

## Be Grace, Be Love, Be Careful

Good morning church

What a wonderful morning that it is we are in the House of God and we are all together.

Did everybody miss each other this week?

I missed you.

I don't know about you but I really enjoy our time together. This church really is a family and the love here is a beautiful thing.

So why are we here today? To worship God, to learn about God, and to fellowship with our family.

So Let's start with something different,

Can I have all the teenagers up to 20 year olds raise your hand?

I have a question for you and I don't want you to answer it from your head I want you to answer it from your heart.

Sometimes some of us adults especially us older adults get set in our ways and forget how to have an open and fresh mind.

So I want to ask you this question,

Who is the Holy Spirit to you? And how do you know the Holy Spirit?

Thank you.

I think it's neat how we can still remember and learn from the youth, however it is just as important if not more important that you young people gain wisdom and insight from those of us who have experience and wisdom. ( that's a nice way of saying old fogies).

I can tell you this that there is not much that we like more than to share our experiences and knowledge with somebody that wants to learn and wants to listen. WE LOVE THAT. Amen from those of us that feel that way.

Let's get started, we're going to take a whole new look and an in-depth look at who the Holy Spirit is.

Do you think that we can fully cover this topic in the next 30 minutes?

Absolutely not. But we're going to give it a good try to at least get some of the basics and Some good foundational points.

Who brought their bibles today?

A lot of times we see the Holy Spirit as an extra or an add on, there's God the father and we know a lot about Him, and then there's Jesus and we know a lot about Him but then there is the Holy Spirit and we treat the Holy Spirit as though he is a derivative of God the father and Jesus Christ. But if we remember who do we baptize people in the name of? Somebody say it with me... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We all know that the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity but sometimes we treat Him as though he is the least of the Three or for that matter the least of the One.

So much as I asked the question of the teenagers, who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not a thing He is not an emotion He's not the goosebumps that we get when the worship's really good He's not some magical force that's floating around the the universe. **The Holy Spirit IS God, the Holy Spirit is Jesus.** But the Holy Spirit is also the HOLY SPIRIT, He is His own being. We see Him as separate but also the same as we see at Jesus' baptism.

Luke 3:22

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,

<sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased."

All the same, but all different

**Points to write in your notes, you now have a note page.**

He thinks. He speaks. He teaches us. He leads us. He has emotion. He convicts. He intercedes for us. And he glorifies Jesus Christ.

Because this is so important and I fully want you to understand the depth of what we are talking about, lets dive into scripture to show us each of these attributes. Understanding who the Holy Spirit is helps us to have a deeper more meaningful walk with God.

In Acts 5:3-4 Peter shows that the Holy Spirit is God.

<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back *some* of the proceeds of the land?

<sup>4</sup> While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why *is it* that you have conceived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men, but to God.**”

In John 14:16-18 Jesus shows that the Holy Spirit is a person in God

<sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and **He** will give you another **Helper**, so that **He** may be with you forever;

<sup>17</sup> *the **Helper is the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see **Him** or know **Him**; but you know **Him** because **He** remains with you and will be in you.*

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

Paul writes in Romans 8:26-27 to show us that the Holy Spirit has a mind and intercedes for us with God.

<sup>26</sup> Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

<sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

**Intercede (Huperentugchano) hoop-er-en-toong-khan-o**, to intercede above, beyond, or on behalf of someone with deep personal investment

The Holy Spirit has emotions,

Ephesians 4:30

<sup>30</sup> Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**Grieve (lupeo) loo-peh-o**, means sever sorrow, deep emotional hurt, a deep wound between people who love each other similar to a betrayal or heart break.

How do we grieve the Holy Spirit? We make the choice to.

Jesus shows us that He teaches us in **John 14:26**

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.

The Holy Spirit knows the depth of God

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:10-12

<sup>10</sup>For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

<sup>11</sup>For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup>Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

We could spend an entire sermon just on these verses but we can't right now so this is your **homework**...study and dig into the meaning of these verses find the Greek roots and have fun.

And we are blessed that as believers that He lives inside us. The same Holy Spirit that hovered Over the surface of the waters in genesis 1 is the same spirit that lives inside you if you have accepted that gift.

In the Old Testament we were under the what? We were under the law, the old covenant

God is still the same, Jesus is still the same, and the Holy Spirit is still the same, but things were different. Jesus and the new covenant that he made with us changed everything.

What did the Holy Spirit do in the Old Testament?

Did He live inside of believers? NO

He came Upon believers, it was much different. As Patrick talked last week about how hard people's hearts were in the days of Noah and we can see the same type of behavior with how people's hearts were in Sodom and Gomorrah and throughout the Old Testament for that matter it brings the question as to how much different was the world without the Holy Spirit living inside believers.

The world is pretty rough right now that is a fact, but I absolutely, undoubtedly, without hesitation would say that without the Holy Spirit indwelling believers this world would be a much darker, desolate, and overall horrible place to be.

I think that sometimes we see the Holy Spirit as a very gentle and soft spoken person of God, and He is. He knocks on the door of our heart softly. He leads us gently. He guides us tenderly. He gives us amazing gifts as we see in Galatians 5:22-23 Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control

But the power of the Holy Spirit is awesome. In some ways I don't like that word awesome because it takes away from it being awesome but the power of the Holy Spirit is unlike anything that we could ever understand and we will stand in awe as many others have before us.

We see some amazing examples of this power in the Old Testament.

In Judges 14:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion *came* roaring toward him. <sup>6</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, so that he tore it apart as one tears apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

Or in King David's life and rule...

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:13

<sup>13</sup>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

Or when He empowered Gideon to lead

<sup>34</sup>So the Spirit of the Lord covered Gideon like clothing; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

The spirit comes upon Samson... and gives him supernatural strength

The spirit comes upon Gideon... And gives leadership

The spirit comes upon Othniel... and gives him deliverance

The spirit comes upon Saul... And gives prophecy and empowerment

The spirit comes upon David... And empowers him to rule

The spirit rested upon the 70 elders... And gave prophecy

The spirit comes upon prophets... And gives God's message to them.

The Holy Spirit is powerful, and as I mentioned before God does not change, Jesus does not change, and the Holy Spirit does not change.

So my question to you is, is the Holy Spirit still powerful, still awesome, and yet still gentle? YES

But then everything changed with Jesus.

God the father prophesied the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in [Ezekiel 36:26-27](#)

<sup>26</sup>Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and are careful and follow My ordinances.

Jesus told His disciples of the amazing miracle that was about to happen in  
John 14:16-17

<sup>16</sup>I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup>*the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.*

And then Jesus' promise is fulfilled at Jesus' ascension.

John 16:5-8

<sup>5</sup>“But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, grief has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup>But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup>And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment:

You might be like wow Sam you are overwhelming us with scripture right now, but here is my point. The Bible tells us more and in a much better way than I ever could. At this church we teach and preach the truth and what is the truth?

God's word!

I'm painting you a picture, we now know basically who the Holy Spirit is, what the Holy Spirit does, what it was like without Him, How powerful He is, and now why He is so important and dear.

Jesus didn't leave us as orphans

He left us with a helper who is in us FOREVER

A helper that helps us when we are broken and feel helpless,

He intercedes for us in our weakness

He seals us as God's own [Ephesians 1:13](#)

He points us to the truth, toward Jesus

He strengthens us

He assures us that we are God's children

[Romans 8:14-16](#)

**<sup>14</sup>For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons *and daughters* of God. <sup>15</sup>For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons *and daughters* by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,**

**Now** that we have all of that down and locked in our memory, hold onto that as we go back to our text in Matthew. You all thought we were getting by with a topical sermon today didn't you? So let's turn to Matthew 12 and I actually want to hear Bible pages please.

## Matthew 12:22-24

<sup>22</sup>Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and unable to speak was brought to Jesus, and He healed him so that the man who was unable to speak talked and could see. <sup>23</sup>And all the crowds were amazed and were saying, “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?” <sup>24</sup>But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.” <sup>22</sup>Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and unable to speak was brought to Jesus, and He healed him so that the man who was unable to speak talked and could see. <sup>23</sup>And all the crowds were amazed and were saying, “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?” <sup>24</sup>But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”

Where’s the problem? Do you remember when we had the sermon a few weeks back when we talked about the cities that Jesus was rebuking do you remember why he rebuked them?

He rebuked them because they were hard hearted toward Jesus and those cities were where he did a lot of His healing and preaching.

We talked a lot about believers that may know the scripture inside and out, but act the opposite of what Jesus tells them to be.

Let's reread verse 24

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, this man casts out demons only by beelzebul the ruler of the demons.

Here's the problem, they should know better.

They call themselves men of God and teachers of his word, but yet, see right in front of their face the Messiah and call him Satan.

### Matthew 12:25-29

<sup>25</sup> And knowing their thoughts, *Jesus* said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and no city or house divided against itself will stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan is casting out Satan, he has become divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> And if by Beelzebul I cast out the demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if I cast out the demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup> Or, how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first ties up the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.

Jesus is more or less saying think about what you're saying why would Satan destroy his own work, why would evil fight evil?

He's nicely saying You guys are idiots,

Asked my wife if I could say other choice words for idiots and she told me no! I wasn't thinking of anything to vulgar, Just another way to say not so smart donkeys.

Sometimes she's just no fun.

Lets look at verses 30-32

<sup>30</sup>The one who is not with Me is against Me; and the one who does not gather with Me scatters.

<sup>31</sup>“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup>And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

The Spirit of God healed the demon possessed man. And the Pharisees made fun of it. And not only that but the sin of all they compared the Holy Spirit to beelzebul.

Now the reason we went over who is the Holy Spirit is it's because we need to understand what it is to blasphemy the Holy Spirit.

I know a lot of believers worry and stress if they ever have or if they ever will commit the unpardonable sin.

And why when Jesus says that you can pretty much do any other sin and it will be forgiven why is it so important and unforgivable that you don't blasphemy the Holy Spirit?

So what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

Blasphemy is a conscious hardened rejection and malicious ridiculing of the holy spirit's testimony and work through Christ.

It's becoming so hard towards God and the spirit's testimony concerning Christ and continually saying NO. Not by accident, not because you are going through a time of doubt or faithlessness, and not if you truly have the Holy Spirit residing inside of you.

The spirit was testifying, this is the Messiah.

The pharisee said no this is Satan

So does that mean that we have found something that is not covered by God's grace or that we found something that Jesus blood isn't powerful enough to be able to forgive?

My answer is yes and no.

Once you have accepted Jesus in your heart and you believe with all of your mind, heart, and soul it is not possible for you to commit this sin.

As a believer I can say God, I don't understand.

I can say God I'm having a hard time believing this.

I can even say God I choose myself right now and I don't want you right now.

But the one thing that I can't say as a true believer is

I reject Christ and that he died on the cross and rose again to save me from my sins.

But pastor Sam what if I committed the unpardonable sin before I was a Christian?

You might say before I was a Christian I hated everything about Christianity

I spoke badly about God

I spoke badly about the Holy Spirit

I thought the whole idea of Christianity was absurd.

The answer is still no you are safe.

And here's the proof. Paul said in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:12-14

<sup>12</sup>I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was previously a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.

Paul actually said that he was a blasphemer, Paul persecuted Christians, and Paul rejected Christ.

And what did Jesus do? Saved him, forgave him.

And further more Jesus says in

John 10:27-30

<sup>27</sup>My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup>and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one."

So when does the unforgivable sin become an issue?

When you reject the Spirit, reject Jesus, reject God for your whole life, and then you die in that rejection.

Jesus made it very clear in [John 3:15-18](#)

<sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup>The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

I know that we just had an altar call a few weeks ago, but we're going to do it again.

I hope you see how very important it is and how much it means to accept Jesus into your hearts.

If you want the Holy Spirit to live inside you, if you want him to guide and intercede on your behalf, if you want to live as a child of God then this is not a maybe this is a must.

Jesus gave his life for you and he rose again on the third day to save you from your sins.

But now it's your turn to give Him something back, your heart, your sins, and your life.

All you have to do is accept the free gift of eternal life by accepting Jesus and confessing your sins to Him. He will wash them all away and make you clean.

If your not sure that you ever accepted Him with your Heart, Spirit, and Soul,  
Now is the time.

Don't wait until it's to late, Do this right here and right now.

Prayer team all around the church

Please go to them

If you made this decision don't be alone. We as a church are here for you, let us rejoice with you. You just made the most important decision of your life and we want to walk beside you.

Pray

communion