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The Holy Spirit Reveals Jesus

The Spirit is just assumed as a subject that we all understand, we all know, or sometimes it's just not spoken of at all. I don't know how in any church that wants to preach the Word of God and help people to understand salvation and especially how to live the Christian life that you cannot say much about the Holy Spirit, God's instrument for equipping us, enabling us, directing us, teaching us as we go through our daily lives as Christians.

So what is it that the Holy Spirit really does for us after we've received Christ? Well, I guess I would put it in this one idea that the Holy Spirit makes Christ real for us. You could say it makes Christ known for us, but it's that he really makes Jesus and all that Jesus supplies to be our experience.

First, of course, we put our faith in Christ, become children of God, and when we do that we undergo what the Bible calls a spiritual rebirth. And we're even told that the spiritual rebirth, or being born again when we put our faith in Christ, that even is accomplished by the Spirit of God. In other words, he, the Spirit of God, takes what Jesus provides in his redemption of us, his shedding of his blood on the cross, he takes the benefits of that and he makes it ours. He applies it to us.

Now it's not just a recording in a book somewhere, it's not just an official recognition. God tells us that actually what we undergo is a recreation. In other words, we become new creatures, new creations. There is an actual event of a spiritual nature called recreation. In other words, we are given a new spirit, something we did not have before. We are given a spirit that is righteous, we're given a spirit that is alive, we're given a new self, a new identity. That recreation, only God can create. He's the only one that could create the natural world or the universe, but he's also the one who has created life. Life. Man doesn't understand how life begins, thinks he does, but he doesn't. It's a great mystery to man. But it is a created thing, this thing of life. And so God has given us natural life.

But you see, there is another kind of life that is a creation from God, and that's new life in Christ. That's spiritual life. And that also has to be created. It's not something that can just happen by, well, some people think that life happens because two cells come together, you know, and then automatically you have kind of a physical mechanism there to make life happen. Well, that's only possible because God has designed the natural creation to propagate itself that

way. But really, the human spirit does not come about simply because two cells come together. We are a human being with a spirit. There's no functional device, there's no tangible coming together of anything that could ever make a human spirit. You are who you are because God has made you as an individual. You are, first of all, a spiritual creation from God. The natural side, of course, is taken care of by God's design in the human body. But your spiritual reality is a direct empowering and a direct act of God.

However, that doesn't bring you to heaven. That doesn't ensure that you're going to get there. Because in our natures, even though spiritual beings, we have, in Adam, we've all died. As you know, Adam sinned, and so all those that came in by way of Adam's body are all of Adam's line, and there we are, God says, spiritually fallen. We're all sinners like him. He is our spiritual father, and his spirit was fallen. He turned away from the counsels of God, he went his own way, and therefore he can't give to us anything more than he had. He can't give us a perfect spirit if he himself had lost that standing before God. We are of Adam in our natural selves and in our spiritual beings. Therefore, even though we are spiritual beings according to Adam's race, we still can't receive any more than he is able to give.

But when God recreates us, he takes that same spirit that is us, and he recreates us as a new being in Christ. Yes, it's true that our old self is still there, but that's because God never denies our humanity. He never causes it to vanish away. He never takes away from us, let's get down to the practical side of this, he never takes away from us our will. He never takes away from us our capacity to make decisions on our own. He never takes that away from us. If he did that, then of course we could say, "Well, we can only do righteousness." Because God, if he took away from us the capacity to choose to sin, and if he was in charge, he would never choose to sin, and therefore we would always do righteousness. But he doesn't take that away from us. We continue to have what the Apostle Paul calls an old nature, old self. So when you receive Jesus as your Savior, your old self has not been destroyed, it's not been eradicated, you haven't lost the capacity to choose to do things that you have no business doing.

If there's any Christian that thinks that they can't sin, they're deceived. Any Christian that thinks, "Well, I've received Jesus, so I'll never lie again, I'll never have a bad thought again, I'll never look at a person with the wrong thoughts, or be crossed with somebody out of line, I'll never do anything that's wrong," well, such a person would be terribly deceived. In fact, he would be in danger. It would be kind of like thinking that because you wanted to be so, that

a bridge that you were going to walk across was truly a wonderful, strong, stout bridge, even though in fact it was made out of toothpicks. All of your thoughts about it, and all your intentions about it, aren't going to change what it is. Made out of toothpicks, you're not going to get across it. Well, it's the same way about the human spirit. Your human spirit is what it is, because you're of Adam's race, and if you don't have a new creation from God, if you don't have a real spirit that's been made alive in him, you're in danger. You're in danger before God. Only by God's recreation can we say that we know we have a relationship with him. The Holy Spirit is the one that makes that happen, but more than that, he has quite a series of responsibilities for our sake. I'm going to take you to some scriptures to show you some things.

Galatians 4:4-7

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Let's go to Galatians chapter 4, and here in chapter 4 of Galatians, I want to show you first our example in the Lord Jesus. He is that for us. At verses 4 and 5, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Now, being under the law meant that people were condemned. Why? Because the law could not save anybody. Because the law was just a statement about how righteous you needed to be. It wasn't a way to tell you how to get righteous by doing the things that's told you would be the way that somebody who was truly righteous would live. Even if you tried to live that way, which of course is God's will, it's God's design, you couldn't become righteous.

In other words, God says don't lie. Well, if you didn't lie again for the rest of your life after you read that, that still would not make you righteous. Well, don't kill. Well, I would have to say that most people end their life without being murderers, but that doesn't make them righteous. Don't steal. Well, just because you don't steal after you, from the moment you read that, to the end of your life doesn't mean that you're going to be righteous. No, the law tells you what righteousness is. It tells you what you would have to do if you were righteous. It

does not tell you how to become righteous. Certainly doesn't give you a recipe for doing things to make you righteous. Not at all.

So you have to have this wonderful truth. You have to be redeemed from under the law. Redeemed means bought back. It's a price that had to be paid to free you from the penalty that the law said you're guilty of. The law says, look, here's righteousness and you haven't kept it. You're gonna have to be judged. Oh dear. What can I do? Well, you're gonna have to have something come along, some means come along, to answer the debt that you are shown to have before God because you haven't kept the law. Nobody can't keep the law. Everybody does have the debt. Everybody is a sinner. So everybody needs to be redeemed. Everybody needs the price to be paid so that they're not indebted to the law and to God before the law or by the law. Jesus came to do that. It's what this verse says. "He sent forth his son born of a woman born under the law to redeem those who were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Well, being a son means that God had being adopted as sons means that God had a great plan. His plan was to take these human beings that were guilty by any standard of righteousness he could give to the world, to measure them by any standard of righteousness, and he used the law as his standard of righteousness that he held out before them. If these human beings, measured by that standard of righteousness and found guilty, his great plan was, I have to provide a way for them to become righteous. Yes, I have to provide a way for them to be able to stand in my presence and not be guilty of sin. But more than that, his great plan didn't stop there. God was not just pleased with providing a Savior to take away sin. That is a most wonderful truth and we look to the cross, we look to our Savior for what that means, but in the heart of God he had far, far more in mind for us that his heart wanted to give us. And it's all caught up in this little idea of being adopted as sons. You see, he not only wanted to cleanse us from our sin, he wanted to bring us into his family.

He wanted to give us a standing in his family that would make us heirs of his. Those to inherit everything that was his. Now the Son is the one through whom we get into the family. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, he literally is the one through whom we come into the family. We come into the family of God through the Son, not through the Father, not through the Spirit. As the instrument for salvation, there is the Son and only the Son. His thought was, God's intention was, I'm going to bring them up to the status of adopted sons, adopted children.

Now that's a very technical idea in the language that it was written in and that meant I'm going to put them in my family, not as little babies, to gradually inherit things as time goes along. Maybe after a few trillion years I'll give them a little more, a little more, a little more, and someday way, way out in the far, far distant future they'll finally have all that I would like to give them. No, no. To be an adopted son means you are instantly promoted into the place of full heirship, full heirship, full standing before God, full adult standing. If God says no, you are immediately, immediately entitled to all that I have for you. And it's called the riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We have no idea what that means in its fullness. God has in fact told us, don't worry about it. You don't have a brain that could understand it. You can't even imagine it. It's so far beyond you I'm not even gonna tell you about it, but I have provided it. I'm gonna make you my adopted child in full standing in my family.

See, God had a wonderful plan in mind and has made it come to pass in his son, the Lord Jesus, coming to the earth. So he had this high purpose and he says in verse 6, "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the spirit of his son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father.'" Okay, when you receive Jesus, this purpose of God to make you part of his family is instantaneously worked out, made to be. And because you are now in God's family in that instant, he sends the Holy Spirit into you to live in you and to work in you. Nobody that has received Jesus as their Savior is without the Holy Spirit. You cannot say, I have Christ as my Savior, but I don't have the Holy Spirit. Can't say that. Of course you could be deceived and say it, I guess, but it's not a fact. Fact is that because you are sons, God has sent forth his spirit to dwell in you. And it says here, He will make you able to cry out, "Abba, Father."

Well, that recognition of God as your Father, it's instantaneous, it doesn't get worked up, it isn't because you're religious, it isn't because you read the scriptures, it isn't because you come to church, it's a work that happens instantly in you when you receive Jesus and the Holy Spirit makes you able to recognize, from that instant, recognize that God is your Father. It's a wonderful recognition. It happens in our inner self, it happens in our spirit when we recognize that God is our Father. We're part of the family.

It means we're not some special God-like being separated from God. You know, there are cults that teach that kind of thing. There are a lot of Eastern religions that teach that, you know, man becomes a god. But there's also something here that we see native in the United States called Mormonism, teaches that kind of thing. It's not true. You are not, by your salvation, created to be some special spiritual being, a God that's separated from the God of

creation. You're in his image, yes, and spiritually you're alive in him, but listen, you're brought into his family. You're not a separate being off on your own, having your own glory. You have no glory except what you have in your Savior. You have no existence, no power, no strength. You have nothing apart from your Savior, the Lord Jesus.

Your identity is, in fact, with God and being part of his family. That's your very hope for dealing with life from day to day, is that you have God as your Savior and the Holy Spirit as your indwelling presence from God that makes God real to you, makes God's counsels real for you, gives you God's strength, guidance, the one to work in you and make you Christ-like. He relates God to you. Everything comes to us through the Son, that's true, but it's by the work of the Holy Spirit. We're given Sonship. We're given the Spirit of his Son.

You know, when we read that, when verse 7, "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir of God through Christ." But you see in verse 6, that little phrase, "the Spirit of his Son." Some people have tried to teach, and wrongly so. There's so many cultish teachings and wrong teachings. There are those that teach and claim to be even evangelical who teach that the Spirit is not really a separate person in the Godhead. The Spirit is really the Spirit of Christ. And there is that phrase used a couple of times. I'm trying to show you one here. It's also used in Romans chapter 8.¹ What does it mean, Spirit of Christ? Well, you have to kind of take two truths and bring them together in your mind. I know that when you learn these things initially, they seem to be contradictory, but they're not.

God sends the Helper

Let me tell you. To say there is a Trinity, to say there are three persons, Father, Son, and Spirit, and then to read the Gospel of John and find that the Father and the Son come themselves to live in you. They come to live in you. I know when you think of the Father and the Son, you see the Father in heaven glorified on the throne. You see the Son at the right hand of the Father, which is true, but God is omnipresent. And God says that when you receive the Son, the Father and the Son come to dwell in you, to stay in you, to be in you. And yet, he tells us that he also has sent to us one called the Helper,² the Paraclete from the Greek, means one called alongside to help. Para means alongside. The Paracletos. He's come alongside to help. He's the Helper, sometimes called the Comforter. He's there to bring to us all that we need to deal with our daily life.

¹ Romans 8:9

² Jn. 14:16

And this one is separate from the Son and separate from the Father, yet he comes to live in us. Yes, the Father and the Son in their Spirit is in us, are in us. But the Spirit of God is also in us. And so why would we have to learn about the Spirit of Christ? Well, the Spirit of Christ, here's the Spirit of his Son, is the way it said in verse 6. It really is in reference to the fact that it is the Holy Spirit that makes his Son to be real in us, to be formed in us, to make us like Christ. It's not trying to tell us just the truth about the Son as a spiritual being and that he lives in us, which is true, but this truth that there is a third person, the Holy Spirit, that makes the Son to be real for us. The Spirit of Christ is the one that makes Christ to be real for us. He comes to us when we receive him.

You know, Ephesians chapter 1 tells us about that moment when we receive Christ. You go there with me if you will to **Ephesians 1**. Look at verse 12, 13.

12that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Let me read 13. "In him," speaking of Christ, "you also trusted after you heard the word of truth." That's the importance of the Word of God, you see. You need to hear the declaration of God about something, and the most important something is about his Son and the way of salvation. So you heard the word of truth about Christ, the gospel of your salvation, "in whom also having believed," that's the next step, "having heard it," you now would have to believe in Christ, "you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." So in one instant you believe in Christ, that's putting your faith in him, and in that moment of belief God has the Holy Spirit seal you or put a seal upon you that makes you his. And actually it really, by the Greek language, means that the Holy Spirit is the seal. He doesn't stick something else on you to seal you and identify you as God's. He himself comes and becomes the seal and he becomes the absolute assurance that you belong to God. In fact he calls it a guarantee because it says here, verse 14, "who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession to the praise of his glory."

How long is he going to be our guarantee that we have an inheritance coming in heaven? Well, from the instant that you receive Jesus, he stays with you and he stays in you and is your seal and your guarantee that you belong to God and you will receive your inheritance as a child of God. You cannot be

cheated, there's no way for it to be taken away from you. God himself in the person of the Spirit is your guarantee of that and he will continue to be your guarantee until the moment when Jesus comes for you. See, you don't need a guarantee anymore. When he comes and takes you to glory, you're there. You don't need a guarantee that it's going to come, you're there, you have it. But the Holy Spirit is your guarantee until that moment when Jesus comes and takes you.

Because when he takes you it's all going to happen in a split second. First Corinthians 15 says you're going to just be transported from this life into eternity and the guarantee will be fulfilled because you will be in the presence of God. You will be immediately there to enjoy all the inheritance that he has for you, whatever that may be beyond anything in our mind can ever imagine. The Holy Spirit will do that for you and he is faithful to do it and will do it until Jesus comes and claims you for himself. He's our guarantee.

See, the Holy Spirit was promised by the Lord Jesus. You have to go back to **John chapter 14, 15, 16**, especially go back to chapter 15 of John and just be reminded of this at verse 26. This is what the Lord Jesus said, "But when the helper," that's the (ὁ παράκλητος) paracletus, "whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth," that's his name, call him Holy Spirit or Spirit of truth, "who proceeds from the Father," you see, the Father sends him forth to do this work, "he will testify of me." That is what he does. He makes Christ known. He has never given the job of making the Holy Spirit known in all of his glory and having you just constantly aware that you have to praise the Holy Spirit because of what he's doing. Well, that's proper. It's okay to do that, but his job is to make Christ known. It's because he makes Christ known that you can thank God for the Spirit. His job is not to focus on himself but on the Son.

And down here you go past chapter 14 and you go into chapter 15, go to verse 26. I want to go into chapter 16 at verse 7. He says this to them, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you, but if I depart, I will send him to you." That's the promise of the Lord Jesus. Now the Lord Jesus is not a liar. God cannot lie. He promised that if he goes away, he would send the Holy Spirit.

Now, you only have to ask yourself, did Jesus leave the earth or is he still here? In his body, in his physical body. He left. And if he left, he said, "I will send the Spirit of the Helper. I will send him." You have to say, "Well, I know he left and I know he's not a liar, so I know he sent the Holy Spirit." Of course, we have to think about that as his special enablement of those who trusted in him that he brought about through the Spirit at what we know as Pentecost.

In Acts chapter 2, well, he promised that he would send the Helper and he did send the Helper to do this special work in us. He would bring a lot of works to us. He would convict us of sin and righteousness and judgment. And then when you go down at verse 16:12, he says, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the Spirit of Truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak of his own on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak." Do you know that's exactly how it was with the Son? Every word that you read in the Gospels, or later there's a few statements of the Lord in Acts and Hebrews too, and certainly in the book of Revelation, anything you read that says, "Well, Jesus said this or that," do you understand that he did not speak those words of his own choosing, his own volition? In other words, they didn't originate with him, that he spoke what the Father told him he should speak. That's how completely surrendered his will was to do what was necessary according to the will of God for our salvation. But here we learn the same thing about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not bring anything to us that is originating in himself. Everything he brings to us originates in the Father. He only speaks what he hears. Only speaks what he hears.

It's a beautiful illustration of the oneness of God in the Trinity, the unity of the Godhead. There is no jealousy, there is no separation between them. The Spirit of God brings to us, just as perfectly as Jesus did, what it is that the Father would have us have. And so he is the one that teaches us all truth. He doesn't speak on his own authority, he speaks what he hears, and he'll tell you things to come. And he says he will glorify me, not himself, but me, Christ. He will take of what is mine and declare it to you. He doesn't take from what is his, he takes from what is Jesus, what Jesus got from the Father. What is it that is Jesus? Well, the next verse says "all things that the Father has are mine. Therefore I said that he will take of mine and declare it to you." Okay, what does Jesus have? Jesus has everything that is the Father's. You see, the Father doesn't have something that Jesus doesn't have. And the Holy Spirit takes what Jesus has and gives it to us. What does he give us? Everything the Father has, Jesus has. He takes it, gives it to us. He does not hold back anything. He is the vehicle, he is the vessel, he is the channel for us to have what God wants us to have. And all that is available in God comes to us through the Spirit of God. Comes really through our Savior and then through the Spirit of God and his work. It's all there for us.

And it was very hard for the disciples to see Jesus. Well, first of all to hear him say that he was going. I can't imagine after three years of being with him and having him there as their example every day, to know how to talk to people,

to know how to act, to know how to deal with people's hatred, their wrong statements about him, to know how to deal with people that came with selfish motives and ideas and pride and all the rest. They were there for three years watching their Savior, living with him, eating every meal with him, you know, sleeping together. It was just a wonderful, constant communion, fellowship and learning time. And then for him to say, "I'm leaving. You're not gonna see me anymore. I'm going." It's just as though the floor dropped out from under them. They really, for a moment, they felt like they were just totally abandoned. Just totally abandoned.

I remember a little lady that came to our front door one day and she rang the doorbell and I went to the door. As I opened the door, she just fell against me and she was sobbing. She was sobbing. It wasn't, it wasn't the kind of crying that you would have from hurting yourself. It wasn't the kind of crying that you'd have from a child. It was just that deep sobbing of, that, I think she was beyond tears. I don't know if she had any tears left. She could hardly talk. And I said, "What's wrong? What's wrong?" And what had happened was that just minutes before that, she had her husband tell her that he was leaving her. He'd found somebody else that he loved. And she was just devastated. Devastated. Didn't see it coming, didn't dream of it, couldn't imagine it, and then suddenly it was there. Her world fell apart. That's how it must have been with the disciples.

Jesus says, "I'm leaving. I'm leaving." Then he says, "Don't worry. I won't leave you like orphans. I won't leave you alone. I'm gonna send somebody to live in you, to teach you the way I would teach you, to guide you the way I would guide you. But he'll be with you all the time. He'll be very close. In fact, he will live in you. And all through the day, when you need to talk to me, I'll be there. He'll make you to know that I'm there. He'll show you what I would say to you from God's Word. He'll move on your spirit to try to help you see that you need to agree with God's counsels and go by the counsel and guidance that I give you in his Word, in my Word. I want you to not be upset. I want you to know that I'm going to take care of you this way. And it's better for you that I do it that way than I just stay here in my body. It'll be better for you to have the Spirit of God come and live in you than for me to be outside of you leading along the way. It's a better provision.

I know a lot of times we say, "Boy, I wish I could have been there in those years when Jesus was on the earth." Oh, how wonderful it would be just to sit down at his feet and hear him teach and walk with him in the way. No, listen. He has something better for you. It was his opinion, it was the Father's opinion, that this is better for you to have the Holy Spirit living in you, able to teach you and

guide you and show you what is right and help you walk in a way that pleases the Father, help you know instantly that you belong to God. He's your Father. You're in the family. Look to the day when he comes back for you. Deal with every day's problems by the guidance and counsel that he gives you. Deal with your problems by casting them on him, looking to him, thinking his thoughts. The Holy Spirit is your gift from the Savior. And it's God's gift for every child of his until Jesus comes to take us home.

Thank you so much, Lord, for the provision that you have made for us. There isn't that one of us here that doesn't have problems this morning. It doesn't need guidance. It doesn't need questions answered, Lord. We thank you that you have given us the Holy Spirit to teach us what you say in your Word, to give us counsel, to prompt us in our spirits to obey you, to walk in your counsel, and to give us the power, the strength that we need to face all the hurts and pains of this life. Thank you for the Holy Spirit of God, Lord Jesus. Help us come to your Word that he might teach us more, and treasure up your Word, and obey your Word that you might work out in us what you say is your will, and you say is better for us. In Jesus' name, amen.