

**THE SPIRIT IS MOVING—ARE YOU?**  
**GALATIANS 5:16-26; EPHESIANS 2:19-21**  
**2025-02-02**

Today is the third Sunday that we've been speaking about the Holy Spirit and it's the final week of that and the final week of our series on the Apostles' Creed. Let's repeat it together:

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of the heavens and earth.
2. and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
3. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary;
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell
5. on the third day He rose from the dead;
6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
7. from where He will come to judge the living (quick) and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit;
9. in the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
10. the forgiveness of sins;
11. the resurrection of the body
12. And the life everlasting.

Here's a quick review of what we covered in the last two weeks:

**The Holy Spirit is God within us.** As the third person of the Trinity, He *is One with the Father and the Son. He is the Lord and the Giver of Life, the Renewer and Helper of God's people. By the Spirit,*

- 1) *God is present in the world, the source of all goodness & justice,*
- 2) *God convinces the world of sin & testifies to the truth of Christ and*
- 3) *Christ is with His Church.*

**The Spirit also assures us of our salvation.** Ephesians 1:13-14: *The Spirit enables people to receive the good news of Christ, to repent of their sins and to be adopted as children of God. When we have turned and repented, we recognize that the Spirit enabled us to believe.*

**The Holy Spirit accompanies us on our journey of faith.** *We may not always be sure of this presence, yet God's Spirit is with us, sometimes gently, sometimes powerfully, guiding us in the midst of life, our comfort and our help. Christian life is a pilgrimage; it begins continues, and "ends" in God.*

With that, let's move into today's message: **The Holy Spirit Forms and Equips the Church:** *By the Spirit, Christ calls the church into being and unites us to Himself and to each other. The Holy Spirit is in everyone who know Christ.*

We don't typically think about the Holy Spirit calling the church into being. We probably think of this more as the work and words of Jesus, when for example, speaking about Peter, He said on this rock He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. But it's the Holy Spirit that moves within us to accomplish that. Since the Holy Spirit is in everyone who knows Christ, it's the work of the Spirit that unites us to Christ, and since we all belong to Christ it's therefore true that we are all united to each other. So, **we belong to each other. That's a very powerful statement. I belong to you and you belong to me.** I am responsible for your wellbeing and you are responsible for mine. That's true even for the person you like least in the church. **You cannot just dismiss a person,** remove him/her from your sphere of care because you don't like them! Imagine where we would be if Christ acted that way!

**Do you understand the implication?** You don't just ship one of your kids off because they've done something you don't like. You are family, for crying out loud, and family doesn't treat family that way! Neither do you treat your brother or sister in the church that way! As with your family, you sit down and consider what it will take to make it better, to restore your relationship with the person you're bent out of shape about. Whatever it takes, you do it. **Since Christ is your brother and mine, we are related to each other in the most intimate way!** Ephesians 2:19-21 "Consequently you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.**"

You are members of God's household, built on the very foundation of the apostles & prophets, with Christ in the centre, the glue or mortar that holds it all together and makes His church—that's each one of us—a holy temple in the Lord with God's Spirit living in each of us. 1 Pet. 1:1-2: "To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia, who have been **chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit,** for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood."

**But the Holy Spirit doesn't just form us into His church; He equips each of us to make the church hum! We'll come back to that in a few minutes.**  
**The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.** *We pray as a church to be guided into truth knowing that such truth may disturb and judge us.*  
John 14:15-17 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you."

**The Holy Spirit guides us in the truth.** Ask God to show you the way and it will be the right way. **The flip side is that the Spirit will also disturb your conscience and let you know clearly** when the path you've chosen or you're heading down is the wrong one. Thank God for that kind of internal spiritual correction and redirecting! Have you been aware of God's correcting before, when He stops you cold in your tracks and says this way is not a good idea? Now back to equipping the Church. **How** does the Holy Spirit equip the Church? *The presence of the Holy Spirit is seen in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, loyalty, gentleness, and self-control (restraint).*

**How's your love?** Are you loving 1 another? I mean it. The presence of the Holy Spirit is seen in your love. Let's go back to that person you feel least warmly about. **You've got to ask God to help you** get over that, to get over yourself. Allow God's Spirit to move on you and in you to help you take the first step in changing that dynamic and then the next one and the next 1 until it's evident that you love that person, even if you don't particularly like them. I can't afford to have any feelings of animosity toward anyone; I am here to love and support each of you and to enable your wellbeing however I can—**and so are you.**

**How's your joy?** Are you bursting with joy for God and His family? I mean it. **If you had terminal cancer and the doctor suddenly told you he/she had found a cure, would you be overjoyed or flat? When you gather to worship, remember that God has brought you from certain death in your sins to undeniable life—forever—with Him!** What a gift! How's your joy?  
Does your face agree with your saying that you have joy?

**How's your peace?** Do you let things, often little things, unsettle you, disgruntle, irritate you? I mean it. God's Spirit offers you peace that passes all understanding. That's His promise. Are you cashing that cheque or are you just leaving it stuck in your wallet? You should have an overriding peace that God is with you wherever you are, whatever you're doing.

**How's your patience?** When others don't share your viewpoint or perspective do you have trouble abiding them? When others don't move at your pace—on the highway or in the grocery lineup do you do the quiet burn? I mean it. **The Spirit lives in you, giving you the Prince of Peace.** God's peace is the kind of peace that will give you patience too. You can cash that cheque too.

**How's your kindness?** Do others see you acting out kindness routinely? **Is kindness a word that would come to their minds in describing you?** I mean it. Did you ever know Jesus to act in an unkind way? He may have been stern with His message from time to time, but it always was to be beneficial for the person He addressed, to show ultimate kindness to them. Here's

today's bonus at no extra charge. Kindness is arguably the most underrated fruit. In and of itself can change the world—one person at a time.

**How's your goodness? Are you about right agendas? God's agenda? Or your own agenda?** I mean it. If you're all about you, you're missing the greatest blessing going. I promise you nothing is going to make you feel better about yourself than to know that you are serving God & his people for their good. **Rick Warren's opening line in *The Purpose Driven Life* is "It's not about you." Hold on to that thought every day.**

**How's your loyalty/faithfulness? To the church?** Do you stay with it even when you disagree with some matter or decision? **How about loyalty to its people?** Even when someone ticks you off? I mean it. God's Spirit isn't fickle. He doesn't tell you to go to 1 church 1 day & another the next or to be loyal to someone when you agree with them but jump ship when you don't. Loyalty is something that's often missing in the world. People get tossed like yesterday's news.

**How's your gentleness?** Do you push to get your way? Do you dig in on your own opinion and not listen very well or at all to someone else? (what did you say?) Do you hog the majority of the air time when there's a "conversation" going on, or does the dialogue become a monologue? Do you ride roughshod over others or are you seeking the best for them—always? I mean it. The same passage in Philippians that speaks about joy also says "Let your gentleness be evident to all."

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Gentleness is something that would really change the world if people were seriously committed to it.

**How's your self-control/restraint?** Do words pop out of your mouth like candy drops from a gum ball machine? Is your mouth in gear before your brain is moved into neutral? Are you impulsive in what you do and how you do it only to regret not thinking through the consequences before-hand? I mean it. **God's Spirit says to rest in Him.** Be still and know that He is God. The Spirit is moving—are you? Are you walking in step with the Spirit? If not, you only need to ask Him to walk with you, to lead you His way, then follow His leading—trusting and obeying.

These, then, are the fruit of the Spirit. Make the fruit of the Spirit visible to those around you this week, showing them your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, loyalty and self-control! Fruit and gifts from the Holy Spirit. Next week we'll take a look at the gifts.

*The Spirit blesses us with various gifts. It's our job to discover and use them for our Lord. Faithful loving service is a sign that the Spirit is present in us. The presence of the Spirit is evident where/ when people are made whole, encouraged and enabled to grow in Christ.*

Every person in the church who has invited Jesus Christ into his/her heart receives a gift or gifts from the Holy Spirit. **You might wonder why God does that. Well, every gift is given—are you ready—for the building up, the edifying of the church**—just what we've been talking about. And who is the church? It is you and I, Christ's body of believers. So, you have been given a gift. Are you using it? Are you actively and intentionally building up the church—your brothers and sisters in Christ—every one of them?

You may not know what your spiritual gift is. If that's so, you should seek to discover it by trying various (church) activities and by asking others in the church what they may see as your gift. Not least or last, you should pray about it, asking God to reveal your gifting to you. Next week we'll look at these gifts. Perhaps you could read 1 Corinthians 12:1-10 and Romans 12:4-8 this week. Ask God to grow you in your gifting, to show you how to develop it and how to put it to good use for the wellbeing of the church--and the world this week—at home or work or among your friends or acquaintances?