

Union United Methodist Church

Sermon Outline: **Called to Bear Fruit in the Divine Purpose & Vision of Christ,** **Part 2: Who the Holy Spirit is, Work of the Holy Spirit**

May 28th, 2023. Pastor Michael Larbi

Readings: **Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21**

1. **Recall from last week: The Divine Purpose & Vision of Christ.**

- **Salvation for All in Christ - the Four ALLs.**

- ALL need to be saved - Romans 3:23
- ALL may be saved - 1 Timothy 2:4
- ALL may know they are saved - John 1:12, Romans 8:16
- ALL may be saved to the utmost (completely) - 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

- **Divine Reconciliation for All - Our Collective Ministry**

God has called all of us Christians to help other people to become reconciled to God. Paul calls this our ministry of reconciliation, and we are called Ambassadors of Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NRSV

- **We are Called to Bear Fruit:** John 15:1-10

- **Without Christ and His Anointing, We Cannot Bear Fruit** - John 15:3-5

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 NRSV

2. **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

- **The Spirit Who Rested on Jesus, and Empowered Jesus**

In Isaiah's prophesy about the coming Messiah (Jesus, the Christ), he said described the Holy Spirit for us in Isaiah 11.

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him [ANOINTING], the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**" Isaiah 11:1-2 NRSV

So, the Holy Spirit is here described as:

- The spirit of the Lord - **God's spirit**
- The spirit of **wisdom**
- The spirit of **understanding**
- The spirit of **knowledge and might** (energy, strength, power, ...)
- The spirit of **counsel (guidance), and the fear of the Lord (reverence)**

- **The Spirit Present and Hovering During Creation**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters**. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3 NKJV

- **The Spirit who Rested On, and Empowered Moses and the prophets of old**

Moses was an 80-year-old man when God called him to lead the nation of Israel out of Egypt into the promised land. He led them for 40 years. How did he do it?

- **He was timid when God first called him:**

"But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" **So He said, "I will certainly be with you."** Exodus 3:11-12 NKJV

This was the promise of the Spirit of God on and with Moses in his calling.

- **At the end of his life, we see that the Spirit of God sustained him.**

"Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; **his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated.**" Deuteronomy 34:7 NRSV

- **A portion of the Spirit on Moses was given to Israel's leaders**

"Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him [Moses], **and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy**

elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied"

Numbers 11:24 NRSV

28And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" 29But **Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"**

Numbers 11:28-29 NRSV

By Moses laying hands on Joshua, the Spirit was transmitted to Joshua.

"Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him."Deuteronomy 34:9 NRSV

- **Day of Pentecost - the Spirit of God was poured out on Jesus' Disciples**

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2Suddenly **a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues [languages] as the Spirit enabled them."**

Acts 2:1-4 NIV.

As Peter preached that day to those assembled Jews on the day of Pentecost, this outpouring of the Holy Spirit was in fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28):

**17'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
18Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;**

and they shall prophesy.

21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Acts 2:17-18, 21 NRSV

3. The Work of the Holy Spirit - Inside and Upon Us

To understand and appreciate the work of the Holy Spirit, it is important to remember who the Holy Spirit is. Recall from Isaiah 11 that the Holy Spirit is described as:

- The spirit of the Lord - **God's spirit**
- The spirit of **wisdom**
- The spirit of **understanding**
- The spirit of **knowledge and might** (energy, strength, power, ...)
- The spirit of **counsel (guidance), and the fear of the Lord (reverence)**

Jesus affirmed this by calling the Holy Spirit the Advocate, the Counsellor, the Spirit of Truth, our Helper etc. in the gospel of John. These descriptive attributes point us to what the Holy Spirit is here to do in us, on us, and with us.

The work of the Holy Spirit can be described as within and without, inside and upon us.

• The Holy Spirit Inside/Within Us

- **Convicting/convincing the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement**

Jesus said, "When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, **he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.**"

John 16:8 NIV

- **Transforming the human spirit in what Jesus called being "born again."**

"Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, **no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.**" John 3:5-6 NRSV

- **Helping, comforting, and guiding the believer**
 “But **when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.**” John 6:13 NIV
- **Giving us strength and ability within to live holy lives and fulfil our God-given potential.**

As Paul prayed in Ephesians,

16I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant **that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,** 17and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

20Now **to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,** 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

- **The Holy Spirit Upon Us**

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 NRSV

The Holy Spirit upon us gives us the power/ability to be witnesses for Christ.

The boldness and courage and utterance we need to preach the gospel and speak the truth of God to the world around us and to exercise our spiritual authority in Christ is all the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.