

Chris Murphy

April 28th, 2024

Scripture: John 14: 15-31

Sermon Title: Good Morning, Holy Spirit

Prayer...

Introduction:

In three weeks on May 19th, we will celebrate Pentecost, the story from Acts chapter 2 when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the followers of Jesus. In preparation for Pentecost, I wish to reflect with you about the person of the Holy Spirit this Sunday and next Sunday.

In my childhood as a Christian in the Presbyterian church, I did not know much about the Holy Spirit. It was the shy member of the Trinity or the less known member of the Trinity for me. In college, I began to learn more about the Pentecostal and Charismatic Christian movement and how some Christians emphasized the person of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Spirit.

Story of Holy Spirit Encounter... (Dunamis Retreat in Walla Walla WA.)

Good Morning, Holy Spirit book (Benny Hinn) (Gift from Jacky Jess)

Quote from book: Benny Hinn-

“My eyes were closed. Then, like a jolt of electricity, my body began to vibrate all over—exactly as it had through the two hours I waited to get into the church. It was the same shaking I had felt for another hour once inside.

It was back and I thought, “Oh, It’s happening again.” But this time there were no crowds. No heavy clothes. I was just in my own warm room in my pajamas—vibrating from my head to my toes.

I was afraid to open my eyes. This time it was as if everything that happened in that service all rolled into one moment. I was shaking, but at the same time I again felt that warm blanket of God’s power wrapped all around me.

I felt as if I had been transported to heaven. Of course, I wasn't, but I honestly don't believe heaven can be any greater than that. In fact, I thought, "If I open my eyes, I'll either be in Pittsburgh or inside the pearly gates."

Well, after a time, I did open my eyes, and to my surprise I was right there in my same room. Same floor. Same pajamas. But I was still tingling with the power of God's Spirit.

When I finally dropped off to sleep that night. I still didn't realize what had begun in my life.

Early, very early, the next morning I was wide awake. And I couldn't wait to talk to my newfound friend.

Here were the first words out of my mouth: "Good morning, Holy Spirit!"

At the very moment I spoke these words, the glorious atmosphere returned to my room. This time, though, I was not vibrating or shaking. All I felt was the wrapping of his presence.

The second I said, “Good morning, Holy Spirit,” I knew He was present with me in the room. Not only was I filled with the Spirit that morning, I also received a fresh infilling every time I spent time in prayer...

What I am talking about is beyond speaking in tongues. Yes, I did speak in a Heavenly language, but it was much more than that. The Holy Spirit became real . He became my friend. He became my companion, my counselor.”

I remember reading Benny Hinn’s description of the Holy Spirit and thinking that I was starting to have similar experiences of God’s presence. I wanted to experience even more of God.

My wife Karen and I often talk about the value of the Holy Spirit and spiritual experience, but she reminds me that though spiritual experiences are valuable they are really only a means to an end. In Karen’s book, Pentecostals and Roman Catholics, On Becoming a Christian, she writes about one of the conclusions of the

ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Pentecostals. She explains,

“experience is not “an end in itself, but is a means through which we encounter God. While experience is a valuable component of the Christian life, it nevertheless remains, ‘secondary to faith.’ (P. 224- Pentecostals and Roman Catholics On Becoming A Christian)

Karen’s book highlights that some Christian traditions emphasize Christian experience more than others. She shares,

“In the Household of God, Leslie Newbigin identified the defining characteristics of Pentecostalism as a focus on personal experience of the Holy Spirit. Catholics perceive the Christian faith as a matter of the will. Protestants idealize Christianity as a religion of the mind, but Pentecostals alone insist that religion must be grounded in a personal experience of God over the intellect and the will.” (P. 232 and 233)

I think this is consistent with my experience of the protestant tradition, particularly among Presbyterians. In my experience, Presbyterians tend sometimes to emphasize the mind and intellect over spiritual experience.

Although experiences of the Holy Spirit do not need to be a primary goal, I have found that Christian experience is a valuable way for us to deepen our relationship with God.

I think it is a good thing to be open to experience God through the Holy Spirit and to understand that the Holy Spirit shows up in our lives in a variety of experiences. I wonder how you experience the Holy Spirit. Remember we all have the Holy Spirit. We just experience the Spirit in different ways.

In our passage today, Jesus highlights that he will not leave the disciples orphaned but that he will come through the Holy Spirit to bring peace. Jesus says, Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Neither let them be afraid.

One of the primary ways many of us experience the Holy Spirit is through the experience of peace.

Highlight of who Holy Spirit is in our text:

- Person of Holy Spirit- Feminine and Masculine (Proverbs)
- Advocate-Parakletos- also counselor, comforter, and helper.
- Spirit of Truth- Pneuma.
- Teach you everything and remind you of everything I have taught you.
- Partners with Jesus to bring peace.

Next week we will continue to explore the Holy Spirit.

I want to invite you this week, when you wake up each morning to consider starting your day by saying Good morning Holy Spirit.

Whether or not you have a felt experience of God, know that the Holy Spirit is with you.

Remember the Person of the Holy Spirit wants to be known by you
and to be your advocate and guide.

Let us pray...

John 14:15-31

15 “If you love me, you will keep[a] my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[b] to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be[c] in[d] you.

18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home

with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate,[e] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.