

Sermon: Belief in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Universal Church

By: Rev. Dr. Iosmar Alvarez

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Text: John 14:26 and Acts 1:8

### **Introduction:**

Today, we gather to delve into the profound truths of the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity and the birth of the universal church, grounded in the sacred scriptures of John 14:26 and Acts 1:8.

### **The Holy Spirit as God and Portrays God's Attributes:**

#### 1. **\*\*The Holy Spirit as God:\*\***

- **\*\*Acts 5:3-4\*\*** - "Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.'"

This passage equates lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God, emphasizing the Holy Spirit's divine nature.

#### 2. **\*\*The Holy Spirit and God's Attributes:\*\***

- **\*\*Omnipresence:\*\***

- **\*\*Psalm 139:7-8\*\*** - "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there."

- This verse highlights the omnipresence of God, indicating that the Spirit of God is everywhere.

- **\*\*Omniscience:\*\***

- **\*\*1 Corinthians 2:10-11\*\*** - "These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

- This passage demonstrates the omniscience of God, with the Spirit knowing the deep things of God.

God's omnipotence (All Powerful):

The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as all-powerful, reflecting God's omnipotence or all-powerfulness. This attribute underscores the Holy Spirit's unlimited and supreme authority within the Trinity.

One passage that speaks to the Holy Spirit's all-powerfulness is found in the book of Luke:

- **Luke 1:35**: "The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'" This verse demonstrates the power of the Holy Spirit in the miraculous conception of Jesus, the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit's all-powerfulness is evident in His ability to bring about extraordinary events and accomplish God's purposes in accordance with His divine will. This characteristic aligns with God's omnipotence and emphasizes the Holy Spirit's role as the omnipotent member of the Trinity.

- **Holiness**:

- **Psalm 51:11** - "Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me."

- Here, the Spirit is referred to as holy, reflecting the holiness of God Himself.

- **Eternal**:

- **Hebrews 9:14** - "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit offered** himself unblemished to God, clean our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

- The Spirit is described as eternal, indicating the timeless nature of God.

- **Truthfulness**:

- **John 16:13** - "But when he, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

- The Spirit is identified as the Spirit of truth, reflecting the truthfulness and reliability of God.

- **Power**:

- **Acts 1:8** - "But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- This passage showcases the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, reflecting the power of God at work.

These passages reveal the Holy Spirit as God and portray various attributes of God, highlighting the divine nature and characteristics of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity.

### **The Personhood of the Holy Spirit:**

- **John 14:26** - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

- This verse depicts the Holy Spirit as the Advocate, a personal entity sent by the Father, who instructs and brings to remembrance the teachings of Jesus. It shows the relational aspect of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity.

### **Characteristics of the Holy Spirit as a Person:**

In addition to the passages previously mentioned, there are specific verses that demonstrate the personhood of the Holy Spirit through various characteristics:

#### 1. **The Holy Spirit Speaks:**

- **Acts 13:2** - "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

- This verse reveals the Holy Spirit speaking and giving instructions, illustrating the communicative aspect of the Holy Spirit.

#### 2. **The Holy Spirit Can Be Grieved:**

- **Ephesians 4:30** - "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Here, believers are warned not to grieve the Holy Spirit, which indicates the Spirit's ability to experience emotions.

#### 3. **Do Not Lie to the Holy Spirit:**

- **Acts 5:3-4** - "Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that **you have lied to the Holy Spirit?**' ... You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

This passage emphasizes the seriousness of lying to the Holy Spirit, equating it to lying to God Himself. It highlights the Holy Spirit's divine nature and personhood.

#### 4. **Teaches and Reminds:**

- **John 14:26** - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and **will remind you of everything** I have said to you."

- The Holy Spirit is described as a teacher who guides and reminds believers, showcasing the role of the Spirit in imparting wisdom and knowledge.

#### 5. **Intercedes:**

- **Romans 8:26** - "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us through wordless groans."

- This verse portrays the Holy Spirit interceding for believers in their times of weakness, demonstrating an active and compassionate involvement in their lives.

#### 6. **Reveals Truth:**

- **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** - "These are the things God has **revealed to us by his Spirit**. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except **the Spirit of God**."

The Holy Spirit reveals deep truths, similar to how a person knows their own thoughts, showcasing the Spirit's insight and understanding.

#### 7. **Guides Into All Truth:**

- **John 16:13** - "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

- This verse highlights the Holy Spirit's role in guiding believers into all truth, underscoring the Spirit's wisdom and guidance.

These passages collectively affirm the personhood of the Holy Spirit through various characteristics, showcasing the relational, emotional, and instructional nature of the Spirit within the Trinity.

### **The work of the Holy Spirit in the birth of the Church:**

Connecting the imagery of water and blood coming out of Jesus' side with the passages that speak about the three witnesses on earth and three in heaven, as well as the birth of the church from Jesus' side like Eve, birthed from Adam's side, provides a profound theological and symbolic narrative.

1. **Water and Blood from Jesus' Side (John 19:34):**

- In John 19:34, it is described how when Jesus was on the cross, a soldier pierced His side, and immediately there came out blood and water.

2. **Three Witnesses on Earth and in Heaven (1 John 5:7-8):**

- **1 John 5:7-8:** "For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."

- Here, the Spirit, the water, and the blood are highlighted as three witnesses on earth, testifying to the truth of Jesus' identity and redemptive work.

3. **The Birth of the Church from Jesus' Side:**

- **Imagery of the Church Born from the Side of Christ:**

- Just as Eve was created from the side of Adam in Genesis, symbolizing the intimate union and relationship between them, so is the church seen as being born from the side of Christ, the second Adam.

### **The Empowerment of the Church:**

- **Acts 1:8** - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Here, Jesus promises the disciples the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, marking the birth of the church through the empowerment of believers for the mission of spreading the Gospel.

- **Acts 2:1-4** - Describes the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, enabling them to speak in various languages and initiating the spread of the Gospel, leading to the formation of the Christian community.

#### 4. **The Church as the Bride of Christ:**

- **Ephesians 5:25-27:** "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."

- This passage metaphorically portrays the relationship between Christ and the church as that of a bridegroom and bride, emphasizing Christ's sacrificial love and cleansing of the church.

#### 5. **Parallel with the First Adam and Eve:**

- Just as Eve was created from the side of Adam, the first man, signifying their unity and oneness in marriage, the image of the church being birthed from the side of Christ, the second Adam, portrays the intimate and inseparable union between Christ and His church.

By intertwining the imagery of water and blood from Jesus' side, the testimony of the Spirit, water, and blood as witnesses, and the birth of the church from Jesus' side like Eve from Adam, a rich tapestry of symbolism emerges, highlighting the profound spiritual truths regarding the relationship between Christ and His church, and the significance of His sacrificial death for her redemption.

#### **Calls to Action:**

1. **Seek a Deeper Relationship:** Dedicate time to prayer and study, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide and enlighten your understanding.
2. **Witness to His Work:** Share the message of hope and salvation with boldness, empowered by the Spirit that dwells within you.
3. **Foster Unity:** Embrace fellow believers in love and unity, reflecting the diverse yet unified body of Christ.

**Conclusion:** As we reflect on the evidence of the Holy Spirit's personhood and the birth of the church, let us be inspired to embrace the Spirit's transformative work in our lives today.

#### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. May Your Spirit empower us to live as faithful witnesses, united in purpose and love. Amen.

#### **Benediction:**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.