

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

“The Face of the Deep”

Date

10-29-17

Speaker

Pastor Chris Potter

Coram Deo – “Before the Face of God”

- Holy Spirit – Whatever you take out of today, I pray that you will deeply reflect on the Spirit’s work in your own life.
- Many of us do not have a clear idea of the Holy Spirit’s role in our lives. Yet scripture is full of stories that show the Spirit as a vibrant, personal being, as God Himself.

Genesis 1:1-2 – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

- It is the who of creation that these verses care about. That who is mentioned twice in these verses – first simply called “God,” then referenced as the “ruach” of god – the wind of God, the breath of God, the “rushing spirit” ...

Of the three persons of the Trinity, the Spirit’s person and work are the most difficult to grasp. Why is this?

- The Person of the Trinity is usually described with impersonal images. How does Scripture talk about the Spirit? As wind, as breath, as fire, as a dove
- The Spirit is a full and vibrant person because the Spirit is the eternal God, and as wholly God as either of the other two members of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit has intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-13), feelings (Eph. 4:30), and a will (1 Cor. 12:11; Acts 16:6-12). He prays (Rom. 8:26). He does miracles (Acts 8:39). He can be lied to (Acts 5:3). He can be insulted (Heb. 10:29). He teaches and directs (John 14:26; Acts 8:29; Rom. 8:14)

Jesus to His Disciples – “I am going to leave the earth, but I am going to send someone else, and in fact this is going to be to your advantage... its better than having me.”

- Disciples --- “What could be better than having the son of man next to me?”
The disciples saw Him give sight to the blind, heal people, and bring a man back from the dead...

Story – After Jesus is crucified, and was raised from the grave, He gathers the disciples together and they are just in awe... and Jesus says, “Wait here” because I am going to return to my Father, but the Holy Spirit is going to come upon you. Don’t try to do this on your own, **and you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses until the end of the earth.**

Isn’t it the same Holy Spirit that is supposed to be available to us today?

“Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked what we would do if the stars only came out once every thousand years. No one would sleep at night, of course. We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead, the stars come out every night and we watch television.” – Paul Hawken

Doctrine of Imminence – the closeness that God keeps with His creation, namely us.

- **The Holy Spirit’s presence does not require my recognition to be utterly real.**

4 New Testament Commands about the Holy Spirit

1. “Do not grieve the Spirit” (Eph. 4:30)

- Grieve – “to cause sorrow, pain or distress”
- To grieve the Holy Spirit means to CAUSE the Holy Spirit to have sorrow or pain or distress. (Sin)
- The Spirit views my treatment of all He calls “very good” as an extension of my heart toward himself.
- HELPER (PARAKLETOS) One called or sent to assist another.
- Grief comes when we AVOID or REFUSE the Help of the Helper sent to us.

2. “Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thess. 5:19)

- QUENCH (SBENNUMI) To extinguish, dampen, hinder or thwart
- We can be guilty of HINDERING the effective working of the Holy Spirit.
- This hindering can be done in the lives of OTHERS
- Interfering with the Spirit's working in someone else’s life.
- This hindering can be done in our own lives.

John Stott – The Holy Spirit is a reticent Spirit, he works to curve attention away from himself to Jesus and the Father.

- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is a Christ Centered one... His two main concerns are to show Christ to us and form Christ in us.
- **John 14:26 – “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”**
- “Floodlight” - It is as if the Spirit stands behind us, throwing light over our shoulder, on Jesus, who stands facing us.
- A.W. Tozer – “The Holy Spirit is drawn to the sweet name of Jesus as bees are drawn to the clover.”

3. “Be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18)

FILLED (PLEROO) Under the influence of, the control of (Rom. 8:4-11)
(Col. 3:16) (Eph. 5:18-20) ---We are INDWELT with the Word of Christ, and this word FLOWS out of us produces the same results mentioned in (Eph. 5:19-20).

Mark 1:9-13

The Greek word translated here as “drove out” is “ballo” from which we get our word ball, and as you would expect it means to throw, fling, send flying, hurl.

“The Spirit’s work in the life of His people is often a wild work, a desert work. He calls us to the wilderness to work in us in ways that could not be done well (perhaps not done at all) were we not drawn away, brought away, thrown away, finding ourselves on a lovely trail.”

4. "Walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16-25)

- To walk (PERIPATEO) under the Leadership of the H.S in all areas of life
- To KNOW what the Spirit is saying or doing.
Reason is because of the WAR waging within us. (Rom.7:15-25)
The FLESH vs. the SPIRIT
- Gal. 5:16-26 – "The ever present ongoing battle within us. The Holy Spirit is doing EVERYTHING possible for you to succeed. Your part is to OBEY or FOLLOW that leading."
- As we grow in our ability to receive the Spirit's life, He infuses ours from both within and beyond us, leading us to the Father and the Son, painting our whole world with joy, color, and the love we were made for.

There is no competition in the Trinity – no jockeying for position or fame.

- "...from before time itself existed, relationship did. In the love of the Father, Son, and Spirit, joy has existed from eternity past. Admiration existed, pleasure existed, kindness and gentleness and wisdom existed. Camaraderie existed – with fun, commitment, and good." – Paul J. Pastor

"Once above the unformed black abyss, the Spirit of God hovered. And there above the unknowable waves, He whispered eternal love to the Father, to the Son, to the face of the deep. He whispered eternal love to you, to me, to all the 'very good.' Whether you know it or not, whether you have ever felt it or heard it personally for yourself, we have all had the holy words spoken over us: 'It's good that you are; how wonderful that you exist!' The Spirit has never stopped saying this to each and all of us." – Paul J. Pastor

This unity, this love, is what the Holy Spirit brings... and we have seen it before...

The Disciples were waiting and praying, and finally one day it says that there is this sound like a rushing wind, hurricane like sound...

- They were empowered with a supernatural love for one another, and miracles were happening, and this is what attracted people to this movement, to the Church...
- There is to be this harmony of the believers, this unity, why, because they were all following the same spirit.

"The Spirit is faithful but he will not come running when we whistle for Him. He is kind but will not jump for us. He may give a show, but when He speaks, it will be in His good way for His good reasons. And who can tell Him either to speak or to keep silent? We can only ask and trust."

- Jesus commands you to love your neighbor as yourself... (Matt. 22:39)
- Jesus commands us to forgive, and to love and bless our enemies... (Luke 6:27)
- Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations... "teaching them to observe all that He has commanded." (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Jesus commands us to feed the hungry, show hospitality to strangers, care for the sick, visit those in prison... (Matthew 25:35-36)

The Holy Spirit's love is like a ray, a beam, a single force, unopposable and glorious, full of joy and power. Yet we perceive that same force differently depending on where we are, depending on what is inside of us. If we are dark, we perceive his love as light; if we are hungry, we perceive it as food and nourishment; if we are broken, we perceive it as the setting of bones; if we are guilty, as forgiveness; if dead, we are brought to life, the very life of love, the very life of the Spirit who raised Christ from the Dead.

“He it is who holds the earth, grasping it with His hands. He has arranged all things in order; He set the mountains in their places and measured the waters. He assigns each thing in the universe its proper rank... The cause of being comes from Him to all things that exist, according to the will of God the Father. Through Him structure and preservation are given to all things, for He created everything, and dispenses wellbeing to all things, according to the need of each. Therefore, all things are turned toward Him, looking with irresistible longing and unspeakable love to the creator and sustainer of life.” – Basil the Great