

Reconnecting With the Holy Spirit

- Theme for January, setting the tone for 2008
- Last week I shared about my history with the Holy Spirit, and several ways by which we can grow in our relationship with Him.
- Beginning this week we'll look at the various titles of the Holy Spirit
 - o As I mentioned last week, we do not have a proper name given in the Bible for the Holy Spirit, we have only the proper name for the Trinity: YHWH – the **Tetragrammaton** most often pronounced Jehovah; and the Name of Jesus the Son.
 - o But we do have many titles for the Holy Spirit
 - o Titles are not less intimate than proper names, in fact they can be more intimate
 - My children rarely call me Cameron, they call me dad, or papa – which are titles
 - Titles reveal a person's identity
 - Titles are the basis for expectations
 - Titles define relationships
 - So it is a sign of greater relationship and intimacy for my children to call me by my title, than by my proper name...
 - To call someone by their name, especially by their first name implies an equality
 - I would never walk up to the president and say, "Hey George..."
 - Rather I would say, Mr. President
 - Or to a judge, I would address him/her by, "Your Honor"
 - We can call Jesus by name because through faith in him we have become "joint heirs"
 - **Romans 8:16-17 NKJV** *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*
 - We are on a "first name basis" with Jesus, because He humbled himself to come down to our level; and through faith we have been lifted up to his level of relationship with the father
 - But, for now, we only know the titles of the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in us – but in a sense, we are not on a first name basis....
- So let's look at some of the titles of the Holy Spirit
 - o By doing so we can learn of His identity, who He is
 - o We can base our expectations upon this understanding
 - o Our relationship with Him can be defined...

John 14:16 NKJV, *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever*

- KJV: comforter: paraklētos: *par-ak'-lay-tos*, An *intercessor, consoler*: - advocate, comforter.
- "One who comes alongside"
- Clarke says of this verse: **Another Comforter** - The word παρακλητος signifies not only a comforter, but also an advocate, a defender of a cause, a counsellor, patron, mediator. Christ is thus termed, [1Jo 2:1](#), where the common translation renders the word advocate. Christ is thus called, because he is represented as transacting the concerns of our souls with God; and for this cause, he tells us, he goes unto the Father, [Joh 14:12](#). The Holy Spirit is thus called, because he transacts the cause of God and Christ with us, explains to us the nature and importance of the great atonement, shows the necessity of it, counsels us to receive it, instructs us how to lay hold on it, vindicates our claim to it, and makes intercessions in us with unutterable groanings. As Christ acted with his disciples while he sojourned with them, so the Holy Ghost acts with those who believe in his name
- Promise: "that He may abide with you forever"

Hebrews 9:14 NKJV, "*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*"

- "eternal" literal: perpetual
- In prayer I had a sense of the eternal nature of the Spirit, who "broods over" the earth from the beginning. The life of every person and every animal, and all of creation open to his gaze...
- Having a relationship with an "eternal spirit" gives us a connection that frees us from the immediate, from the mundane.
- It gives us a perspective that breaks away from our "pinhole" miniscule sight...
 - o It was "through" this Spirit that Christ offered Himself without spot to God
 - o The Spirit was the "channel" by which Jesus offered himself spotless to God
 - o And it is "through the eternal Spirit" by which the blood of Christ cleanses our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Psalms 51:10-12 NKJV, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*"

Psalms 51:10, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*"

- In this verse it is generally understood that David is asking that his spirit (not the Holy Spirit) would be renewed and become steadfast – not weak or wavering

- This was in response to his sin of committing adultery, and being confronted by the prophet Nathan
- This prayer of repentance is more than a model for us today. It expresses the deepest heart's cry of David.

Psalms 51:11 NKJV, "*Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*"

- When David was confronted with his sin, his heart's cry was "*do not take Your Holy Spirit from me*"
- Reveals the place the Holy Spirit had in David's life, reveals the level of intimacy David had with the Holy Spirit
- David had seen as a young man his predecessor, Saul, loose the Holy Spirit after sinning
 - o He had seen Saul's life spinning out of control
 - o As a result of having the Spirit removed from Saul, David had seen Saul loose his authority, loose control of the kingdom, loose the loyalty of family and friends, and eventually loose his life
 - o David knew the severity, not merely of sin, but of the risk of loosing relationship with the Holy Spirit as a result of unrepentance....
- "Holy Spirit"
 - o This is the most commonly used title for the Spirit.
 - o Because it is His defining characteristic
 - o He is Holy, sacred, set apart, pure, without any impurity,
 - o David knew that his unholy conduct put him at risk of loosing the presence of God's Holy Spirit. He knew that the holiness of God cannot co-exist with sinfulness.
 - o But David also knew, and it is vital for us to grasp this: that it is the holy presence living in us that enables us to become holy
 - o It is not that we must become holy before we receive the Spirit, but that in receiving the Spirit, God's holiness resides in us.
 - o Like David, once we have received His Holiness, **we must respect it – or risk loosing it.**

Psalms 51:12 NKJV, "*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*"

- KJV: "free Spirit"
- Strongs, "nobility" – free in the sense of being noble, in authority and therefore not under the dominion of another
- Clarke: "**Uphold me with thy free spirit** - Prop me up; support me with a princely spirit, one that will not stoop to a mean or base act."
- Weseley: Free - Or, ingenuous, or liberal, or princely. Which he seems to oppose to his own base and illiberal and disingenuous and servile spirit, which he had discovered in his wicked practices: a spirit, which may free me from the bondage of sin, and enable me cheerfully to run the way of God's precepts.
- **2 Corinthians 3:17** NKJV, "*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*"

- Because the Holy Spirit is noble and free
 - His dwelling within us enables us to live as nobility – free from bondage and servitude.
 - Because He dwells in us, his nature is to be reproduced in us
- **John 8:34-36** NKJV, "*Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free (noble, royal), you shall be free indeed."*
- When we sin, when we fall short, when we lust, or lie, or cheat, or covet, or anything short of living holy – we are violating the noble nature that we are called to...
 - We have been made sons and daughters of the king
 - Our true identity, our true nature, is noble, free – holy and pure
 - God's Noble and Holy Spirit within us enables us to live out our true identity

Closing

Lead in prayer of repentance, and receiving the noble, royal Spirit....