

LIVING IN HIS PRESENCE

ser3998 Presents or Presence, Pt 3
December 20, 2020 E & L

I. (HOOK) THE HOLY SPIRIT—GOD'S PRESENCE

A. In our last sermon we established that the purpose of God's Present (Jesus/Christmas), was that we could have His Presence (Holy Spirit/Pentecost). Now, if you're lost—hang in there. We'll connect the dots. However, this will require some concentration. We're going to school for a few minutes. Are you ready? Good!

B. So, what do you say? Let's meet the Holy Spirit! He's the One we often refer to as the third member of the Trinity, but in actuality He is the first person of the Godhead we meet in Holy Scripture.

II. (BOOK) LET'S MEET THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit is introduced.

Genesis 1:1-2 (KNJV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the *Spirit of God* was hovering over the face of the waters.

*emphasis mine

NOTE 1: Years ago, I put out a pamphlet, MEET THE HOLY SPIRIT—87 Character Traits. ([show photo](#))

1. When we first meet the Holy Spirit, He is functioning as the Creator.

2. In *John 1:1-3 (NKJV)* we read,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

3. Put it together! When God created the Heavens and the Earth, the Holy Spirit and Jesus were working side by side with the Father orchestrating ALL of it. This is why Jesus told the disciples in *John 14: 16-18 (NKJV)*:

¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth ... ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

NOTE 2: One way to grasp the Trinity is to think of the Father as the brain—everything originates in the mind of the Father. The Son (Jesus) is the hands and feet used by the Godhead to achieve God's purposes, and the Holy Spirit is the life source, that is, the energy/power which makes it happen.

NOTE 3: Recall, mankind is made in the image of God. So, much like God, we are a mind, body and spirit. All our thoughts originate in the mind, carried out by our bodies and kept alive by our spirits (our energy/life source). The

distinction between God and man is that ONLY our spirit is eternal; all three persons of the Godhead are eternal. When we die our spirit remains alive (it is eternal), but our bodies return to the earth as do our brains. It is dust to dust, ashes to ashes. At the Great Resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15**) we will get a new body and a new mind. And the Church said, "Hallelujah!"

NOTE 4: Are you following me? I told you you'd need to put on your "thinking caps" as my earthly father would say. ☺

NOTE 5: Keep in mind that the purpose of God's Present (Jesus in the flesh) was that we could have His Presence within us.

B. Let's add one more piece.

The only way a Holy God can indwell, that is live within, fallen humanity, is for our sin to be removed from His sight. That's why EVERY human being is in need of a Savior. That is why we celebrate CHRISTMAS. And the Church said, "Merry Christmas!"

III. (LOOK) THE LIVING NATURE OF GOD'S WORD (WHICH IS 'HOLY SPIRIT' BREATHED)

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) says,

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration [Lit: **God breathed**] of God, ...

2 Peter 1:21 (JBS) tells us

For no prophecy was ever given by an act of the human will, but prophets of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

John 16: 7-8 tells us

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. **8**And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ...

*emphasis mine

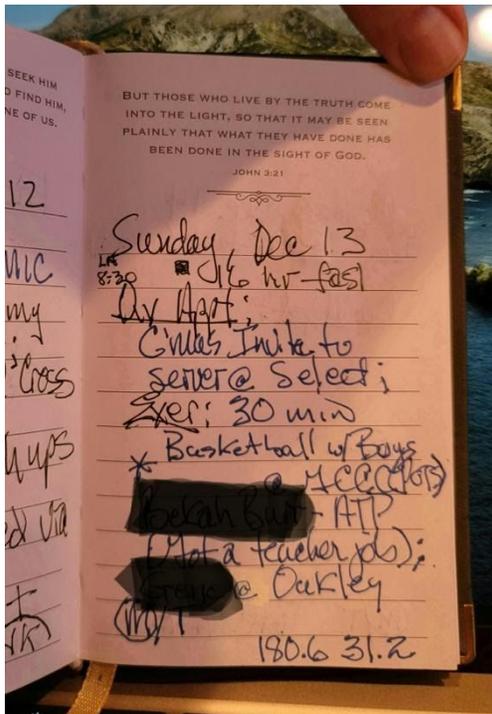
A. Do you recall last Sunday when I walked through the congregation and asked people if they could recall the first time they sinned? Most could clearly recall that moment. Why? Because the Holy Spirit, even at a very young age, was at work convicting them of sin.



When you sin and feel guilt and shame, it's the Holy Spirit who is convicting you, telling you what you've done is wrong.

B. Just as the Holy Spirit convicts you of what is wrong, He also tells you when you are in the right. (Notice I didn't say

“in the left.” ☺) When we hear God, it is the Holy Spirit that is speaking. Let me illustrate with a Biblical illustration and a personal one.



C. I keep a *Daily Prayer Journal* (show photos, p4 & 5).

In it I keep my:

MOV (moments of victory),

MOD (moments of defeat),

POTS (times I pray with people extemporaneously),

PIC—Proclamation-Invitation-Card (to whom I hand them out) (show photos, pp 5 & 6)

INTERMITTENT FASTING—maintain my weight

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS—when God fulfills the Holy Spirit prayer that I pray nearly every day: *“Holy Spirit, I yield myself to You today and ask that You would help me cross the path of those whom Jesus would help if today He walked in my shoes.”*

Sunday
9:15 &
11:15

I was born with *value & purpose*. My life has *promise & potential* as it unfolds in accordance to God's eternal plan.

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Here's the story! We have a young, single adult (well, she may be engaged, but if not, she's definitely taken—LOL!) who has graduated college and been looking for a teaching job. We discussed the situation nearly a year ago. On one particular Sunday I felt led to ask her how the search was going, letting her know that I was continuing to pray about the situation. When we finished talking, I strongly felt in my spirit to pray a pray for faith, believing that God had given her a job. This past Sunday after service, Ms B approached me and excitedly said, "I got a job!" I was thrilled but not surprised. The Spirit inside of us speaks: He guides, directs, comforts, convicts, teaches, explains, and assures.

(Let's look at our Biblical example and bring today's message to a close. Last week I had to cut out 4 pages or more. I don't want to do that today.)

D. The day I transcribed this sermon my Bible Challenge reading placed me in the Book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 2: 1-2

And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you." ²Then ***the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me***, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. ³And He said to me: "Son of man, ...

*emphasis mine

REMEMBER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT the Holy Spirit did not live in a believer like He does today. He came upon a person, would enter for a specific task (as in this case), but did not indwell. Even Moses, who spoke to God face to face, did not have the privilege you have as a born-again believer.

E (TOOK) Today we can "live in His presence." That's why Jesus came. He came so that He could remove the sins of all who would embrace Him and take residency within that person. That is God's Present to us.

1. Will you receive God's Present, Jesus? ***John 1:12*** says, "To as many as ***received*** Him to them He gave the right to become children of God." It's the Spirit of God living within us that makes us "children of God."

2. Here's how! It's as simple as ABC:

IV. INVITATION

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.

(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

IV. ONE FINAL THOUGHT FOR ALL OF US WHO HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST

We move in His power when we walk in obedience to Him. (Need I say anymore?)

ser3998, *The Present and His Presence* (Presents or Presence, Pt1) 1467 words
(approximately 11.3 minutes with Invitation and no HG detours).