

Introduction:

- Kathryn Kuhlman, used to say of the Holy Spirit, "Don't grieve my friend!" She would speak of Him as He were right there with her. And He was.
- Many people struggle with how to relate to the Holy Spirit.
 - So the last two weeks I taught on the different name of the Holy Spirit and also the symbols used to speak of the Holy Spirit and His work.
 - I did this because I wanted you to get to know Him. IE. Often when I am asked to speak I am introduced by titles (husband, father, grandparent, pastor, prophet, friend) the titles enable people on how to begin to relate to me. Same with the Holy Spirit. As we look at the titles we begin to see who He is and how we can relate to him.
 - As we look at the symbols representing the Spirit we also see more into who He is. Water-refreshing, satisfying, cleansing. Dove - gentle, tender, skittish. Oil - soothing, fragrant, restoring. The Holy Spirit is none of these but they all describe how He operates and what His presence does.
- Because the Holy Spirit gets so little attention compared to God the Father and Jesus His Son. People are unsure of how to interact with Him
- So, tonight I will attempt to help you begin to build a relationship with Him.

I. He Is God

- A. It is important to know that the Holy Spirit is God. He is not less than God or something other than God. He is God. What ever titles we have looked at or symbols or the Holy Spirit all of them are referring to God.
1. This is particularly clear in the NT.
 2. In Acts 5:3 and 4, Peter speaks to Ananias and says, "...*you lie to the Holy Spirit.*" And, "*You have not lied to men but to God.*" Holy Spirit and God are identified as the one and the same.
 3. Paul in Acts 21:11 and 28:25 references an OT command of the Lord but uses the Holy Spirit as the One speaking. God and the Holy Spirit are again identified as the one and the same.
 4. Jesus had this to say, Mt 12:28-32 *If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God...*and the Pharisee say it was by the devil not the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, you will not be forgiven like that.
 5. In the OT the Holy Spirit is not explicitly called God but the continual uses of the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit all refer to God. "*in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*" (Ephesians 2:22, NKJV)
 6. Every Christian knows intimately that God is living in them. And those baptized in the Spirit know the fullness fo God in them. This powerfully testifies that God's spirit in us is God in us!
- B. The Three O's of the Holy Spirit
1. He is omnipresent - He is everywhere at once. Ps 139:7-ff. *Where can I go from your presence?* I can't get away from you! Jn 14:16-17, Jesus say the Holy Spirit will be with you forever where you go. All of us! Where ever we go!

2. He is omniscient - He is all knowing. Isaiah asks, in Is 40:13 "Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor instructed Him?" No One! *"But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets."* (1 Corinthians 2:10, NLT)
 3. He is omnipotent - He is all powerful. Job 33:4, 1 Cor 12:11. He is identical to God. He has all the 'omnis' that God has
- C. The work of the Holy Spirit is the work of God! Knowing He is God gives me the comfort that I can talk and interact with Him as God.
1. Since, according to the Word, He is the One who lives in me, I might as well get to know Him.
 2. God is love. He wants to have relationship with me. And He sent the gift of the Spirit that He might live me. YES! I want to get to know the Holy Spirit.
 3. IE. When I was in the church of the Nazarene I knew God the Father and God the Son... intimately. I knew the Holy Spirit helped in the work of salvation but outside of that I knew nothing but was hungry for all the things that God said He was. That motivated me to find and establish a relationship with Him. The Person of The Holy Spirit.

II. He Is A Person

- A. When referring to the Holy Spirit, scriptures speak of Him in terms of personal pronouns such as 'He' and 'Him'. The Holy Spirit is not just a force or power. He is a person. A person to be interacted with in our daily lives. The NT is very clear in this. Why? Because those who experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit soon discovered the very personal nature of God living in them and leading them.
- B. The language used in Acts about the Spirit unmistakably refers to the coming of a person.
1. In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers several times to the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete... Comforter, Helper, Counselor and Advocate.
 2. These all point to a person not a force or power.
 3. We also hear Jesus say, "When the Spirit of truth comes **HE** will guide you into all truth." Jn 16:13.
 4. Acts Speaks often about the person of the Holy Spirit. IE. *"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate **to Me** Barnabas and Saul for the work to which **I** have called them."* (Acts 13:2, NKJV) (to me, and for which I)
 5. With the Holy Spirit now living experientially in so many people the person of the Holy Spirit is being recognized by so many more.
- C. Personal Characteristics of the Holy Spirit.
1. He is smart! Very intelligent. Barnabas and Saul were set apart by the Holy Spirit. Intelligence.
 - a) The book of Acts constantly shows the new church being led by the Holy Spirit. *"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements:"* (Acts 15:28, NLT)
 - b) Paul also spoke of the mind of the Spirit and how He intercede through the Saints according to the will of God. *"And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the*

Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." (Romans 8:27, NLT)

2. He has a will.
 - a) Acts 16:6 Paul and Timothy are forbidden by the Spirit on the second missionary journey into Asia. When they tried to go to Bythinia the Holy Spirit did not allow them. vs 7
 - b) The Holy Spirit hands out gifts as He sees fit. 1 Cor 12:11
3. The Holy Spirit has feelings.
 - a) Is 63:10 their rebellion grieved the Holy Spirit.
 - b) Eph 4:30 Paul exhorts us to not grieve the Holy Spirit. Grieve means to cause pain or sorrow. It stands as the exact opposite of Joy.
 - c) The Holy Spirit groans for us in prayer with groans too deep for words.
- D. The Holy Spirit is shown to be related to others in relationship.
 1. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Luke 4:1-2
 2. Jn 16:14 The Spirit of truth will glorify me. Show relationship.
 3. The book of Acts is full relational expressions: Acts 20:23 Paul says the Spirit testifies to me...2 Cor 13:14 "...*The fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*"

III. We Can Have Relationship With Him

- A. The relationship begins with salvation. You are sealed with the Holy Spirit. That has been established in prior weeks. 2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13
- B. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We out of our hearts desire and faith welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives.
- C. The relationship grows as we fellowship with Him.
 1. Tell Him good morning. Goodnight. I love you Holy Spirit.
 2. Ask Him to teach you as you read the Word of God.
 3. Listen for His voice. An impression (like a thought) in your heart/mind. May be a dream. May be a circumstance.
 4. Thank Him when he leads you.
 5. Pay attention to how your heart feels when you see and hear different things. Is your heart grieved when the Holy Spirit is? Joy? Concern?
 6. Can you pray to the Holy Spirit? Yes, He is God. Holy Spirit, help me. That is a common prayer of mine. I communicate my needs to Him.
 7. Worship Him. It is ok? The answer is yes! But we also must know that He helps us to point our worship to the Father and to the Son.

Conclusion:

- Make the Holy Spirit your friend!