John 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

John 14:9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

So we know The Father and The Son are one and we need to read several verses again, because they show us the connection between The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Jesus said...

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

John 16:15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Do you see how The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit work together? The three persons of The Holy Trinity. The divine mystery, The Godhead, Three in One!

We see further evidence of who The Holy Spirit is when we read what Peter said in 1 Peter 1:2...

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

1 Peter 1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

What a statement on The Holy Trinity of God! The Holy Spirit, He is the Spirit of God, and though He is listed here secondly, He is known as the Third Person of The Holy Trinity. God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit! And third doesn't mean third in importance, just third in listing. The Holy Trinity can be viewed more like a circle than a list. Some call the relationship between The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, the circle dance of God! We will never be able to fully understand the divine mystery of The Holy Trinity, but remember this: My

inability to understand something does not diminish the reality of that something, or in this case someone!

The Hebrew and Greek words for Spirit both mean wind, breath, air! The Greek word that you may be familiar with is pneumatic. The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, the wind of God, the air of God. And we cannot breath spiritually without the Spirit of God! He is the presence and the very life of God within us! He resides in us! We've seen over the past few weeks how God's presence in the lives of the Israelites was witnessed from a distance. They saw the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day. We know that God had a personal relationship with Moses and they spoke as friends and the people witnessed that from a distance. We also know that when the tabernacle was finally built there was a place called the Holy of Holies and God's presence resided there between the winged creatures, the cherubim, over the Ark of the Covenant. We know that the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement for the people's sins. We know when Jesus died, the veil of the temple that separated the Holy place from the most Holy place was torn in half from the top to the bottom! This signified that those who are covered in the blood of the Lamb of God, those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior, are no longer separated from a personal relationship and fellowship with God! And Jesus had promised the disciples that The Holy Spirit was going to come to believers...

John 15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

Later, after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection Jesus was eating with the disciples and He gave them this command...

Acts 1:4 ... "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Acts 1:5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

And what does all of this mean to you and me? How does this affect our lives on a daily basis? So many ways! First of all the way Jesus comes into our lives and saves us is by way of His Holy Spirit! Jesus' physical representation in bodily form had ascended back to heaven so He comes into our hearts and lives through His Holy Spirit. When a person repents of their sins, believes Jesus died on the Cross to pay for their sins and calls upon the Name of Jesus, The Holy Spirit takes up residence in their hearts and lives. In fact God's Word tells us this...

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1 Corinthians 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Is that not amazing? It's like we have become the Holy of Holies! We have become the tabernacle, the tent of meetings, the temple of the Holy Spirit! So God's dream of fellowship with us is now made possible through Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross and The Holy Spirit taking up

residence within us! Again, this happens when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior! We know this is when The Holy Spirit comes into a person's life because Paul would later write...

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.

Romans 8:10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Thank You Jesus! Thank You God! Thank You Holy Spirit!! So you don't get saved and then at some point later receive the Holy Spirit. You get the Spirit when you get saved! The Third Person of The Holy Trinity, The Holy Spirit, brings us into fellowship with The Father and allows the Son, Jesus Christ to be present with us every moment of everyday! What a powerful thing to know and understand. When you begin to understand the truth of who The Holy Spirit is, your confidence level in life will go through the roof no matter what this old world throws at you! Your peace, your joy, your strength and so much more will skyrocket! So we know this: The Holy Spirit is a person and He is the very presence of God The Father and God The Son, living within us! We are the Temple of The Holy Spirit! Do you see how this fulfills the very desire and plan of God to have a personal relationship with us and to live in continual fellowship with us? In fact, listen to the way Paul ended his 2nd letter to the Corinthian church...

2 Corinthians 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

As I said, we are now the tabernacle, the temple of God, and the fact that The Holy Spirit of God Almighty lives within us, showcases the reason the veil in the temple was torn in half! We now have access to the Holy of Holies 24/7/365. When we understand who The Holy Spirit is and the fact that He is the very Presence and Person of God living in us, we realize we have access to the power to combat temptation, discouragement, despair, anger, hatred, jealousy, fear and the list goes on and on! We will get into the details of these things in the coming weeks, but I want you to know the reasons The Holy Spirit brings all of this to us! It's because of the characteristics of The Holy Spirit! He is a person, the Third Person of The Holy Trinity, and He is Divine, the very Spirit of God, and the third characteristic of The Holy Spirit is that...

The Holy Spirit has the Attributes of God

The Scriptures associate the Holy Spirit with the attributes of God and many times uses those attributes as titles for The Holy Spirit. When we are reminded of these attributes, once again our level of confidence in life soars. We are not talking about self-confidence here, we are talking about dependence upon God through His Precious Holy Spirit! You've heard me say it before, but a friend of mine in Nashville used to call it Godfidence! I like it! I want to use the last few

moments of our time today's time to highlight these amazing attributes because these attributes, or you might even call them super powers, supernatural powers, are due to the divine nature of The Holy Spirit! The fact that He has taken up residence in each and every follower of Jesus Christ, gives us privileged access to these things. Listen to these titles given to The Holy Spirit and the accompanying attributes. Paul tells us He is...

The Spirit of Holiness

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

Romans 1:2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

Romans 1:3 regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,

Romans 1:4 and who through *the Spirit of holiness* was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

There's a reason we call The Holy Spirit Holy! He is the Spirit of Holiness! And as we will see in the coming weeks, He seeks to make us Holy in a variety of ways! Paul goes on to say that The Holy Spirit is...

The Spirit of Life

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 8:2 because through Christ Jesus *the law of the Spirit who gives life* has set you free from the law of sin and death.

It's through Jesus that The Holy Spirit who gives life has set us free from the law of sin and death. This has so many applications to our daily lives. But you'll have to come back for that. Jesus listed a very important attribute of the Holy Spirit when He called Him...

The Spirit of Truth

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

John 14:17 *the Spirit of truth...*

Folks, truth has always mattered, but in our world today, wow, truth really matters. Thank God that The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth! And we could say "of course He is," because He is the Spirit of Jesus and Jesus said this...

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

And it is interesting that in the Old Testament book of Isaiah we have a prophecy concerning Jesus and in that prophecy we have six powerful attributes of The Holy Spirit listed.

The Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge and Fear of The Lord

Isaiah 11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— *the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—*

How powerful and needed are those attributes in our lives? We will be talking about those in detail in the coming weeks because they can and will transform our lives! Saint Peter tells us of another very special attribute of The Holy Spirit which is...

The Spirit of Glory

1 Peter 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, *for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

And the writer of Hebrews lets us know that The Holy Spirit is...

The Eternal Spirit

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through *the eternal Spirit* offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Do you want to serve the living God? The only way we can effectively do that is to know who The Holy Spirit is and to allow Him to have control of our lives. If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior then His Holy Spirit lives inside of us! Because of that, my joy in life, my purpose in life and my hope in life, do not depend on how smart I am, how strong I am, how confident I am, how wealthy I am, how resourceful I am or how well connected with the world I am! I'm connected with God Almighty through His Precious Holy Spirit and He lives inside me because I'm a child of God! And that means if I'm willing to let Him be in control of my life I can face anything, overcome anything, and accomplish anything God would want me to accomplish! I love the way Paul said it in his second letter to the Corinthian Church...

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Let's pray!