

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT: COMMUNION WITH THE SPIRIT

I. REVIEW AND SUMMARY

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A WHO, NOT A WHAT

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

1. Creation (Gen. 1-2)

- a. Making and sustaining by the Word
- b. All things good—relationship, work, God
- c. Humans created very good and in God's own image

2. Fall (Gen 3)—making sense of the frustration of the world

- a. Image broken
- b. Man, woman, and creation cursed
- c. New story of brokenness—back to our diagram

3. Redemption

- a. God will not give up on His creation (Gen. 3.15)
- b. Planned by the Father, accomplished by the Son, applied by the Spirit (Eph. 1.1-14)
- c. Regeneration and rebirth (John 3.1-8)—first and second birth
- d. Union with Christ—all that is His is mine (Rom. 8.16-17)
- e. My identity is now with Him (Gal. 2.20)
- f. “Expulsive Power of a New Affection” (Thomas Chalmers)
- g. Holiness means God repossesses and restores that which was once in rebellion against Him
- h. Restoration of divine image (Eph. 4.24, Col. 3.10)
- i. Jesus pours out (baptizes) the Spirit on the church (Acts 2) and they are filled and empowered by the Spirit to overcome every boundary that stands in the way of the Gospel
- j. Jesus gives gifts to His people to manifest His triumph and exaltation (Eph. 4.7-8)

4. Consummation (Romans 8, Revelation 21-22)

- a. More than just “souls” or He saved *me* from *my* sin
- b. We are the Firstfruits (Romans 8.23)
- c. Spirit is the midwife for the birth of God's New Creation

II. COMMUNION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. WHAT IS COMMUNION—what does it mean? When have you felt close to God or distant from Him? What was it like? What causes these fluctuations? If we are united with Christ forever why do these feelings, desires, and motives change?

B. DIFFERENCE IN UNION AND COMMUNION

1. Union is foundational and unchanging
2. Communion is experiential and fluctuating
3. Illustration of Marriage
4. Is God ever angry at us?

C. GOD IS THE GOSPEL—The purpose of salvation is to bring us to God (I Peter 3.18), which is effected by the Spirit. If you don't want God, you don't want salvation. It's not all about forgiveness or imputed righteousness or justification—all those things are about removing obstacles to give us ultimate joy in God.

D. WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD THROUGH THE SON, BY THE SPIRIT (Eph. 2.18)

“So much as we see of the love of God, so much shall we delight in Him and no more”(John Owen)

E. PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE

1. I will not leave you—John 14.15-18
2. Challenges faced with peace and comfort—John 14.25-27, 16.33
3. Making the benefits of Christ the felt reality in our lives. This cannot be just forensic or distant or easy-believism. It is the experiential knowledge of God which comes by the power of the Spirit bringing to light the reality of Christ. Owen: [The Spirit] “comes and makes men sing in a dungeon, rejoice in flames, and glory in tribulation.”
4. Overcome sorrow—John 16.6-7
5. Pours out the love of God in our hearts—Romans 5.5—More than the “Bible tells me so.”
6. Comfort—Acts 9.31—not just a pansy kind of comfort but in the midst of persecution and suffering
7. Illumination—Eph. 1.17, 3.2-5
8. Praying—Romans 8.26-27