

BFF404 Names of the Spirit

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm well. I just returned home from a conference where I spoke a lot and you can tell because my voice still hasn't recovered. I've been home for two days, but it was a really good conference, and as I told the people there, "I have one of the most wonderful jobs. I get to meet so many of my siblings before I get to heaven. I have the opportunity to run around the country meeting all these special people that God has been working in their hearts and in their lives, and we have so much more in common than we know."

It's always fun to connect with them. It seems like since I've been doing this for many years, and some of these cities, I have special friends that I see annually. I don't remember their names all the time, but I remember their faces. When they walk up and I say, "I know you," and they say, "Yes, we've talked before." So that's special.

Scott: Where was this one?

Steve: St. Louis.

Scott: Awesome.

Steve: I've got a bunch of buddies from Memphis that come over every year, and some people drove up from another town in Missouri, and we had dinner Friday night. I hadn't met their kids before, and that was very special.

We're going to continue our series today on the Holy Spirit leading up to the season of Pentecost. I think we've done a pretty good job of magnifying and learning about the blood of Jesus, and now we're going to learn more about the Spirit, which is a little tricky, if I may say this, because he is the quiet person of the Trinity.

Not that God the Father and God the Son are noisy, I'm just saying that the Spirit's job is to magnify the Father and the Son, and He does a really good job of it. He, Himself, is a part of the Trinity, and I think understanding more about Him and listening to Him and getting in touch with Him is vital. Let's pray.

Father, help us today as we consider Your Word and the names of the Spirit. Help us to deepen our understanding of the Spirit, but not just our understanding, but our communion with the Spirit. This is what Paul prayed, that we would all take in the love of God and the grace of Jesus and the fellowship or communion of the Spirit. Help us to learn and connect with the Spirit today in a new way, in Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Sometimes after a conference, I journal about some of my takeaways, people that I met, but I would say the number one thing that comes to my mind being in St. Louis was I'm learning to listen to the Spirit while I'm talking to people and while I'm speaking even though I have notes. I think it's important that you just don't stand up there and wing it. You have to do your homework.

I've done my homework, I have my notes, but sometimes different things will be revealed to me while I'm talking and I'm learning to hear the Spirit, and that was my

big takeaway. It was awesome. This is what I aspire to more of, to listen to the Spirit. I think that's why I often pray, "Give me ears to hear what the Spirit is saying."

I often pray that, I know I do on these podcasts, but this is one of the things that the children of Israel had difficulty with, they didn't have ears to hear, and they were stiff-necked and unbelieving, and I hope that God will make me the opposite. I hope He'll make me teachable, He'll make me believing, and He'll give me ears to hear what God is speaking.

As the math guy in our midst, I have done a study on the names of the Spirit, and I've grouped them according to how many times they appear in the Bible. There's only about half a dozen that appear more than once, so this is nice. If you're listening at home, listening in the car, just soak this in because it's wonderful. The more we know about the Spirit through His name, the more we'll be able to appreciate Him and love Him.

Psalm 51:11, "Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me." The expression, "Holy Spirit" is used 92 times in the Bible. That's number one. Holy Spirit. It's difficult in my head to even separate holy and spirit, because He is the Spirit of holiness, and it's the Spirit that helps us to become more holy, more separate unto God, but the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, it's almost like when we say "Jesus, the Christ."

Christ is the anointed, so it's difficult even to separate Jesus from the Spirit because Jesus wouldn't have been Jesus without the anointing and the filling and the empowering of the Spirit. I'm not surprised when I see these words that go together and yet are similar because we're trying to, you might say, take apart something that was never meant to take apart. It's the Trinity.

I chose Isaiah 61:1 as the representative verse for the next expression of the Spirit, which is used 27 times. "The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me." Jesus quoted this, I believe, when he was in the synagogue at Nazareth. So the Spirit of the Lord Jehovah, the Spirit of Jehovah. Now we have the Spirit and the Father, the Spirit of the Lord. 27 times this appears.

Close to that is the Spirit of God, which is mentioned 26 times. Genesis 1:2, "The earth was without form and void, and the darkness was over the face of the earth, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

Probably one of the most known expressions for the Spirit comes in John 14:16, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper to be with you forever." Now, this is only used five times in the New Testament, but there's lots of different meanings for this one word. It can be helper, comforter, advocate, consoler, intercessor, or counselor.

Different translations all use different words. The root word is "parakletos," which comes from two words, "para," which means close beside, and "kaleo" which is to make a call. So it's a legal advocate who makes the right call because he's close enough to the situation. "Parakletos" is the regular term in the New Testament of an attorney, someone giving evidence that stands up in court.

This is somebody that's close beside, and they make a call based on their nearness to the situation. Remember He comes to be with us forever. I'll read that verse one more time. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper to be with you forever." It's an incredible promise.

When I read that, I think of the passage in Proverbs 18:24, "A friend that sticks closer than a brother," someone who is with us forever, and because he's close beside us, he knows how to pray for us. He knows how to comfort us. He knows how to advocate, intercede, and console us. All those words flow from "parakletos."

Then, two times. "the Spirit of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:19, "I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, this will turn out for my deliverance."

The Spirit also knows how to pray, as it says in Romans 8. We don't always know how to pray, but the Spirit knows how to pray, and he helps us to pray, but it also says, "the help of the Spirit," because that's what he does. He's the helper, and he's the intercessor.

One of my favorite expressions is found in Nehemiah 9:20, "You gave your Good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst." You gave your good spirit, and this good spirit instructed them, and we know that the Spirit is the teacher.

1 Peter 1:11, "The Spirit of Christ in them was indicated when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories." The Spirit of Christ. It's kind of interesting because it's almost like Christ is a contraction of Jesus Christ because it's saying the Spirit of the anointed was in them.

"My Spirit" Which is found in Genesis 6:3. Jehovah said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh. His days shall be 120 years." His Spirit, Numbers 11:29, "Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all Jehovah's people were prophets, that Jehovah would put His Spirit on them.'"

Psalms 139:7, "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Where shall I flee from your presence?" The Spirit is everywhere.

Matthew 10:20, "It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Isn't that rich? Spirit of your father.

Here's the verse I referenced just a second ago of the teacher. In John 16:13, "When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth." The Spirit of Truth.

Romans 1:4, the Spirit of God is referred to here as the Spirit of Holiness, which is what we started with. Holy Spirit, Spirit of Holiness.

Romans 8:2, "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus."

1 Peter 4:14, "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

Hebrews 9:14, "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without blemish to God," eternal spirit. I quote that verse a lot because I believe it was the Spirit that helped Jesus to say, "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." The eternal Spirit in Christ helped Him to offer Himself.

The Spirit of grace and of supplication. Zechariah 12:10, "I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication, and they shall look unto Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him." One more, and then, Scott, you're going to get your chance. The sevenfold Spirit found in Isaiah 11:2, "The Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Jehovah."

Scott: So there's no Holy Ghost anywhere? Was that just a different translation?

Steve: Yes, different translation.

Scott: That was one that always kind of messed with my head as a kid. You know, you picture a little Casper the Friendly Ghost or something. I don't know. That one never seemed to quite capture the essence of God Almighty.

Steve: Don't we sing that in the doxology?

Scott: Yes.

Steve: Johnny often sings a doxology, and I think I've told you this. He's the son. I'm the father, and he belts out, "Ghost!"

Scott: Nice.

Steve: Which two chapters in the New Testament have the most references to the Spirit? One of them, it's only 9 or 10 verses, but the word "the Spirit" appears seven times. Then another chapter, and within 17 verses, the Spirit is referenced about 15 times.

Scott: I'm not that good at chapters.

Steve: They are Romans 8 and Galatians 5. I'm going to start with Galatians 5. That's the shorter passage. Again, just drink this in because there's a lot in here. I'm going to skip the words talking about the works of the flesh, which are held up in apposition to the works of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16, "I say walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh, but the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do," which is exactly what Paul says in Romans 7.

Then in Romans 8, he talks about the Spirit. He's talking about the works of the flesh on the one hand, and he's teaching about the works of the Spirit on the other.

Continuing, "If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

Now, I'm going to jump down a few verses. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law, and those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with his passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."

This is powerful stuff right here because he goes through and describes the works of the flesh, sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, etc., but then he goes through and he describes the fruit of the Spirit, and they are opposites. This war, as we know, is going on all the time, and we have to continue to honor the Spirit. and give place to

the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit, so that the Spirit has the upper hand, and the flesh doesn't.

So we don't want to feed the flesh, or it says later, "Sow to the Spirit." Instead we want to sow to the Spirit. We want to plant stuff that will help the Spirit.

Romans 8, and I'm going to read 17 verses. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do, by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin.

"He condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their mind on the things of the Spirit.

"For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law. Indeed it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

"Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him, but if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

"So then, brothers, we are debtors not to the flesh to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, as sons, by Whom we cry, 'Abba, Father.'

"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."

Isn't that awesome? I read the seventh chapter of Romans and outlined all the references to the personal pronouns, I, me, mine. The abundance of these personal pronouns indicates that we are setting our minds on the flesh, the very thing that Paul in the eighth chapter says not to do, but then he says, "I want you to set your mind on the things of the Spirit, because that's where life and peace are."

Then how many times did I say? I think it's 16 times in those 17 verses, we find a reference to capital S-P-I-R-I-T, the Spirit, and a new name that I had forgotten in my list, Spirit of adoption. I get inspired when I think about that, but I want to set my mind on the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, walk by the Spirit, be filled with the Spirit, sow to the Spirit, and keep in step with the Spirit. That's my ambition, and it's coming. Thank the Lord.

Scott: The end of that there, that passage, that last paragraph, verses 14 through 17, I think was what I was thinking about with you've not received the Spirit of slavery.

Steve: There you go.

Scott: It doesn't cause you to live in fear, but the Spirit of adoption to sonship, and then the whole bit about we are co-heirs with Christ. That one...Man, if you just sit and contemplate what that means. First of all, you're a prince in the kingdom here now. You're brothers with Christ, co-heirs with Christ, you're an heir to all of the kingdom that Jesus has. I mean that's...Just let that bake your noodle for all...That is just huge.

Steve: I love your expressions. I want my noodle to be baked.

Scott: Indeed.

Steve: Amen. I want to marinate in these things because as I marinate in them, that's part of believing them. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of Christ. So, yeah, amen. Good stuff.

Well, let's pray. Father, we've been given a wonderful treat just to meditate on Your Spirit. We've received a bath, so to speak, a bath of the names of the Spirit, and we know that the Spirit is our, you might say, our secret. It was Jesus' secret to be filled with the Spirit, to be anointed by the Spirit.

I pray that You will enable us to honor the Spirit in a whole new way. Give us ears to hear the Spirit, give us hearts to love the Spirit, give us a mind to recognize and honor the Spirit. I thank You for Your Word. I thank You for these words of life. I thank You that these words that the Spirit inspired it for us.

So, we honor You, Spirit of God. Fill us afresh today and help us to have the right perspective according to sacred writings. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.