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Sunday Morning, March 22, 2009
CrossRoads Baptist Church
Romans 8:5-17
Romans Series #50

“Who is the Holy Spirit?”

"We are not anointed. The conversions of a soul to Christ is the work of the HS. The stirring of a church and community in revival and awakening is a work of the Holy Spirit. Neither of these works of the Spirit are typical in Southern Baptist churches today. We are not anointed. That we...that would be you and that would be me. That would be all of us in places where there is little evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit. We are so not anointed, we have come to accept as not being anointed, as normal." Dr. Chuck Kelley, President, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, speaking in Chapel March 3, 2009

We move into the deeper teaching of the Holy Spirit through Paul about the Holy Spirit in chapter 8. As we have mentioned earlier, Romans 8 is indeed "the Holy Spirit" chapter in Romans. Up to chapter 8, the Holy Spirit was only mentioned three times (1:4; 2:9; 5:5) in Romans 5:5. But here in chapter 8, he mentions Him some 20 times. The Lord wants us to understand that the power for the victory over the flesh is the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit has long been the Cinderella of the Trinity. The other two sisters may have gone to the theological ball; the Holy Spirit got left behind every time. But not now. The rise of the charismatic movement within virtually every mainstream church has ensured that the Holy Spirit figures prominently on the theological agenda. A new experience of the reality and power of the Spirit has had a major impact upon the theological discussion of the person and work of the Holy Spirit" (Alister McGrath).

1. He is God.

The Hebrew term *ruah* = breath, wind, spirit, appears @ 377 times in the OT (only 264 of which are translated by the Greek *pneuma* in the LXX). 94 of these 377 instances refer to the Spirit of God

1. What is said of God is said of the Spirit (Acts 5:3-4).
2. The Holy Spirit is identified with Yahweh (Acts 7:51, quoting Ps. 78:17,21; Heb. 10:15-17, quoting Jer. 31:33-34).
3. The activity of God = the activity of the Holy Spirit (e.g., in creation, conversion, etc.).
4. "God said" = "the Spirit said" (Isa. 6:9 / Acts 28:25).
5. We are the "temple of God because the Holy Spirit dwells in us" (Eph. 2:22; 1 Cor. 6:19). If the HS is not God, how could we properly be called the temple of God simply because the Spirit indwells us?
6. Holy Spirit is referred to as the Spirit, the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)

Special note **on** Rom. 8:9. Here the Holy Spirit is referred to in three ways: (1) as the Spirit; (2) as the Spirit of God (the Father); and (3) as the Spirit of Christ. There are not, however, three Spirits, but one Spirit who simultaneously sustains the same relationship to both Father and Son.

7. Jesus said the Spirit was be of "another" (of the same kind) just like Him. (John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another (of the same kind) Comforter to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.")

8. Baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

9. He is called "the Holy" Spirit and only God is holy. (Isaiah 8:13)

I was always a little jittery about "worshipping the Spirit" until I realized, He is God. The reason I was uneasy was a misintreperation of John 14:10 "He will not speak of himself." But the NKJV gets it right: "I do not speak of my own authority."

"All that we spiritually know of ourselves, all that we know of God, and of Jesus, and His Word, we owe to the teaching of the Holy Spirit; and all the real light, sanctification, strength and comfort we are made to possess on our way to glory, we must ascribe to Him. . . . Where He is honoured, and adoring thoughts of His person, and tender, loving views

of His work are cherished, **then** are experienced, in an enlarged degree, His quickening, enlightening, sanctifying and comforting influence" (Octavius Winslow).

2. He is He.

Some argue that the Spirit is but an impersonal power, emanation, or attribute of God, which lacks personality

John 14:26 "But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name..."

John 15:26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father..."

John 16:8 "When he comes..."

John 16:13 "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will..."

- * The HS has all the *qualities* of a personal being.
 - **Mind** (knowledge) - Isa. 11:2; John 14:26; Rom 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:10-11.
 - **Emotions** (feelings) - Rom. 8:26; 15:30; Eph. 4:30 (cf. Isa. 63:10); Acts 15:28; James 4:5.
 - **Will** (choices/plans) - Acts 16:7; 1 Cor. 12:11.
- * The HS performs all the *functions* of a personal being.
 - He talks (Mark 13:11; Acts 1:16; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 21:11; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:7; Rev. 2:7)
 - He testifies (John 15:26; 16:23)
 - He can be sinned against (Mt. 12:31)
 - He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
 - He can be tested/tempted (Acts 5:9)
 - He can be insulted (Heb. 10:29)

- He enters into relationship with other persons (2 Cor. 13:14)
- He encourages (Acts 9:31)
- He strengthens (Eph. 3:16)
- He teaches (Lk. 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:13)

3. He is Jesus with us.

John 14:16 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another (of the same kind) Comforter to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”

Philippians 1:19 “For I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ...”

John 14:28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’”

4. He is the only part of the God-head we know experientially on earth.

The OT was the Father.

The early first century was the Son.

First century to the present it's the Spirit.

The sin of the Old Testament was the rejection of God as the Father.

The sin of the early first century was the rejection of God as Jesus the Son.

The sin of our day is the rejection of God as the Spirit.

God the Father is on the Throne and Jesus the Son is on His right hand leaving the two of them in Heaven. So the only part of the Godhead we know personally on earth is the Spirit.

5. He is taken seriously by God.

- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the only unforgivable sin (Mt. 12:31; Mk. 3:28).
- He is seen as a “downpayment”

The Holy Spirit is portrayed as a down payment (2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14).

The term (arrabon) was used in commercial transactions to refer to the first installment of the total amount due. The down payment effectively guaranteed the fulfillment of whatever contractual obligations were assumed. "The Spirit, therefore," says Fee, "serves as God's down payment in our present lives, the certain evidence that the future has come into the present, the sure guarantee that the future will be realized in full measure"

- He is a seal of God.

The Holy Spirit is portrayed as a seal (2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30).

- Its meaning – (1) to authenticate (John 3:33; 6:27; 1 Cor. 9:2) or confirm as genuine and true, including the idea that what is sealed is stamped with the character of its owner; (2) to designate or mark out as one's property; to declare and signify ownership (see Rev. 7:3-8; 9:4); (3) to render secure or to establish (i.e., protect; cf. Eph. 4:30; Mt. 27:66; Rev. 20:3)
- He is the key criterion in determining if someone is a Christian (Romans 8:9)