

Walking in the Spirit

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

Scripture gives many titles to the Spirit, both explicitly and implicitly. He is our comforter, advocate, and the one who regenerates our hearts and pours life into dust. Yet, there is one title that we pass over simply because of its familiarity: the Spirit is the Holy Spirit. He is holy in and of Himself, and Jesus sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in us in order that we might be holy. Long ago, the Lord commanded “be holy, for I am holy.” The Spirit of Jesus aids believers in their sanctification and their growth in the image of our holy Savior.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 6:1–7; Romans 3:21–31; 6:1–11; 7:14–25; 8:1–4, 9–14; 1 Corinthians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 5:16–24; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 2:12–13

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the importance of some of the titles that the Holy Spirit gives Himself in Scripture
2. To comprehend how the Spirit of God is given to us in order to create holiness
3. To see how the Spirit creates in us motives and desires to live righteous lives for Christ, with whom we are united by the Spirit

QUOTATION

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

—Romans 8:12-14

LECTURE OUTLINE

I. Titles of the Spirit

- A. Throughout the Bible, titles are given to express the work, purpose, and function of the individuals to which they are ascribed.
- B. The Spirit receives or merits various titles in Scripture.
 - i. He is a creator and a re-creator Spirit.
 - ii. Jesus refers to the Spirit as the divine Paraclete.
 - iii. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit, because He is in Himself holy.

II. The Role of the Holy Spirit in Creating Holiness in the Lives of Believers

- A. The Christian life is filled with a tension between holiness and sin (Rom. 7:14–25).
 - i. Christians still possess sin despite their regeneration.
 - ii. Yet, as sons and daughters of God, we have a union with Jesus and the indwelling of the Spirit, which demands holiness.
- B. Paul teaches in his letter to the Romans how Christians are able to put to death the deeds of the body through the Spirit.
 - i. The Spirit creates in believers a sense that they must put sin to death in their lives (Rom. 6:1–11).
 - ii. The Spirit makes the mortification of sin possible.
 - iii. The Spirit creates a sense in the believer that he or she is responsible for resisting the temptation to sin (Phil. 2:12–13).
 - iv. The Holy Spirit creates in us a desire to be like Christ.
- C. Paul also stresses that the Holy Spirit creates motives in us that make us want to live in a holy fashion (Rom. 8:1–4, 9–14).
 - i. The Holy Spirit shifts our attention from the short term to eternity, from the visible to the invisible.
 - ii. The Spirit points our eyes on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which makes sinning unthinkable.
 - iii. The Spirit gives us discernment and a sense of how we should behave.
 - iv. The Spirit illuminates our union with Jesus Christ, which makes any form of sinning or being joined to sin unfathomable. This reality demonstrates that when we sin, our sinless, Holy Savior is joined to uncleanness on account of our actions (1 Cor. 6:15).

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. *Veni Creator, Spiritus* means _____.
 - a. “Come Holy Spirit”
 - b. “Come, Holy Spirit, the Created”
 - c. “Come, Holy Spirit, Creator”
 - d. “Come, Holy Spirit, with Fire”

2. The Holy Spirit eradicates all sin in the heart of the believer at regeneration.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. It is possible, through the Spirit, to keep saying no to sin.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. The Spirit gives Christians a general discernment and sense of the place of things in the Christian life.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. The Spirit has united us to Jesus for _____ .
 - a. short, sporadic intervals of time
 - b. the time until His second coming
 - c. all eternity
 - d. the time until the death of our mortal flesh

BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean when say that the Spirit is the Holy Spirit? What impact does that have on us as Christians?

2. What does it mean to be sons of God (Romans 8:12–13)? How does this affect Christian conduct?

3. What are the four things, according to Dr. Ferguson’s analysis of Paul’s instruction to the Romans, that the Spirit creates in believers to help them put sin to death in their lives?

4. How does the Spirit create motives within us that make us want to live righteously and in a holy fashion?

5. Since the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ, what implications does this have for Christian living? How does Paul explore this idea in 1 Corinthians 6:15?