

The Holy Spirit

I. Introduction: The Importance of Doctrine

- **Series Context:** This is part three of a church-wide series on essential Christian doctrines.
- **Ideas Have Consequences:** Citing Francis Schaeffer, the sermon notes that false ideas about God lead to disastrous actions; therefore, sound theology is vital for the believer.
- **The Trinity:** While the Trinity is a complex and often debated topic, the Holy Spirit is the distinct third person of the Godhead, present from Genesis through the end of Scripture.

II. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

- **Fully Divine:** The Holy Spirit is not merely an influence or energy but is fully divine and a person of the Trinity.
- **The Advocate:** Jesus described the Spirit as an "Advocate" (Helper) whose presence is so beneficial that it was better for Jesus to depart so the Spirit could come.
- **Necessity over Bonus:** The Spirit is not an optional "bonus" for the Christian life but is absolutely necessary for any spiritual effort to be effective.

III. The Work of the Holy Spirit

- **Conviction:** He convicts the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- **Inspiration and Illumination:** The Spirit inspired the human authors of the Bible and currently illuminates the Scriptures so believers can understand and apply them.
- **Regeneration and Baptism:** He is the agent of the "new creation," baptizing believers into the Body of Christ and sealing them for the day of redemption.
- **Exalting Christ:** A primary indicator of the Spirit's work is that He consistently honors and exalts Jesus as Savior.

IV. Living by the Spirit

- **Spiritual Disciplines:** These are described as "grace pipes"—tools such as Scripture and prayer through which the Spirit equips the believer for every good work.
- **Guidance and Power:** The Spirit serves as a guide into truth and provides the "breath" and life required for physical and spiritual existence.
- **Fruit and Gifts:** He cultivates Christ-like character (fruit) and distributes spiritual gifts for worship, evangelism, and service.

V. Conclusion: Walking in the Spirit

- **Avoid Foolishness:** Drawing from Ephesians 5, the sermon warns against being "drunk with wine" (under the control of earthly intoxicants) and instead commands being filled with the Spirit.
- **Corporate Response:** A life filled with the Spirit is characterized by singing psalms and hymns, gratitude, and mutual submission.
- **Reliance:** The believer must live in desperate need of the Spirit, recognizing that He is the one who gives form to Christ within us.