

Present: Present Through His Spirit
12.18.2022

Good morning, Church.

It's great to be back with you this week as we continue in our series here at WellSpring we have titled "Present".

This is a 4-week series where we are diving into the different ways that God reveals Himself to us and has made Himself present to us.

Last week we looked in the Psalms to see how God uses His creation to be present with us. We talked through how scripture calls all of creation, the heavens and the earth, to worship God.

To worship God is the reason we were created, and He is good and deserving of Worship even in the moments of life where we struggle to see Him.

Sadly, so often it is in this Christmas season where we find barriers begin to form between us and our faith and purpose. The bringing together of family, the hurts from experiences, intense loneliness, and the constant comparing of our lives to the lives of others are all so easily brought to the surface during the Christmas season.

That is why our goal through this season more than anything is to understand how to dwell in the presence of God through all the good and the bad that this season, and life, have to offer us.

This week we are going to be looking at how God reveals Himself from within us, and I am so excited for the beauty of God's heart as we jump in this morning.

This morning we are going to be looking at the Holy Spirit want us to devote our focus to the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In order to do that, there are a few things we need to know about the Holy Spirit going into this conversation:

1. The Holy Spirit is God

When I was a child, this is what I would think of when someone mentioned the “Holy Spirit”, or as it was called in my church, the “Holy Ghost”



I think we have this common misconception about the Holy Spirit that its just this divine sidekick that God gives to people who do all the right things and earn the sidekick.

This cannot be farther from the truth.

The trinity consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Trinity to us, so that God can get even closer to His ultimate desire. Last week we talked about God’s ultimate desire being to be present with us, his creation.

The Holy Spirit is one of the other ways God has tried to be present with us. Which brings us to our second fact about the Holy spirit.

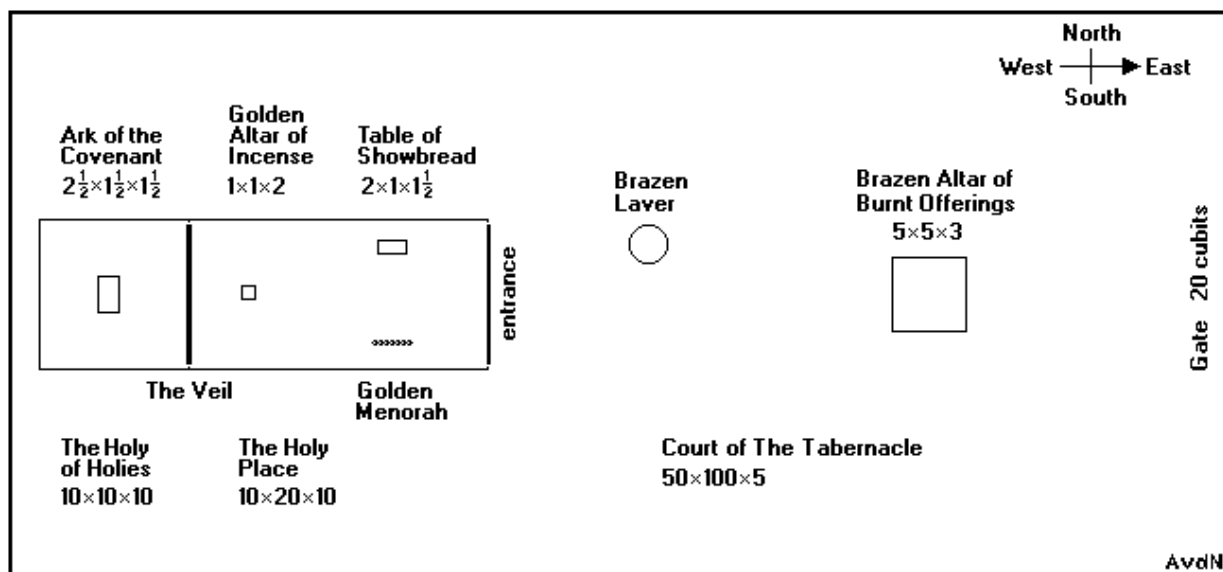
2. The Holy Spirit dwells within those who follow Christ.

Remember the Holy Spirit is God, and Where God dwells has always been a very important topic of conversation. Our students for the past few months have been going through the book of Exodus and recently our 7th and 8th graders reached the point in Exodus where the people of Israel built the Tabernacle.

The word Tabernacle means: “Dwelling”

In the Old Testament, before Jesus and the Holy Spirit entered the physical picture, the way God dwelled with His people was through this building known as the tabernacle or “the swelling”.

On the screen you can see the layout of the tabernacle that God’s people had to build:



*Explain the tabernacle and all people had to do just to be in the presence of God

And explain the veil and Jesus*

Matthew 27: 50-51 Shows the moment Jesus died on the cross, it says:

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split

So the presence of God, when Jesus died, was able to safely be given to the world because Christ took the sin that made us unworthy and the Spirit is then able to dwell within us and in the world.

So again, that second fact is that

2. The Holy Spirit dwells within those who follow Christ

The third thing we know for sure about the Holy Spirit is

3. The Holy Spirit works within us

Paul says in Galatians 5:16-18:

So I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.

No, this passage does not mean that because we are followers of Christ who have the Spirit in us that we are allowed to break the law. If you tell the officer who pulls you over “it’s okay officer I am under the Spirit, not the law” – that won’t end well for you.

The law Paul is referring to is not the laws of the land and the officials, but the old Jewish law that was in effect in the Old Testament. The Law that said there were a lot of things you needed to do in order to be present with God, that law is no longer in effect, you are now under the law of the Spirit, present with God and God with you. Remember the tabernacle. You don’t need to do all of those things anymore.

Church that is no small thing.

Galatians 5 goes on to say that when we are walking in the flesh, our fruit will show as adultery, fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.

When we are walking in the Spirit, our fruit will show as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

So, this is who the Spirit is

1. The Holy Spirit is God
2. The Holy Spirit dwells in those who follow Christ
3. The Holy Spirit works within us

So once again, like we talked about last week: God did His part in being present with us through His Spirit. He tore the veil, sent his son to die so He could be present with us through the spirit and through eternity.

So how if all of that is true can we be walking outside of the presence of God? God is in creation and in the Spirit.

Once again, God has done His part, but are we doing what we are supposed to do to be present, working with, and walking with the Spirit?

First let me address those of you who have already accepted the Spirit into your life. Just because you have done that and put your faith in Jesus, doesn't mean you are always walking in line with the Spirit. Just because you have claimed the Spirit doesn't mean that you are allowing the Spirit to be present in your life and to those around you.

If you look back at the text in Galatians that we just read, it goes on in that same chapter to talk about the fruits of the Spirit.

Here is what that chapter says in verses

22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

If I walked into a room and said, "What is the spirit like?", a lot of people would quote this passage. The reality is that this passage is not describing the Spirit, but the things that we will see in ourselves when we are walking with the Spirit.

What is the root that grows the fruit.

So, if you are walking in line with the Spirit and allowing the Spirit to be present in your life, the spirit will present himself to and through us through LJPPKGFSGC

The truth of the matter is that the fruit of the flesh is what comes most naturally for us. In our natural state, we are selfish and indulgent. The fruit of the Spirit is just that...His fruit. It comes from walking with Him and allowing Him to be the One to feed, water, and fertilize us. John 15:4 reminds us that we cannot bear fruit of ourselves, unless we abide in the Vine. Jesus is the Vine, and our Father is the Vinedresser. When we abide in Jesus, we will bear much fruit, and that fruit will be of the Spirit.

What does this mean for you and I who have experienced the spirit in our lives? IT means we have a frame of reference for how active the Spirit is in our hearts and lives; we can see a more tangible measure of how Present we are in the Spirit. Its every Single, time that we practice these things that we the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Our flesh wars against the Spirit, just as drought, pestilence, and heat war against healthy plants in nature. We must pay attention to the fruit we are bearing. If we notice something rotten, then adjustments need to be made. We need to ask God to fertilize, prune, protect, and water us with His Spirit and His Word, so that our fruit will once again be of Him.

So many times, we tend to do something good or succeed in some way and we are quick to give ourselves credit, but how much more effective could it be for our relationship with God if we are stopping to give Him glory for the fruits we see in our lives and in the lives of others.

This is a larger conversation of the difference between coincidence and a divine intervention, but really, as simple as acknowledging when God is present through His Spirit in His people can change the perspective we have of our lives and life.

I read online about a

new development called Hyper Sonic Sound (HSS). The inventor, Elwood Norris, has engineered sound waves to travel like a laser beam for about 150 yards. This allows sounds to be heard by a person in a particular place but not by those immediately around them. You could be listening to music or specific instructions while those standing next to you would be left in total silence. If you move out of

the tightly formed path of these unique sound waves you too will be unaware of any noise.

God's communication with us is very similar to these sound waves. We must be in the right place to hear the Holy Spirit, and when we're there the message is clear. If we move away from the pathway of His voice, we become unaware of the fact that He is communicating with us and we consequently miss the message.

Our role as believers who have the spirit dwelling within us is to do our best to posture ourselves in a way where the Spirit has a clear line at our hearts.

I've used this quote from Mark Christian before, but I think it's equally true today:

When we give God a shot at our heart, we serve a God who will not miss.

When we give God a shot at our heart, we serve a God who will not miss.

Our Job is to posture ourselves in a way where the Spirit has a clear line at speaking to us, guiding us, and working through us.

That is a daily decision.

When you are baptized you put your faith in Jesus and declare Him to be the Lord and Savior of your life. You make Him savior one time, when you are baptized, but you choose to make Him Lord every single day.

When you are making God Lord every day, you're saying that you commit to God's way being the right way. You commit to walking in obedience to what He has said in His word and where He leads you by His Spirit. If you aren't in the word and in prayer, how can you expect to interact and listen to the Spirit?

Our daily decisions an determine how fruitful the Spirit is in our lives.

God has done his part but are we making the daily decisions and multiple decisions each day to walk in obedience? IF we aren't than why are you question the presence of God?

On the other hand, there are some people who have not made Jesus the Lord or Savior of their lives. If you are someone who has not been baptized, please listen more intentionally to me now than before.

A lot of people make the mistake of thinking they need to clean the house before the Spirit can enter, but the truth is that the Spirit is what brings the cleansing. We read in Titus 3:5: He saved us ^m— not by works of righteousness that we had done, ⁿ but according to His mercy, ^o through the washing of regeneration ^p and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Not “and the Holy Spirit”

“By the Holy Spirit”.

So many of us live or lives and when we realize we need to put our faith in Jesus we think we must become perfect for the Spirit and to follow Him.

Church if we had to be perfect to follow Jesus, he would have no followers.

If we had to be perfect to follow Jesus, He would have no followers.

Throwback to the tabernacle.

There was a time where people would have to perfect themselves and cleanse themselves to be with God, but Jesus has eliminated our need to do that.

The Veil is torn, and he is open and available to us,

Our role is to accept His spirit and turn our lives over to Christ.

If that is a decision you need to make, then that is a conversation you need to stop pushing off.

Following Jesus is how we can be present with God. He has done the work, and provided His spirit to intercede on our behalf and to work within us, but are you willing to accept that gift from Him?

If you haven't accepted that, maybe today you need to have a really hard look at why not.

OR we need to posture ourselves in a way that the spirit who is within us can be at work. We often limit the work of the Spirit by leaning into our own abilities and strengths, but church when we are in the presence of God, all things change.

Closing.

Try it.