

Life Group Notes

Sunday 30th April 2023

Speaker: Liz Green

Title: The Apostles' Creed

Passage: I believe in the Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit probably least understood person of trinity.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the trinity. One God, but three persons.
- Distinct from the Father and the Son, isn't just name of God's power. Has a unique role in Godhead.
- He is a person. He isn't a force. He isn't an it.
- He is fully God

God the Father most prominent in OT, God the Son takes centre stage in gospels, God the Holy Spirit features most as church is established and grows. But the Holy Spirit features throughout the bible.

In OT, creates, presence is known at specific times, specific people or for specific tasks. In NT, HS conceives Jesus, comes upon him at baptism and leads him.

As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples he says the following; Read John 14:16-17 & John 16:7

What does Jesus mean?

- **Better** for the disciples/church that Jesus leaves them, so someone else can be sent.
- By implication, 'another helper' will function in a similar way to Jesus.
- Nothing 'better' than having God walking with you, so the Holy Spirit must be God in another person!
- Bible shows Spirit to be God as he has the attributes OF God; Ominpresent, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Eternal, Creative, Works signs & wonders.
- **'Helper'** is translated from Greek word 'Paraklete'. The English language struggles to capture the breadth of the word Paraklete. It means 'Helper, Advocate, Comforter, Intercessor, Counsellor, Strengthened'.
- All words that describe the actions/responses of a person, not a force. Holy Spirit feels, cares, thinks, understands, has knowledge, can be grieved, has a will.
- The HS makes a home in God's people. **They** are now temples/dwelling places of the Paraklete. In the OT, the presence of God dwelt in a temple, Jesus was the dwelling place/meeting place between man and God, now, the presence of God would dwell in his people – us!
- His work in us includes; revealing Jesus to us through bible, bearing his fruit, giving his gifts, equipping with power to be a witness, convicting of sin.

The gift of the Spirit is the crowning mercy of God in Christ Jesus. It was for this all the rest was. The Incarnation and Crucifixion, the Resurrection and Ascension were all preparatory to Pentecost. Without the gift of the Holy Spirit all the rest would be useless. The great thing in Christianity is the gift of the Spirit. The essential, vital, central element in the life of the soul and the work of the Church is the Person of the Spirit. Samuel Chadwick (Methodist minister). 1911

Suggested Questions:

1. Where in the scriptures (Old and New Testament) have you read and seen evidence of the Holy Spirit? Share scriptures/passages about his work.
2. What aspect of the Holy Spirit's character do you find most encouraging?

3. What aspect of the Holy Spirit's work are you most wanting to see in your life in this season?
4. How does being a temple of the Holy Spirit encourage or provoke you to consider the holiness of your lifestyle?