

BFF407 Jesus Teaching about 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: Wonderful. I don't know what could be wrong. It's sunny and it's going to be 70, and I've got shorts on for the second day in a row. I have white legs sticking out of dark shorts.

Scott: Good for you. I do, too. It was 80 here yesterday.

Steve: Today we're going to continue our series on The Teaching of Jesus on The Holy Spirit. We're going to most of our time in the Gospels.

There's some from Acts, and there's some from Luke, but mostly from the book of John.

Let's pray.

Father, thank You for all that's revealed in Your Word. The more we're in it, the more we love it, and the more we are in it, the more we see how complete it is, and how inspired it is, and it's a testimony to the work of the Spirit who authored it.

And so help us today to get some more insights into the Spirit, but not just something we can put in our notebooks, but something that will improve our relationship with the Spirit. Help us to honor Him more, love Him more, and appreciate Him more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: The other day I was out walking and meditating and thinking about how we often say, I love Jesus, or I love God, but yet we kind of gulp when we say, I love the Spirit. Yet the Spirit is God, so we should be able to do that without gulping or without taking a deep breath.

I love the Spirit, and I'm learning to appreciate the Spirit, and I want to esteem Him and honor Him just as I do the Father and the Son. The more I'm learning about the Spirit, the more I appreciate the Spirit. We're going to start with a very popular verse, John 3:5-6.

"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.'"

Then He continues, "Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again or born from above. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

I prefer born from above over born again. Scripture says that every good and perfect gift comes from above. When I say born from above, my eyes are lifted up to God. He's the one Who takes the divine initiative to birth us afresh. God moved from above, and we did not help ourselves from within our own heart or spirit.

We're created in His image and we have a divine spark, but there's something about "from above" that conveys to me that we need help. We need God to love us. He first

loved us and to love us from above and to send His Spirit. What do you think about those thoughts? I'll let you jump in right in the beginning today.

Scott: Jesus made it very clear that it's not like, oh, we're all children of God. No, actually, you get the right to become children of God if you receive Him. You get born again by His Spirit, and then you're a child of God. But He didn't leave that open for debate.

There are a lot of, like you said, there's a whole bunch of people in the world who want to say, oh, we're all God's children and we're all created in His image. And He gave us all certain talents and abilities and things. I think that's why some people get messed up as they see some musician or somebody that's just amazingly talented and they think, oh, that's evidence of God. Well, yeah, it is. God gave him that talent, but that doesn't mean he's indwelt with God, you know.

Steve: Yep. The only thing we have in common is we're all enemies of God. We're born children of wrath, and we need to be born again and have a fresh start.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: John 3:34, "He Whom God has sent utters the words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure." I like that verse because it doesn't mean that Scott gets more of the Spirit and I just get a little taste, and he gets a big dose and a bucket, and I get a spoonful. No, He gives the Spirit without measure. We believe it. We don't have to dissect the meaning.

John 6:63, "It is the Spirit Who gives life. The flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." I could preach a sermon on each one of these passages. Since the words of God are spirit and life.

John 7, "On the last day of the feast," I just listened/read this chapter this last week. I'm pretty sure this was the Feast of Booths, which was then fulfilled with the Feast of Pentecost.

It's interesting that on this last day of the Feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of His heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

As we noted a few podcasts ago, as soon as He was glorified, that same evening He breathed on the disciples and gave them and said, "Receive the Spirit." We all are thirsty, and we all have needs, and we all want life, and we all want to have living water. But the way to receive living water is to receive the Spirit. That's exactly what this verse points to.

In John 14, 15, 16, there's a lot of stuff going on there, but I like these verses about the Spirit. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." This is John 14:15-17. "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him."

“You know Him. For He dwells with you and will be in you.” You know, I don't think I give you enough credit, Scott, but I remember a long time ago we were talking about knowing God's voice, and you quoted John 10 where you said, the sheep know the shepherd's voice. That stuck with me. I thought, yes, and I just read John 10 this week as well, and I was thinking of that.

Here's what He's telling His disciples. The world can't receive Him, doesn't see Him, doesn't know Him. He's a complete mystery. That's part of what being born again does. When we're born from above, born again by His Spirit, the veil is taken away and we begin to see the kingdom, which is what He said would happen. You can't even understand, you can't see the kingdom, until you're born from above.

When we are born from above, we start seeing the Spirit. We see the work of the Spirit. He told His disciples, you know Him. They're probably thinking, really? He said, yes, He's the one that helps you to see Me. He's the one that helped Peter to say, “Thou art the Christ.” And they all agreed. You're the man. You're the Savior. You're the one Who's the Son of God, and we know it.

Well, they couldn't have said that except it was the Spirit helping them. They couldn't have said “Jesus is Lord” except by the Spirit. He's telling these guys, you know Him. He dwells with you right now. He's the one that convicts you of sin. He's the one that points to Me. And He's going to be in you. This is 14th chapter. It's not until the 20th chapter that He's in us. Go ahead. I heard you begin to say something.

Scott: It's so helpful that Jesus spells this out because Satan will try and deceive us. To think, oh, you didn't actually hear from God. You don't have His Spirit. Jesus is very clear. No, no, if you received Him, you are born again. You have Him, and He's in you now. Not that every thought you have is going to be from Him, but...you can trust that He will guide you and will not leave you or forsake you.

Steve: Amen.

Scott: I need that assurance often.

Steve: I am a witness of the evidence of the Spirit in your life. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: John 14, a little bit further on, says, “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

I'll bet you Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John counted on that passage. When they were trying to put pen to paper and write a record of the gospel, right then the Holy Spirit's helping them and He's bringing to their remembrance everything that Jesus said and they were able to write it down. It was the Spirit Who led them to write about what He said and did and then helped them to remember.

You and I are going to experience this verse in Luke 12, “When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Scott: Dude, I'll pray that one every once in a while, when that verse comes to mind, and I pray it and ask the Holy Spirit to teach me what to say.

Steve: Amen.

Scott: I know I'm not standing before the authorities at the moment, but even in other situations where I'm just feeling like I'm inadequate, I think we can extrapolate from that verse that the Holy Spirit will help us do and say.

Steve: Yep.

Scott: When we're under persecution, it's going to be awful nice to have Him right there with us.

Steve: I'm thinking now about Stephen, as he's standing there delivering one of the most eloquent speeches in the world, before he was stoned. He rehearsed the whole history of Israel, and then he cut right to the quick. But you guys, you stiff-necked, hard-of-heart guys, and then they grabbed stones and killed him.

The Holy Spirit gave him what to say. And the thing is, is that if he hadn't said those words in front of that audience, who knows how Paul would have come to Christ. Because Paul was there. Paul was witnessing that. I believe those words of Stephen went right to Paul's heart. And look what he did to take the gospel to the whole world. John 15, 26, "When the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, Who proceeds from the Father. He will bear witness about Me." He's going to make people see me. He's the One that helped us on our 30 podcasts in the tabernacle because I certainly didn't see Jesus in the tabernacle at the beginning, not like I do now. That's the work of the Spirit. The Spirit helps us.

I think it's important to pray and appeal to the Spirit. You probably get tired, people that are listening, of me saying it, but I count on it. I pray it almost daily myself, give me ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. Because it's the Spirit that opens our ears, and it's the Spirit that points us to Jesus. And He knows what's in the Bible because He was the inspiration, through men of God, for the book.

Scott: I remember in the midst of the series on the tabernacle, one day you said we were going to talk about the curtains. And I don't remember exactly what you had said about them at this point, but I remember thinking, boy, I hope the Spirit shows up. Otherwise, this is just a couple old guys talking about curtains. But He did, and it was good.

Steve: John 16:7-11, this is right before He's going to be crucified. He knows they need to hear this teaching. They're going to need the Spirit like they've never needed Him before, because He is about to leave. So he's pouring in this information.

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me. Concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you will see Me no more. Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

Then he says, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak. And He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. Therefore, I said, He will take what is Mine and declare it to you."

He's our divine tutor and our greatest ally. He is the one that is going to reveal truth to us. I wish that we could all just get a fresh grasp of that and simply ask the Spirit while we're reading the Bible, when we come to something that we don't know, instead of running to a commentary or running to the marginal readings in our Bibles, just stop and count on the Holy Spirit and say, "Holy Spirit, You said that You're going to lead me into all the truth, and You're going to help me to see Jesus."

"Help us to see Jesus, help us to understand this truth." Sometimes when I pray that prayer, I see it anew, like I hadn't understood it before, and sometimes it takes a day or two, and then all of a sudden I recognize that now I have it.

Scott: That's a phrase that's worth just...praying a lot, I'll say. I mean, I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide me into all truth, guide my children into all truth. I mean, it's just such a huge promise from Jesus that we can't do that on our own. He will guide us. And that's a great way to approach the Scriptures. Right before you read the Scriptures, just, Holy Spirit, 'write Your Word on my heart, and guide me into all truth.'

Steve: Amen. I think all God needs is for us to open the door, for He's put the doorknob on our side. And we have to stop and incline our ear, incline our heart, stop and ask Him, taking a deep breath and then trusting Him to teach us. That's all God needs then He can do a ton of stuff.

Scott: Pretty sure I read that somewhere. Here I am, I stand at the door and knock.

Steve: Exactly.

Scott: You open the door.

Steve: Revelation 3:20.

Scott: There you go.

Steve: And He's talking to Christians.

Scott: Yep.

Steve: He wants to go deeper, but we have to give Him room to operate because He's not going to knock the door down. He said, if you hear My voice, if you sense Me wanting to go deeper, open the door. Just say, amen. Come on in.

Of the great missionary biographies that I read many, many years ago I noticed that these men would come to a certain place where they just couldn't go on. They couldn't go any further. And they would pray, Lord make me willing.

Even if we don't want God to come in the door, pray and say, Lord, help me to love You and help me to love Your Spirit's work in my life and help me to want to want You. That's the prayer. Help me to want to let You into my heart. And then God takes us where we naturally can't go. Good stuff. Sober words.

There are two more verses, Matthew 12 and Luke 12, and they both declare the same thing. "Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven."

Let's take the Spirit seriously. And I'm getting ahead of myself because I was already working on next week, but you remember Ananias and Sapphira. They come walking in there and they lied. It was their land. They didn't have to lie. The phrase, I think, was, what made you lie to the Spirit? And then they died. So God help us to have a reverent fear, respect in a way that we honor the Spirit.

We've read this, but I'm going to read it again. "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, Peace be with you. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."

"Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." (John 20:19-23).

Receive the Spirit. The evening of that day, the first day of the week, where the disciples were huddled, wondering what in the world was going on, and here they come. And then He gives them a command, "Behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you, but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

This is a little mysterious because, as I've mentioned, I used to think that that's when they were going to receive the Spirit, at Pentecost. Now I see from Scripture that they already had received the Spirit. But there's something a little different here because He said, I'm going to send the promise of My Father upon you, and you'll be clothed with power.

Then it says a little bit later in Acts 1, "while staying with them, He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which He said, you heard from Me for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

I think it's two different things, and I don't know that I fully comprehend it, but being baptized or wrapped up or immersed in the Spirit and receiving the power of the Spirit when he comes upon them seems to be different than just receiving the Spirit.

They're going to receive the Spirit so they can be His witnesses in Acts 1:8.

Regardless, I just want the Holy Spirit, and I am not going to get caught up in theological ramblings of when you get Him and when you don't have Him and how much you have of Him and are you sealed or are you filled or are you baptized? I just want as much of the Spirit as I can get. I think this is why Jesus says in Luke 11:9-13, this is right after He taught them the Lord's Prayer.

"I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a

scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

I don't know how much clearer it can be. I want to pray.

Father, in Jesus' name. We try to put you in all kinds of little boxes, and we try to make you comfortable, and we have chapters about this, and PhDs on this side, and PhDs on that side, and I just want to cut right through it today. I want to ask, I want to seek, I want to knock, and I want to receive, find, and be open.

I want to receive more of the Spirit today. Thank You for breathing on those disciples. Thank You for baptizing those disciples in the Spirit. Thank You for clothing them with power by the Spirit. And Paul tells us in Ephesians 5, be filled with the Spirit, ongoing.

I ask today that You will fill me with Your Spirit. Fill us all with Your Spirit, all who are listening today. We open up the door as much as we can, and we'd like to have Your help in opening it further today. But we want to receive the Spirit. We want to love the Spirit. We want to honor the Spirit, and we believe that You'll help us to do just that. I'm counting on the fulfillment of that verse we just read. We have asked, and I believe that we've also received. Thank you, 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.