

### SESSION THREE: BEHOLDING THE BEAUTY OF THE EXALTED SON AND THE SPIRIT

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#### I. Introduction

There are clearly two themes on the subject of the relationship of the Son and the Spirit. On the one hand, Jesus relies upon the Spirit in doing his work, in performing his miracles, and in living his life. But on the other hand, Jesus also claims authority over the Spirit and proclaims unequivocally that the Spirit will glorify him. In the former case, he relies on the Spirit as the Messiah, the Son of David, the second Adam – a full human who must be filled with the Spirit to fulfill the mission that the Father has sent him to do. But in the latter case, Jesus shows his eternal, and now his resurrected authority over the Spirit, to send the Spirit he received from the Father, and to direct just what the Spirit does and says.

#### II. Jesus' Authority and Primacy over the Spirit – in his role as the Son of the Father

While Jesus relied on the Spirit in his incarnational mission, Scripture is clear that the Spirit's most fundamental role is to elevate, extol, and honor the position and authority of the Son.

John 7:37-39 – <sup>37</sup> Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 14:25-26 – <sup>25</sup> These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 15:26 – When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me

Acts 2:33 – Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

John 16:5-7 – <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, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> But 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 go, I will send Him to you.

John 16:12-15 – <sup>12</sup> I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore, I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

1 Corinthians 12:3 – Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:1-3 – <sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you now the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

Romans 8:3-4 – <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned

sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup> so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:16-24).

Acts 1:1-2 – The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

Revelation 5:6 – And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

### III. The Spirit's Uniform Purpose to Put Forward Jesus

#### A. Inspiration of Scripture, by the Spirit, but focused on Christ

Hebrews 1:1-2 – <sup>1</sup> God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son . . . .

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21 – <sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Luke 24:44 – <sup>44</sup> Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (cf. Luke 24:24-27)

#### B. Evangelism, by the Spirit, proclaiming the gospel of Christ

Consider Acts 1:8, and marvel at the Spirit's empowerment to proclaim not the message of the Spirit but the message of Christ. "You shall be My witnesses," says Jesus. And what does Peter proclaim on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit descends? Christ crucified, risen, and exalted! This is part of what makes the inclusivist view so wrong and distressing. There is no independent work of the Spirit that does not point to the Son. Everything about the Spirit's work involves Christ and his work.

#### C. Salvation, wrought in our lives by the Spirit, to conform us to the likeness of Christ

In initial conversion (2 Cor 4:4-6), and in our transformation (2 Cor 3:18), the Spirit constantly urges upon us the beauty and glory of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:3 – Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

### IV. Two Important Qualifications to avoid Potential Misunderstandings and Misapplications

#### A. Since we are now given the same Spirit that empowered Jesus' miracles, should we expect to see the same miraculous empowerment evident in our lives and ministries? Surely, the same power is granted us, but not the same mission, calling, or Messianic identity. Consider this helpful text:

Matthew 11:4-5 – <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (quoting from Isa 35 and 61 regarding what will mark the Messiah in his coming).

Something similar can be said of the exceptional signs and wonders that marked the early apostolic ministry – see Rom 15:18-19; 2 Cor 12:11-12; Heb 2:3-4.

So, while the same Spirit is given to us, he empowers us for the calling and ministry he gives particularly to each of us – one that is neither Messianic nor apostolic. Further, his main purpose in coming to us is not a supernatural display of outward miracles but inward transformation of heart and character, to exhibit outwardly the character of Christ forming within (2 Cor 3:18).

- B. Since we are now given the same Spirit that empowered Jesus' life of sinless resistance to temptation and unbroken obedience to his Father, should we expect to see the same sinless perfection evident in our lives and ministries?

There will be a day when the answer to this question will be YES!!! The fullness of the promise and expectation of Ezek 36:26-27 will be realized in the age to come, when, by the Spirit, we will walk ever and only in joyous obedience to all Christ calls us to do. But, that's the "not yet," and we're still in the "already" of God's saving purposes. Until then, we have the ongoing reality of sin that we must acknowledge and contend with daily. Consider these texts:

Rom 13:12-14 –<sup>12</sup> The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Gal 5:16-17 – <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Col 3:10 – and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

James 3:2 – For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

1 Pet 2:11 – Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

1 John 1:8-2:1 – <sup>1:8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. <sup>2:1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Praise God that we have Spirit-empowerment to fight the fight of faith! Sin continues as the greatest enemy of our souls, but by the Spirit, God grants new covenant enablement to grow in obedience and faithfulness. We should be neither perfectionists nor pessimists. By grace, and by the power of the Spirit, we are called to a holy but sober optimism. Indeed, Christ's victory "breaks the power of cancelled sin," and the Spirit's power and grace are greater than *all* of our sin!