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## **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

**John 20.22**

**Series: We Value...**

**March 6, 2022**

**The Village Church at Shell Point**

### I. Introduction

A. We return this morning to our series on the Core Values of TVC

1. Recall – Mission Statement

a. **We are building a community of forgiveness, purpose and hope in Jesus Christ**

2. Core

a. Forgiveness – need to be in a right relationship to God; need to be forgiven of our sins by Jesus Christ alone

b. Forgiveness – also need to be a forgiving people – extending forgiveness to others – family, friends who have hurt us, even our enemies

c. Purpose – need to know why we are here; what gets us up in the morning; what does God have for us to do and to be at this time in life's journey

d. Hope – coming down the home stretch of life; eternity is closer now than it's ever been; coming at us faster than we ever imagined! Need to have both courage and assurance that we will enter eternity in the presence of the God of grace and glory

3. Community

a. Can't fulfill this mission by ourselves

b. Need to do it in community, with one another

4. in Jesus Christ

a. None of this happens apart from Jesus Christ who is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King

B. Recall also that several years ago we fleshed out that mission statement by articulating our core values

1. Those non-negotiables that we believe the Word of God compels us to both believe and apply

2. **We Value...**

a. **The Glory of God**

b. **The Word of God**

c. **The Sufficiency of Christ**

d. **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

e. **The Great Commission of Christ**

f. **The Body of Christ**

g. **Prayer**

3. We've been in the midst of a series on those core values
  - a. The Glory of God
  - b. The Word of God
  - c. The Great Commission of Christ
- C. The Great Commission was the last of our messages on the core values
  1. The command of Jesus to the Church to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations
  2. Then we interrupted the series for Global Impact Week
  3. Really? Was that week an interruption?
    - a. Did we really stray from our core values when we explored the international ministries with which we are engaged?
- D. No! Global Impact Week was essentially **The Great Commission Explained and Illustrated**
  1. That's what the Great Commission is all about
  2. So this week we continue in our series on the core values
    - a. But we've never left that series
    - b. Global Impact Week was Great Commission Part Deux

## II. **The Great Commission and the Holy Spirit**

- A. So now we continue in our series
  1. We focus on another of our core values – The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
    - a. And in doing so we leave the Great Commission behind
    - b. We've spent three weeks on it; now we leave it behind
- B. But wait!
  1. No – we don't leave the Great Commission behind!
  2. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is integral to the Great Commission
  3. Recall that a few weeks ago when we introduced the core value of the Great Commission, we noted that there are in fact five Great Commissions in Scripture
    - a. All of them either mention explicitly, or describe the effects of, the Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- C. **Acts 1:8** (ESV) — 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- D. **Luke 24:45–49** (ESV) — 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”
- E. **Mark 16:15–18** (ESV) — 15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will

... speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

1. Evidences of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit
  2. Especially speaking in tongues which accompanied the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- F. **Matthew 28:18–20** (ESV) — 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
1. How is He with us always?
  2. The presence of the Holy Spirit
- G. **John 20:21–23** (ESV) — 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
- H. The Holy Spirit is central to the Great Commission
1. You may distinguish the Ministry of the Holy Spirit from The Great Commission
    - a. But you must not separate them

### III. **The Power of the Great Commission**

- A. So what’s the significance of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Great Commission?
1. Simply put – it’s power
    - a. Power to fulfill the Great Commission
- B. **Acts 1:8** (ESV) — 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...”
- C. **Luke 24:45–49** (ESV) — ... 49 “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”
- D. You see what Jesus has done is that He has given the Church a job, a task, a command
1. And there’s no way humanly possible for the Church to fulfill it
  2. He has given the Church an impossible task
- E. But what He’s also done is that He has given the Church all the resources necessary to accomplish what would otherwise be impossible
1. Because with God, “all things are possible”
- F. It recalls the famous prayer of Augustine
1. “Lord, command what You will; and grant what You command”
  2. In other words, “Tell me, God, what You want me to do. And then do it!”
- G. “Go preach the gospel to all nations!”
1. “But Lord, how?”
  2. “With the power that I give you in the Holy Spirit”
- H. The Great Commission is inspiring – it gets our juices flowing

1. It's comprehensive – all of Jesus for all the world
  2. It's universal – every people, tongue, tribe and nation are included
  3. But it's impossible
- I. At least it would be if it weren't for the next core value
1. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- J. So what is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit?
1. I could preach for weeks on the ministry of the Holy Spirit
    - a. In fact, I'm still learning about the various dimensions of the work of the Holy Spirit
    - b. I hope you are too
  2. Since we've been studying the Gospel of John recently, I'll give you a taste of what the Ministry of the Holy Spirit entails just by reminding you of what we've already learned in the Gospel of John
- K. **John 20:21–22** (ESV) — 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
- L. By the way, you might wonder what's the significance of Jesus having “breathed on them” when He promised they would receive the Holy Spirit?
1. We just sang a song: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God
  2. Both in the OT and in the NT the word for Spirit is the word for breath
  3. **NT = pneuma (Gk)**
    - a. Recognize that with its connection with the lungs
    - b. Pneumonia – infection in the lungs
    - c. Pneumothorax – collapsed lung
  4. **OT = ruach (Heb)**
    - a. **Onomatopoeia** – Word which sounds like what the word describes
    - b. Sizzle; cuckoo; quack; purr; buzz
    - c. **Ruach = breath**; you can actually hear the breath
- M. When Jesus breathed on them, and promised them the Holy Spirit, He was using a well-known idiom to illustrate His promise
- IV. **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**
- A. **The Spirit's Baptism**
1. The first work of the Holy Spirit mentioned in John is the baptism of the Holy Spirit
  2. **John 1:32–33** (ESV) — 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”
    - a. So Jesus is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit
  3. Well, what does that mean?
    - a. The baptism of, or by, or with the Holy Spirit has been much debated

- b. Unfortunately, most of the debate has revolved around believer's experiences with the Holy Spirit, rather than what the scriptures themselves teach
  - 4. Essentially the baptism of the Holy Spirit has to do with the spiritual union that believers have with Jesus
    - a. To baptize has to do with immersion of cloth in a dye in which the dye is forever identified with the cloth
  - 5. That's the meaning Paul teaches in Romans 6 in which believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection
    - a. **Romans 6:3–5** (ESV) — 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
  - 6. Paul also teaches that this union with Christ is what places us into His body – the Church
    - a. **1 Corinthians 12:13** (ESV) — 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
  - 7. So all believers, by Holy Spirit baptism, are united with Christ and united with other believers in the body of Christ – the Church
  - 8. So the Ministry of the Holy Spirit is what unites us to Christ and places us in His Church
  - 9. And that is the goal of the Great Commission
    - a. Bringing people to faith in Jesus; but not only that
    - b. But uniting them spiritually with Christ and with the people of God, the Church
  - 10. That's the essence of the Spirit's baptism
- B. **The Spirit's Life**
  - 1. Paul says that we are, by nature, spiritually dead
    - a. **Ephesians 2:1–2** (ESV) — 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ...
  - 2. Jesus teaches Nicodemus the very same truth when He tells him he must be born again
    - a. **John 3:3** (ESV) — 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
    - b. **John 3:5–6** (ESV) — 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”
  - 3. We are spiritually dead even though we are physically alive

- a. To have a relationship with God we must be brought from death to life
- b. It's not enough to be born physically; we must be born spiritually
- 4. The Holy Spirit makes us alive spiritually when we are born again
- 5. That spiritual life is evident in other places in John as well
  - a. **John 6:63** (ESV) — 63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”
  - b. **John 7:37–39** (ESV) — 37 ... Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- 6. The Holy Spirit gives true spiritual life to those who believe
  - a. Without the life that the Spirit gives, the Great Commission is hollow and void of value
- 7. So the Spirit baptizes – unites believers with Christ and His Church
  - a. And He gives life to spiritually dead people
- C. **The Spirit's Help**
  - 1. **John 14:15–17** (ESV) — 15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”
  - 2. The Spirit not only gives life to spiritually dead people, He dwells with us and in us to help us
    - a. Helper – comforter, counselor, advocate
    - b. **Helper = paraclete**; cletos – to call; para – beside
    - c. Paraclete – one called along beside
  - 3. When Jesus promises in the Great Commission in Matthew that “I will be with you always, even to the end of the age” this is more than a promise of His presence
    - a. It is also a promise of His assistance, of His help, of His strength
  - 4. When we don't think we can do it
    - a. When we are at the end of our rope
    - b. When we don't think we can manage our circumstances
    - c. Jesus is there, by the Holy Spirit, to supply just what we need
  - 5. The Holy Spirit is our Helper
    - a. The Helper for everyone who believes
    - b. From every people, tongue, tribe and nation
  - 6. And oh, the world needs a helper!
    - a. Believers all across the globe are under great pressure
    - b. Not just in Ukraine
    - c. But in China
    - d. In Southern Sudan

- e. In India
  - f. In many other places
7. And the Holy Spirit is our Helper
- D. **The Spirit's Witness**
1. **John 15:26–27** (ESV) — 26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”
  2. No one really can know God unless the Spirit reveals Him to us
    - a. The Holy Spirit bears witness about God to us
  3. **1 Corinthians 2:9–12** (ESV) — 9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.
  4. So we can know God only through the Ministry of the Holy Spirit
    - a. And not only that, but through the Ministry of the Holy Spirit we are able to bear witness ourselves to who God is
    - b. “And you also will bear witness...”
  5. And not only that, but there is great assurance in the Holy Spirit's witness
    - a. **Romans 8:16–17** (ESV) — 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
  6. That's the Holy Spirit's witness
    - a. Enabling us to know God
    - b. To bear witness ourselves about God
    - c. And to be assured that we belong to God
- E. **The Spirit's Conviction**
1. **John 16:7–11** (ESV) — 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
  2. No one comes to faith in Jesus, no one can be saved, unless they are convicted
    - a. Conviction is the Holy Spirit's work
    - b. Not our work; we can't do the convicting work of the Holy Spirit
    - c. But the Spirit's work

3. The Great Commission is of no effect if the people we go to are not convicted
  - a. And it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment

F. **The Spirit's Teaching**

1. **John 16:13–15** (ESV) — 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
2. **John 14:26** (ESV) — 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
3. Jesus is the Rabbi, the Teacher
  - a. But the Holy Spirit is the teaching assistant
  - b. He's the One who applies the teaching of Christ to our lives
  - c. He's the One who reminds us of the spiritual principles Christ has taught just the time we need to be reminded
4. In another time and another place, those who were wealthy in English society had the means and opportunity to hire tutors for their children
  - a. And in some cases, they would come to the homestead and live with them
  - b. Become part of the family
  - c. And would be responsible for the education of household's children
  - d. A number of scholars made a living that way
  - e. And you might say, "Boy, I wish I had that kind of wealth that I could hire a personal, live-in teacher for my children"
5. But in fact, as a believer in Christ, you do have that kind of wealth
  - a. As a believer, Christ gives you your own personal tutor
  - b. He doesn't live with you in your house
  - c. No! Even better
  - d. He dwells in you
  - e. He resides in your heart
  - f. Informing your mind, bringing to mind the things of Christ
  - g. Transforming your will, giving you desires and dispositions to follow Jesus
  - h. Enflaming your emotions, giving you delight and pleasure in service to your Savior
6. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit includes His teaching ministry
  - a. He is our personal, live-in, tutor

V. **Conclusion**

- A. So do you now see why the Ministry of the Holy Spirit is such an important core value?
  1. And why His Ministry is so integral to completing the Great Commission?



- B. **The Spirit Baptizes believers**
  - 1. Unites us spiritually with Christ
  - 2. And unites us with His Church
- C. **The Spirit gives life**
  - 1. Regenerating us – making us alive from the dead, making us born again
  - 2. And giving us rivers of living waters flowing to others
- D. **The Spirit Helps us**
  - 1. He is our paraclete, One who is called along beside
  - 2. To give us whatever strength and supply we need for the moment
- E. **The Spirit is God's witness in us**
  - 1. Revealing to us who God is
  - 2. Assuring us that we belong to Him
  - 3. And enabling us to be His witnesses to others
- F. **The Spirit convicts the world**
  - 1. He is the One who lets people know how much they need a Savior
- G. **And the Spirit teaches**
  - 1. Revealing and reminding us of Christ's person, work, and teaching
- H. No wonder the Ministry of the Holy Spirit is one of the core values of TVC!