

BFF413 The Spirit and the Bride say Come!

**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. How are you?

**Scott:** I'm good.

**Steve:** These June mornings, I get up early and my dogs and I are out walking before seven o'clock.

**Scott:** I'm so sorry.

**Steve:** No, it's lovely. It's cool, it's clear, and it's not even summer yet. It will be when you listen to this podcast, but technically summer doesn't start till June 20th. This is only June 4th. How about you? How are things in Cincinnati?

**Scott:** Good. I'm adjusting to a new setup with my podcasting equipment. Well, the equipment's the same, except I got a whole new computer, and so I've had to redo all my passwords and everything, and I'm still making sure I'm doing everything properly. Forgive me if I'm a little bumpy on this ride.

**Steve:** OK. I'll buckle my seat belt. Thank you from my perspective and from everybody that listens and has been blessed by these podcasts for all the work you do behind the scenes, the infrastructure, hosting them, cleaning them up, and the whole package. So not only your input on the podcast itself, but doing all the techie stuff is very important.

**Scott:** You're quite welcome. My pleasure.

**Steve:** OK, so here we go. This is going to be kind of a wrap-up on our series on the Holy Spirit. Although, as I was preparing, I thought, "There is so much we could talk about." Let's pray, and then we'll jump in.

Father, thank You for Your precious word. Thank You for what You've revealed to us about the Spirit. Thank You for what You've been teaching us.

It's a little tricky to know how to say this, but thank you, Holy Spirit, for teaching us and for guiding us through our study. Thank you for inspiring the authors of Scripture, and thank you for helping us. Now, give us ears to hear, I pray, what you're saying to us today.

Thank You for being such a good God. God in the Spirit, my favorite expression for you is "Good Spirit," and you certainly are good, and so we draw near to you now for your help. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** We're going to begin with a quick overview, and then we're going to end in Revelation. In the beginning of the Bible, Genesis 1:2, "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

There is the Holy Spirit right in the beginning. Then as we continue through Genesis, Pharaoh, speaking about Joseph, says, "Can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?" We know that Joseph was filled with the Spirit.

I'm going to skip to Judges, where these carnal men had the Spirit come upon them, if I can put it that way. After Moses and Joshua, the standards certainly seemed to drop. The judges, as much as they had their heyday, were still pretty rough characters, Samson, Gideon, and others, but the Spirit of God came upon them, and they were able to do things they could not naturally do. God used them, but it was the Spirit that came upon them that carried the day.

Then David, who was such a Spirit-filled man. The Spirit came upon him when Samuel anointed him to be the next king. He was the anointed psalmist. An anointed worshiper. An anointed warrior. All due to the Spirit in His life.

Elijah and Elisha, are both larger-than-life figures in history because of the Spirit. Elijah had the Spirit, and Elisha had a double portion of that same Spirit. Later we see John the Baptist who came in the Spirit and power of Elijah. The Spirit is all through the Bible, and we've documented that.

At the beginning of the New Testament, we read that it was the Spirit that came upon Mary, thus the divine conception. At the incarnation God became flesh in Jesus. Then, in the beginning of the Gospels, Jesus is called the Christ, which means anointed by the Spirit.

At His baptism, the Spirit came upon Him and the Spirit led Him into the wilderness. It was the Spirit that helped Him to say, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thine." The Spirit helped Him to die. For we read in Hebrews, "Through the eternal Spirit, He offered Himself."

Then it was the Spirit that raised Him from the dead. After His resurrection He appeared to his disciples, His priests, His apostles, that evening and breathed on them saying, "Receive the Spirit."

Then we know that they were waiting at His command in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Spirit, the baptism of the Spirit, which came upon them in Acts. The book of Acts, which I think should be called Acts of the Spirit Through the Apostles, to give credence to the Spirit's role in the beginning of the church. It was the Spirit that transformed Peter, Paul, Stephen, and Philip.

He transformed these men into anointed messengers, and through that baptism, filling, outpouring of the Spirit on these men, they changed the world. Literally, the Bible says they turned the world upside down.

I know that I've read, I think, all of Romans 8 one time on a podcast, but I'm going to read a chunk from Romans 8:12-16. "So then, brothers, we are debtors, and 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."

There's so much rich truth in Romans 8. I just chose those five verses, but it's the Spirit that makes us know that we're God's children. It's the Spirit that makes us know that we've been adopted into His family. It's the Spirit that helps us to put to death the flesh. There's just so much that we owe to the Spirit, and at the end of Romans 8:26–27, we find out that the Spirit helps us to pray.

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words, and he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Amen.

Then in 1 Corinthians 12, I'm going to read two verses, but chapters 12 and 14 are rife with passages about the Spirit, giving the gifts of the Spirit and the work of the Spirit. In the 12th chapter, verses 3–4, "Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says Jesus is accursed, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit."

Then the great battle between the enemy in our bodies, the flesh. This is the enemy that's ever present. He wakes up the same time as we do, and we need the Spirit's help to combat him. Galatians 5:16–18. "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh, for 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, but if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

We want to be led by the Spirit. We want to walk by the Spirit. We want to feed the Spirit. We want to sow to the Spirit. All these marvelous passages in Galatians 5.

Then Ephesians, I've had Greek scholars tell me that there should be a grammatical colon right after Ephesians 5:18 which declares, "Be filled with the Spirit."

This important section, which is the Magna Carta for the family, progresses from Ephesians 5:19 through Ephesians 6:4. This passage starts with husbands and wives and concludes with how to raise our children. It is only the Spirit, Who can help us to put to death the flesh, die to ourselves, live to Him, and be able to love our wives well, to love our husbands well, to love our children well. It's only the Spirit that can help.

Here is the whole passage: "Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

All right, so I'm going to give a little pause here, Scott. I've been going nonstop for about 10 minutes, now you can make some comments before I bring us up to the grand crescendo. Any thoughts so far? What did I leave out about the Spirit in my overview?

**Scott:** What you left out could probably fill books. I don't know.

**Steve:** You're right.

**Scott:** I had the thought when you were first talking at the beginning that we think we're done with the series on the Spirit but the Spirit has this way of just doing what He wants.

**Steve:** Amen.

**Scott:** If you're going to walk with the Spirit, your life is no longer your own. That might be one of the reasons why we have so much trouble with the Holy Spirit is just we want to be in control, and if you want to walk with the Spirit, it's just not your control anymore.

The verse you mentioned about how we cry, "Abba! Father!" by the Spirit, that reminded me of the verse where Jesus said you have to become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Steve:** Amen.

**Scott:** I think that's, again, that's only by the Spirit that we do that. The faith of a child comes by the Spirit, not by gutting it out somehow.

**Steve:** Amen.

**Scott:** There you go.

**Steve:** Yeah, that's good. Thank you. I agree with you. We could spend probably several more months talking about each of these things. We could study the Spirit in Romans, the study in Galatians, etc.

I think we've touched on them in previous podcasts, and I think most people are more familiar with the New Testament verses of the Spirit. but I just want to make sure that we're covering the big picture because I think we're coming up in Revelation to the culmination.

The book of Revelation begins like this. Chapter 1:10–11, John speaking. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." We know that the book of Revelation, the first couple words set the table. The revelation of Jesus Christ, the revealing of Jesus Christ, the apocalypse, same word for revelation, and "I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, 'Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches.'"

So it was the Spirit, Who had come upon John, and John was now in the Spirit. He was in sync with the Spirit, and the Spirit says to him, "Write, and I'm going to help you," and then in those letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, there's an exhortation. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." This has become a big part of my personal prayers the last few years. I continue to pray that God will give me an ear to hear what the Spirit says because the people of God, all the way from the Old and the New Testament, were dense, and God would tell them, "You guys are stiff-necked and hard-hearted. You can't hear. You can't understand what is being said."

Stephen said in Acts 7. "You do always resist the Holy Spirit." I want to do the opposite. I don't want to resist the Holy Spirit and have a hard heart I want to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To me.

**Scott:** I think that's really critical, if I can jump in for a second.

**Steve:** Go ahead.

**Scott:** I don't want to get too strong a point on this, but I feel like a lot of times I'll focus so much on the little parts of what I'm dealing with, and be like, "God, please help me to be more patient or please help me to not lust," or whatever.

That's not bad to pray things like that, but if you pray, "Lord, give me ears to hear the Spirit and fill me with your Spirit," all the rest of that stuff gets taken care of, and it also helps out with a lot of other things you didn't even know to pray about.

**Steve:** I think that when you stop and pray like that, you're inclining your ear. That's another expression in the Bible, "Incline your ear and hear." I actually turn my head sometimes to incline my ear heavenward. Sometimes I'm just walking from one room to another and I'll sense that I need to stop, and I'll turn my head a little bit to incline my ear towards the Spirit.

While you were saying that, I looked up the exact verse in Acts 7:51. Stephen, after he gave this incredible overview of Israel's history, said, "You stiff-necked people,

uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit." It's a fascinating expression because he says you're uncircumcised in your heart and your ears. He's basically saying, "Look, you guys, you're all worried about circumcision of the flesh and who's in and who's out based on whether they've received this circumcision. He says, "That's not what I'm after. I want people whose hearts and ears have been circumcised. Who've let me work deep in their life."

By the way, the rest of that verse said, "As your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets, did the fathers not persecute? ... It says they were enraged and they ground their teeth at him because they knew he was right. They were convicted by the Spirit. He just put his finger right on our issue. We have hard hearts. We've got ears that can't hear, hearts that can't understand. I frequently ask God, to circumcise my heart and my ears so I'll have a soft heart. I'll have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. I'll have a teachable, meek heart that can listen to the Spirit.

**Scott:** Yeah. That's a dangerous prayer to pray. "Circumcise my heart, God." Buckle up, man. It's a good one.

**Steve:** It's a good prayer to pray.

**Scott:** It totally is. Yeah. I just keep coming back to like satan's happy to let you run your life your way. God loves you and He'll give you more than you can ever imagine, and He'll let you run your life your way, too, but you won't get all that great stuff that He wants to give you until you yield to Him.

**Steve:** This is good. The Spirit's helping us. Let me read the last two verses in Romans 2, and of all the chapters in Romans, this is sometimes the one that's overlooked. "No one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. but a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man, but from God." Isn't that powerful?

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** TI don't want to lose those two verses, because this is what we need, we need circumcision of the Spirit in our heart, and it's an inward thing, it's not outward and physical, it's inward.

OK, so I'd like to think that while we are here on Earth, this is probably our number objective, is to learn to be in sync, S-Y-N-C, with the Spirit. We need to learn to hear His voice, respond to His leadings, be taught by Him as we search the Scriptures, be helped by Him as we pray.

We need to learn how to overcome the flesh by walking in the Spirit, how to die and lay down our lives for others through the eternal Spirit. We need to learn how to wield the sword of the Spirit in prayer. This is what our objective is, and we can do this whether we are delivering pizza or painting a house or cutting the grass or sitting in church. The Spirit is here to teach us and help us to do all these different things.

I think the culmination of the Bible is in Revelation 22:17. Remember, we started, the Spirit was brooding over the face of the waters way back in the first chapter of the

Bible. In the last chapter of the Bible, the Bride of Christ, us, the body of Christ, His people, who have been learning to hear Him and be led by Him and to be taught by Him and to...etc., now, in the 17th verse of Revelation 22, the Spirit and the Bride. OK, just stop right there. The Spirit and the Bride are in such harmony. They have learned to work together. They have learned. to trust, we've learned to trust Him. We've learned to be taught by Him. We've learned to honor Him. We've learned to love Him, and now after a whole lifetime of learning these lessons, the Spirit and the Bride are together. They're unified.

Probably this is the secret to true unity in the church, is when we are in sync with the Spirit, we'll be in sync with the Spirit of God. We'll be in sync with the Spirit of Jesus. We'll be in sync with the Triune God. Because if we're in sync with one member of the Trinity, we'll be in sync with the whole Trinity.

So the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come, and let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires to take the Water of Life without price."

This is our goal, is to be in sync with the Spirit so that we can say what He says. Together we say, "Come."

**Steve:** I never saw it so clearly, but the more I'm studying the Holy Spirit, the more I'm thinking about Him, the more I'm asking Him to circumcise my heart and my ears and to give me ears to hear what He says, my eyes are opened to this is why we're here. This is why we're tarrying.

We don't just get saved and now that we have our ticket and then sit on the park bench waiting for Jesus to come. No, we've got things to do. We need to be learning how to be led, learning how to be taught, learning how to pray in the Spirit, learning how to fight the good fight of faith with the sword of the Spirit, etc. It just put everything in perspective in a new way today. I'm inspired.

Father, thank You for sending Your spirit. Thank you, Spirit, for coming. Thank you for teaching and adopting and all the different things that are working in us. I pray that you will make us true children of God. Circumcise our hearts inwardly. Circumcise us. Our ears. Circumcise us so that we can be in sync with 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](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.