



Knowing God as Holy Spirit: “Introducing Holy Spirit”

January 5, 2020

Pastor Derrick Shields

Scripture: John 14-16

Today, we begin a new decade, a new year, and a new sermon series, “*Knowing God as Holy Spirit.*” For many, Holy Spirit is a less familiar face of God. Through this short series, we will discover that Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force but rather a vibrant, essential *person* who engages fully with Father and Jesus in the glorious life of our Triune God.

Words from Derrick for 2020

1. We celebrate the imminent start of our new church plant right here in Southeast Columbus – **Hope Springs Community Church!** We are sending and supporting Brandon and Sandy Branigan to lead this new work. Let us pray, give financially, and perhaps some may even decide to go with them (hoping for 50+).
2. Our theme for this new year is - **Living Free!** (Galatians 5:1)
3. Tonight kicks off our **Prayer Week** (through Wed evening): “*Open Our Eyes*”
4. Followed by our **21 Days of Prayer & Fasting** as a congregation. (Find helpful guidelines and scriptures on our website.)

John 13-17 captures Jesus’ intimate evening with his disciples the night he was arrested. In these rich chapters we get a full glimpse of the wonder and joy of the Trinity – their love and deference for each other and also their cooperation with each other in the pursuit of their purpose and glory in the world.

John 14-16: especially reveals Holy Spirit’s central place in their Trinity life.

* Simply read these 3 chapters with attention to Holy Spirit’s role.
(here are a few choice verses: 14:15-17, 15:26, 16:7-12)

- * These verses accent Holy Spirit as “**advocate.**” The Greek word here is “paracletus” which means *one who comes alongside*. It is also translated: *helper, counselor, comforter, and friend*.
- * What a joy and gift to us – Holy Spirit God who comes alongside us, who actually *indwells* us. He gives us grace, strength, guidance, gifts, fruit! He is many things:
 1. Holy Spirit is our **Helper.** (John 16:8-11)
 - * He helps us in regards to sin . . . convincing/convicting us; leading us to repentance and into...
 - * Righteousness (right *standing* with God)
 - * He helps us in regards to our enemy – who stands now condemned. We have victory over Satan.
 2. Holy Spirit is our **Friend.**
 - * He KNOWS us intimately. Who we are created to be. He does not come to change us into someone *else* (to make us weird), but to develop us into who God has designed each of us to be.
 - * But this does involve empowerment! He transforms us into our full potential by His power, His gifts, His fruit. We are (beautifully) transformed, and thereby become agents of transformation in our broken world.
See Acts 2:42-47 (the early believers)
 - * One of Satan’s schemes is to get us hyper-focused on ONE of Holy Spirit’s gifts – *speaking in tongues* – to create comparison, confusion, and separation. We foil this scheme by affirming ALL the gifts, fruits, and workings of Holy Spirit in our lives
 3. Holy Spirit is our **God.**
 - * Holy Spirit is not an “it,” an impersonal force. He is a person. One of the distinct faces of the Trinity; equal in value, significance, and power in the unfolding of God’s purpose and glory.
 - * One whom we can talk to, commune with, experience, and know. He is our helper, friend, and God.

As we move forward in this new year, with a heart to Live Free, let us recognize that this longing and hope can only happen by the presence, power, and purity of Holy Spirit at work within us.

“Come, Holy Spirit!”