

The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

Session #3

All page numbers refer to J.I. Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1984)



“Christianity in North America is 3,000 miles wide and half an inch deep.” (10)



RECAP:

“...the Spirit makes known the personal presence...of the risen, reigning Saviour...” (47 cf. 55)

What is the result of this view according to Packer? (p. 67)

“...the gospels were written for folk who already knew much of the doctrine of the epistles, so the epistles were for folk who already knew many of the stories of the gospels...” (p. 67)

THE SPIRIT AND CHRISTIANS (66–76)

1. New Birth (John 3:3–8 cf. Ezek. 36:25–27)

- Overly subjective views focusing on the individual rather than the Christ who saves leads to:
 - Expectation of emotion experience
 - Evangelistic presentations emphasize egocentric questions not the Christ who saves

What is Packer’s remedy to correcting this? (pp. 70–71)

2. Knowing and Loving God

- Common ground among believers on receiving, sealing, indwelling, and sanctifying of the Spirit (pp. 71–72)
- Experiential aspects not so agreed upon. Why?
 - Prejudice against experiential side of Christianity (pp. 73–74)
 - Modern life (pp. 74–76)

John Owen on How to Know When God Speaks

Of the Mortification of Sin, chapter 13

“...how shall we know *when he speaks?*”

(1.) I would we could all practically come up to this, to receive peace when we are convinced that God speaks it, and that it is our duty to receive it. But, —

(2.) There is, if I may so say, a secret instinct in faith, whereby it knows the voice of Christ when he speaks indeed; as the babe leaped in the womb when the blessed Virgin came to Elisabeth, faith leaps in the heart when Christ indeed draws nigh to it. “My sheep,” says Christ, “know my voice,” John x. 4; — “They know my voice; they are used to the sound of it;” and they know when his lips are opened to them and are full of grace. The spouse was in a sad condition, Cant. v. 2,— asleep in security; but yet as soon as Christ speaks, she cries, “It is the voice of my beloved that speaks!” She knew his voice, and was so acquainted with communion with him, that instantly she discovers him; and so will you also. If you exercise yourselves to acquaintance and communion with him, you will easily discern between his voice and the voice of a stranger. And take this κριτήριον with you: When he doth speak, he speaks as never man spake; he speaks with power, and one way or other will make your “hearts burn within you,” as he did to the disciples, Luke xxiv. He doth it by “putting in his hand at the hole of the door,” Cant. v. 4,— his Spirit into your hearts to seize on you.

He that hath his senses exercised to discern good or evil, being increased in judgment and experience by a constant observation of the ways of Christ’s intercourse, the manner of the operations of the Spirit, and the effects it usually produceth, is the best judge for himself in this case.

Secondly, If the word of the Lord doth good to your souls, he speaks it; if it humble, if it cleanse, and be useful to those ends for which promises are given,— namely, to endear, to cleanse, to melt and bind to obedience, to self-emptiness, etc.

What’s your response to this?

THE ANOINTING, THE WITNESS, AND THE EARNEST (76–80)

- The Anointing
- The Witness[ing One]
 - “...apart from this God-given certainty concerning the Christ...and this God-taught habit of abiding in him by faith and love and obedience and adoration, there is no authentic Christian living and no genuine sanctification...” (p. 77)
 - His way of witnessing to the truth that we’re sons of God (Rom. 8:15–17)
 - To make us realize... (p. 77)
 - To make us see... (p. 77)

- The Earnest (p. 79)
 - Praying in the Spirit (pp. 79–80)
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)

How is this different from what you've heard?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS (81–85)

1. What is a spiritual gift? (pp. 82–83)
2. Use of spiritual gifts (pp. 83–85)
 - Gifts of words
 - Gifts of deeds
3. The blessing of gifts

The Charismatic/Pentecostal movement claims God has renewed among them the so-called “sign gifts.” Yea or nay? Why or why not?

THE MEANING OF PENTECOST: ACTS 2 (85–91)

1. Did the Spirit first appear at Pentecost? (p. 86)
2. The problem text of John 20:22
3. The essence of Pentecost
 - “...the Holy Spirit’s ministry was enlarged at Pentecost, without being in any way diminished from what it was before. Prior to Pentecost...since Pentecost” (p. 90)
4. Spirit Baptism and Spirit-Filling Today (pp. 90–91)

What does Packer say about “two-tier” Christianity?

