

61. The job description of the Holy Spirit

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You have to agree with me that the Holy Spirit from the Trinity gets a bum rap due to the lack of knowledge of believers or ignorance of unbelievers alike. Many Bible teachers and pastors would rather rely on their church denominational guidelines regarding the Holy Spirit than what Scripture actually says about Him.

The end results, we hear or see many weird unbiblical actions and doctrines by some charismatic denominational people as well as discarding some of the Holy Spirit's gifts like leprosy by some major denomination people. Neither way is correct. I believe that it is the Lord's desire for us to know and understand what the Holy Spirit does in our lives. You can say that we need to find out the job descriptions and the ministry of the Holy Spirit through what the Lord Jesus speaks to us this morning.

By reading John chapter 13-16, it's easy to see the disciples' growing anticipation and panic. Please don't think that we would be any different than them. In chapter 13, Jesus told them that they would not be able to go with Him. In chapter 15, He warned of persecution to come. The disciples suddenly felt insecure. Knowing this fully, Jesus explains in detail exactly how the Holy Spirit would minister to them.

It is important to note that the Spirit came to the church and not to the world. It means that He works in and through the church. He ministers through the people of God as the Lord Jesus had to have a human body in order to do His atoning work on earth, so the Spirit of God needs a body, the church to accomplish His ministry. It is not because God the Spirit is incapable without the church, rather He chooses to do it that way.

I am sure that you have heard someone praying in this way, "Lord, send us Your Spirit to speak to the lost. May the Holy Spirit go from heart to heart." No doubt it is a sincere prayer, but it is not correct. The Holy Spirit does not float around from one lost sinner to another to speak to them about Jesus. The Holy Spirit came to empower the church, the body of Jesus Christ for edification and witness. We are His tools; we are His outreach program.

What you do at work, at home, and at your neighborhood – witnessing to your unbelieving family members, comforting the downcast neighbors, praying with your coworker who is looking for the meaning of one's life frantically, that is how the Spirit of the Living God works in the body of Jesus Christ.

So let's be ready to receive His instructions today.

A. THE REACTIONS OF THE DISCIPLES

John 16:4-5 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. 5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

For over three years the Lord has nurtured His disciples. But now He is leaving, and they are so distraught that they are speechless and filled with sorrow. Remember when you were a kid, you thought that your mom or dad was going to leave you as

an orphan and you were so distraught? That is how these disciples are feeling now. Whether we'd like to admit or not, we cannot handle anything without God's help.

Our insecurity can be cured with total dependence in Christ Jesus.

B. THE SOLUTION OF CHRIST

John 16:7 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.

The word 'advantage' in Greek is "symphero." It means that it is profitable for us to have Jesus to go away. That doesn't sound right, does it to you? But it is true though.

For two reasons:

1) Jesus was limited in a human body, but the Holy Spirit is not

The divinity of Jesus was contained in the humanity of a physical body. He couldn't be everywhere at the same time. But the Holy Spirit is an omniscient God who can do that. The Spirit of God can strengthen each of the believers at the same time because He would work from within. In the inner most recesses of our hearts, where there is panic, He brings peace; and where there is fear, He brings fortitude.

2) Only through His departure from this world He could provide us the way of salvation.

Without His death on the cross as our Atoning Sacrifice, there would have been no Gospel. Atonement for sin was absolutely necessary for Jesus to save His people from their sins. Otherwise, we would get stuck in our sins without any hope of forgiveness and heaven.

C. THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 16:8-11 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Notice that there are three aspects of the job description of the Holy Spirit to unbelievers:

1) Convicting the world of sin

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "At the end of a day, whip your child. You may not know why you are whipping him, but the child knows exactly why he is being whipped." That is being convicted.

The word 'convict' is a legal word. Its Greek word is 'elegcho' and it means "to bring to light, to expose, to reprove." It also can be translated "pronounce the verdict."

The world had declared their open season against Christianity long ago, because it is under complete control of satan. The world, the unbelievers think that they are the majority, thus they can judge Christians however they want. If you have any doubt, just read the newspaper and watch TV. They mock Christianity like no other religion, yet they do not know that it is the Christians who are passing judgment of God on the world as the witness to Jesus Christ.

Believers are the witnesses, the Holy Spirit is the "Prosecuting Attorney," the unsaved ones are the guilty prisoners," and God the Father is the Ultimate Judge. There is no

defense attorney and no appeals court. However, the purpose of this indictment is not to condemn but to bring salvation.

But what are unsaved ones being convicted from? Jesus does not leave any room for anyone to wiggle one's way out. See v9, please.

John 16:9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me

Convicting us of our sin – not necessarily sin in general which is already bad enough, but to show us that we are unpardonable sinners without Jesus. The Holy Spirit takes the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus, shows us that it is true, and shows us that we need to turn to God. Without the convicting power of the Spirit, we would never have come to Jesus. That is why, when I am praying for any unbeliever in this room as well as all around the world, I pray that God would convict him or her through His Holy Spirit.

*Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit doesn't convict us of our sin to drive us to despair, but to send us into the open arms of Jesus. When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost as we read in these two verses, the people were cut to the heart. This phrase means "pierced in the heart." The Holy Spirit will stab you with a conviction, in effect, but it is not to destroy you. It is to show you your need for Jesus.

2) Convicting the world with the righteousness of God

John 16:10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more

A unsaved person can live one's life with honesty, kindness, gentleness, and good work, but he or she still is lost and will end up in hell. As Jesus just explained to us, it is the sin of unbelief. So our righteousness is nothing. Then, whose righteousness is the one we need?

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

See that? Our righteousness is as filthy rags according the Bible, the Absolute Truth. We don't have a snowball's chance in front of God's righteousness without Jesus. But we who are the believers of Jesus Christ, now have the righteousness of our Lord Jesus.

Since the world can not see the righteousness of Jesus, they can only see it reflected in us just as the moon reflects the brightness of the unseen sun in darkness of night. When nothing eclipses our relationship with the unseen Son of God, we will reflect a true light to the world that is submerged in darkness.

3) Convicting the world with the judgment of God

John 16:11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

It is easy to think that the future judgment is coming. Christians, including myself often use a phrase like this, "The judgment of God for this world is coming." Theologically, it is not quite correct if I may nitpick. We should say, "The execution of God's judgment for this world is coming."

As we read in v11, the ruler of this world, satan is already judged in Genesis 3:14-15.

Genesis 3:14-15 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Satan stands condemned. And anyone who chooses not to accept Jesus into one's heart as the Savior and Lord also stands condemned by one's own choice.

Here is the extremely important point we all must realize:

There can be no conversion without conviction, and there can be no conviction apart from the Spirit of God using the Word of God and the witness of the believer of God.

Witnessing is a great privilege, but it is also a serious responsibility. It is a matter of life or death. How we need to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right persons, give us the right words, and enable us patiently to glorify Jesus Christ!

D. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY TO THE BELIEVERS

John 16:12-15 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Just as Jesus taught His disciples according to God the Father's teaching plan, the Holy Spirit teaches us and points us to Jesus through His Word, the Bible.

There are two theological words you should know. One is inspiration and the other is illumination. Inspiration was what happened when a selected group of men, from Moses to apostle John, were filled with the Holy Spirit and God enabled them to write down exactly what He wanted to say in the Scripture. That is over after the Book of Revelation that was written by apostle John. The Scripture is complete – nothing more to add, nothing else to remove.

But illumination is going on even today. When you read the Word of God or listen to sermons and teachings by pastors and Bible teachers, the Holy Spirit illuminates it for you and you have one of those "Ah!!!" moments. That is illumination.

I like what Martin Luther said, "The Bible will forever remain a closed book unless God opens and explains to us the Scripture."

The Holy Spirit always glorifies the Son of God Jesus as our Savior and Lord. He neither diminishes the Son's glory, nor steals the spotlight for Himself.

Some silly theologians insist that apostle Paul extended the simple Gospel messages of Jesus to complicated theological doctrines. Nonsense. The same Holy Spirit communicated the truths found in the four Gospels, the epistles, and the Book of Revelation; and He also wrote the history and doctrine found in Acts.

Thus we at Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita do what the Lord Jesus said in the four Gospels, and what the apostles teach us in their epistles of the New Testament. That is the reason why we completely ignore the "Apocryphal" and the so-called "Lost Books" since they were not included in the canonization of the Bible. Please do be careful when someone tells you that you should read these books. Don't feel that you are going to miss out on something important. If they were truly important for us, our God would have included them in the Bible.

The Holy Spirit works in us and through us like our church motto:
Knowing Jesus and making Him known.

E. THE IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1) Our insecurity can be cured with total dependence in Christ Jesus.
- 2) The Holy Spirit doesn't convict us of our sin to drive us to despair, but to send us into the open arms of Jesus.
- 3) There can be no conversion without conviction, and there can be no conviction apart from the Spirit of God using the Word of God and the witness of the believer of God.