

THIS WEEK,, JOHN TALKS ABOUT A TOPIC THAT CAN BE,,,,,, A BIT CHALLENGING. **THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

IT'S A DIFFICULT,, AND CHALLENGING TOPIC,, BECAUSE WE CAN'T SEE OR TOUCH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

IN TODAY'S UNBELIEVING WORLD,, EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE ABLE TO SEE OR TOUCH EVERYTHING!

BUT,, WHEN IT COMES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT,, WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO SEE OR TOUCH IT,,

BECAUSE,, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO "**FEEL IT**" **THROUGH FAITH!** AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE IN THE

"**TRUTH**" THAT JESUS TOLD US,, WHEN HE SAID:

HE WOULD SEND ANOTHER,, A PARACLETE,, AN ADVOCATE IN HIS PLACE TO COMFORT US!

WHEN WE LOVE JESUS,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, WE'LL BELIEVE AND OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS.

WHEN WE DO THIS,, JESUS WON'T BE A BURDEN TO US,, BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT,, WILL INSPIRE US

TO GO OUT,, INTO THIS UNBELIEVING WORLD,, AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE,, EVEN WHEN THE WORLD REFUSES TO ACCEPT IT.

SO,, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD QUALIFY A PERSON AS A "**REAL CHRISTIAN?**" WHAT DAILY PRACTICES WOULD THEY HAVE TO OBSERVE? WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE TO KNOW?

WELL,, THERE'S A SINGLE BASIC THING,, THAT EVERY REAL CHRISTIAN MUST HAVE,, AND JESUS MENTIONED IT IN JOHN'S READING TODAY.

THE ANSWER IS: THE HOLY SPIRIT!

TODAY'S GOSPEL ISN'T LONG,, BUT IT'S POWERFUL!

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES: "**IF YOU LOVE ME,, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS AND I WILL ASK THE FATHER AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE,, TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS,, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH ,, WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT ACCEPT,, BECAUSE IT NEITHER SEES,, NOR KNOWS HIM.**

THAT STATEMENT WAS MADE TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO,,, AND IT'S TRUE TODAY,,, *FOR NONBELIEVERS!*
IN JESUS' FAREWELL TO HIS DISCIPLES,,, HE TOLD THEM,,, THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE CRUCIFIED AND NOW,,, HE'S TELLING THEM,,, THAT HE WILL NOT LEAVE THEM ALONE,,, BECAUSE HE WILL SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, TO GUIDE AND REMIND THEM,,, OF EVERYTHING; THAT HE SAID,,, TAUGHT AND DID. IN THAT SENSE,,, HE'LL BE WITH THEM,,, FOREVER.

THE DISCIPLES SAW THE RISEN CHRIST. THEY KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THEM.

WHAT JESUS MEANT IS: THAT HE WOULD LIVE ON,,, BECAUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD LIVE ON IN THE DISCIPLES,,, JUST LIKE THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES,,, IN ALL BELIEVERS,,, WHO DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS AND WHO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDMENTS.

BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS AND DOING JESUS' WORK IN OUR WORLD,,, THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JESUS WILL LIVE,,, IN ALL BELIEVERS,,, THAT'S US!

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE,,, IN OUR LIVES,,, IS THE SAME ROLE,,, THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD IN THE LIVES OF THE DISCIPLES.

THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, IS A HELPER,,, TEACHER,,, GUIDE AND ENCOURAGER. EVEN TODAY,,, HE CONTINUES TO DO JESUS' WORK. HE GIVES US GIFTS THAT ARE BASED ON THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST. IN RETURN,,, WE ARE TO WORK IN THE SPIRIT AND OBEY GOD!

TODAY'S GOSPEL,,, MARKS A CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN,,, BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS! UP UNTIL THIS POINT,,, JESUS HAS DEFINED THE WORLD AS SINFUL,,, UNBELIEVING,,, HUMANITY,,, THAT IS OPPOSED TO HIM. BUT NOW,,, THERE ARISES A LARGER DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WORLD AND BELIEVERS.

BOTH GROUPS ARE OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER.

A) THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS',,, HIS DEATH AND HIS RESURRECTION,,, ARE INSEPERABLE FROM JESUS,,, AND;

B) THOSE WHO DON'T,,, ARE SEPERATED FROM HIM,,, BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN!

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALLOWS US TO SEE AND KNOW JESUS,,, PERSONALLY,,, EVEN THOUGH ,, HE IS NO LONGER WITH US.

JESUS SAID:

“IN A LITTLE WHILE,,, THE WORLD WILL NO LONGER SEE ME,,, BUT YOU WILL SEE ME,,, BECAUSE I LIVE,,, AND YOU WILL LIVE. ON THAT DAY,,, YOU WILL REALIZE,,, THAT I AM IN MY FATHER AND YOU ARE IN ME,,, AND I IN YOU!”

WE'RE CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS,,, AND AS SUCH,,, WE BELIEVE IN A TRIUNE GOD,,, THE HOLY TRINITY.

THE FATHER,,, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, CAME INTO THE WORLD,,, JUST LIKE JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD,,, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS,,, THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT COULD NOT COME,,, UNTIL JESUS HAD COMPLETED HIS WORK OF SALVATION,,, ON THE CROSS.

JUST LIKE JESUS IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE FATHER,,, THE HOLY SPIRIT,,,

IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, GOD THE FATHER,,, GOD THE SON,,, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, *ARE THE SAME PERSON*,,, BUT,,, THEY ARE ALSO *THREE DIFFERENT PERSONS AT THE SAME TIME.*

THEY'RE LIKE THE THREE SIDES OF A TRIANGLE. THAT'S WHERE WE GET THE TERM “TRINITY”.

THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, WILL ALWAYS STAND BESIDE GOD'S PEOPLE AND HE'S REFERRED TO,,, AS THE “*SPIRIT OF TRUTH*” BECAUSE TRUTH,,, IS PART OF THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MISSION.

THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES TO GOD'S TRUTH AND HE BRINGS PEOPLE TO THE TRUTH,,, THROUGH *CONVICTION OF SIN*,,, WHICH LEADS TO REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRESENT,,, JESUS IS PRESENT AND WHEN JESUS IS PRESENT,,, THE FATHER IS PRESENT!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS JUST LIKE JESUS,,, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LEADERSHIP,,, IS INVISIBLE INSTEAD OF PHYSICAL,,, HE IS,,, THE EXACT PRESENCE OF BOTH JESUS AND THE FATHER.

HE PRODUCES THE LOVE WITHIN US,,, THAT WE NEED,,, TO DO GOD'S WORK. WHEN WE'RE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, HE TRANSFORMS US,,, AND HIS LOVE FLOWS FROM US,,, IF WE ALLOW HIM TO DO HIS WORK IN US.

THAT TRANSFORMATION,,, MAKES IT EASIER FOR US TO FOLLOW AND OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD,,, AND ALSO,,, FOR US,,, TO WITHSTAND LIFE'S PROBLEMS.

NO TEMPTATIONS OF THE EVIL ONE,,, WILL BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE TRUTH OF GOD'S LOVE,,, IF WE OPEN UP OUR HEARTS,,, AND INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LIVE IN US.

***MONEY WON'T MAKE US HAPPY*,,, OH YEAH,,, MAYBE FOR A WHILE,,, BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US,,, THAT HAPPINESS,,, CAN'T BE BOUGHT. JUST LOOK AT SOME OF THE WEALTHY ACTORS AND ACTRESSES,,, OR EVEN SOME OF THE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES WHO HAVE LOADS OF MONEY BUT ALSO,,, SCANDALS OVERDOSES'S,,, SUICIDES,,, AND SO MUCH MORE.**

***POWER AND CONTROL AREN'T IMPORTANT*,,, BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US,,, THAT TRUTH,,, KINDNESS AND LOVE,,, ARE MORE IMPORTANT! JUST LOOK AT WHAT SOME OF OUR POLITICIANS ARE GOING THROUGH!**

IT'S IMPORTANT,,, THAT WE AS BELIEVER'S,,, DO OUR BEST,,, TO FOLLOW JESUS' COMMANDMENTS AND TO OBSERVE THEM,,, AS ONE WHO LOVES JESUS.

BECAUSE AS JESUS SAID; ***“WHOEVER HAS MY COMMANDMENTS AND OBSERVES THEM,,, IS THE ONE WHO LOVES ME. AND WHOEVER LOVES ME,,, WILL BE LOVED BY MY FATHER,,, AND I WILL LOVE HIM AND REVEAL MYSELF TO HIM”.***

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US,,, IT SHOWS,,,

THAT,,, WE LOVE JESUS.

SO,,, WE NEED,,, OFTEN,,, TO ASK OURSELVES;

(*) WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF OUR LOVE FOR JESUS? AND,,,

(*) HOW DO WE RESPOND,,, TO GOD'S LOVE FOR US,,, BY LOVING OTHERS?

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, I BELIEVE THAT MOST OF US,,, WANT TO RECEIVE MORE OF GOD'S LOVE IN OUR LIVES,,, DON'T YOU? AND DON'T YOU ALSO FEEL,,, THAT YOU NEED,,, MORE OF HIS PRESENCE,,, IN YOUR LIFE?

WELL,,, TODAY'S GOSPEL,,, ENDS,,, WITH TWO SOLUTIONS,,, FOR YOUR HEARTS DESIRE.

THEY ARE:

FIRST) ***KEEP JESUS' COMMANDMENTS,,, BY LOVING THE LORD YOUR GOD,,, WITH ALL YOUR HEART,,, SOUL,,, AND STRENGTH. AND***

SECOND) ***LOVE JESUS!***

THESE TWO CONDITIONS,,, ARE SO INTERDEPENDENT THAT JESUS BINDS THEM TOGETHER,,, AS IF THEY ARE ONE.

BECAUSE WE LOVE JESUS,,, WE JOYFULLY OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS,,, BECAUSE,,, WE'VE BEEN FILLED WITH,,, AND GUIDED BY,,, THE THIRD PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY,,, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, ***WE KNOW THE TRUTH.***

**THE TRUTH IS,,, THAT: *JESUS,,, IS THE SON OF GOD,,,*
*THE SECOND PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY,,,***

HE IS; THE WAY,,, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE!

**BUT THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW,,, THE HOLY SPIRIT
YET,,, BECAUSE,,,**

THEY CAN'T,,, OR WON'T,,, ACCEPT JESUS' MESSAGE.

**BUT IF WE ALLOW GOD'S TRUTH AND LOVE,,, TO
SPEAK THROUGH US,,, THEN THE WORLD WILL COME
TO KNOW HIS LIFE-CHANGING,,, AND LIFE-SAVING
MESSAGE,,, THAT;**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT,,,, ALONG WITH THE FATHER,,, AND
THE SON,,, ARE ONE GOD!**

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,,, AND OF THE SON,,, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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