

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 53 (December 29, 2019-January 4, 2020)

I could think of no better way to start the New Year than with a study of the workings of the Holy Spirit, so we will expand upon the lessons from the Christmas season in this week's devotions.

Sunday, December 29 (read John 7:37-39)

By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (John 7:39)

It appears that Jesus **stands** when He gives an invitation (v. 37; see also Revelation 3:20; Acts 7:55-56). The invitation in this verse is issued to anyone who is **thirsty** for God (see also Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17). I pray that you will enter the coming year with a deep desire “to know Christ and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10a). Those who bring an appetite for God and a deep thirst for spiritual things will probably be fed by the devotions I write. My wish for you is for the Holy Spirit to flow within you so that He may **overflow** into those with whom you come in contact (v. 38). Jesus has already been glorified by His death and resurrection! The Spirit has come to live in us! Whenever Jesus is going to be glorified by our words and actions, He will show us His power (v. 39).

Monday, December 30 (read Acts 2:38-39)

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

The powerful verse quoted above is the logical follow-up to John 3:16. Once we accept the death and resurrection of Jesus as full payment for our sins, we make it public with a Christian baptism. The baptism must be accompanied by a willingness to **repent** of our known sins, as well as those Jesus will show us in the future. He will accomplish this by placing His Holy Spirit into our hearts. In future devotions, we will look at some of the workings of the Spirit in addition to revealing our sins. I love the fact that true conversion affects our **children** as well, both those who are already living close to Him as well as those who are currently far off (v. 39). God promises to call them into His kingdom (see Acts 16:31). Praise His Name!

Tuesday, December 31 (read John 14:15-17)

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15)

The Holy Spirit operates in our lives in response to the love we have for Jesus Christ. As a husband, I cannot imagine telling Roni how much I love her while refusing to do the things that please her. That kind of love would be completely selfish. Likewise, I cannot fathom telling Jesus how much I love Him without an accompanying desire to follow His commands found throughout the Bible. The Spirit of truth is called a Counselor (Comforter) in today's text (v.16), because it is He who leads us and comforts us along life's pathway. The lost world is oblivious to His presence, but the true believer will recognize the power given from above (v. 17). Now that Jesus has died for our sins, the Spirit abides **within** each believer. None of us has any excuse for continuing to live for his/her own glory.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 (read John 14:18-20)

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.” (John 14:20)

Just as Jesus does not separate Himself from His Father (John 10:30), He also does not distinguish between Himself and the Spirit (v. 18). The Trinity exists as one God operating in three Persons! Just as God became flesh through Jesus (John 1:14) so that He could be visible to us, He now works through the invisible Spirit to accomplish His will through His children. We have been made spiritually alive through the resurrection of Jesus Christ so that our souls will live forever with Him (v. 19). It is our divine privilege to become part of the Trinity; that is, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit alive in us (v. 20). Praise His Name!

Thursday, January 2 (read John 14:21-24)

Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him.” (John 14:23)

Do you want to see God and experience the power of His workings within you? The answer lies in **obedience** to those truths He has already shown to you. Three times (v. 15, 21, 23) He connects our obedience to our love for Him and His willingness to live in us. Many believers expect Him to show them His glory even though they are living in known disobedience to His revealed will. This is not a combination taught in John 14! Instead, Jesus promises to send the Spirit (v. 16) and to show Himself to those who obey (v. 21). The entire Trinity will make their home within those who follow the Word of God (v. 23). The lesson is clear: Those who love Him will obey while those who do not will continue to live in disobedience (v. 24).

Friday, January 3 (read John 14:25-27)

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

New Year's Day is my favorite holiday, because it pictures a brand-new beginning. Spiritually speaking, that's what God offers to each of us every day, not only to those who have never received Him as their Savior, but also to all of us who struggle to live in this fallen world. The Holy Spirit not only teaches us new truths, but He also reminds us of the truths we have already learned (v. 26). The older I get, the more I count on the Spirit to bring revealed facts to my aging mind. The result is a life of peace, even as we live in a world characterized by ever-increasing violence (v. 27). Do not limit God by asking Him to supply only worldly health and wealth. If you allow Him to give those gifts that **He alone** can supply, you will not need to be afraid because of the turmoil in our land (v. 27). You already possess the peace that you seek. Enjoy Him! (see Ephesians 2:14)

Saturday, January 4 (read John 14:28-31)

“I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.” (John 14:29)

God the Father is greater than the Son in function only (v 28). I like to say, “God the Father **thought** out the plan of salvation; God the Son **bought** it and God the Holy Spirit **brought** it.” In essence, however, the Three are One (see John 10:30, 14:20). **Prophecy** separates the Bible from all other books. Jesus tells us what **has happened** (history), what **is happening** and what **will happen**, all with perfect accuracy (v. 29). With this in mind, I am amazed that anyone could doubt the teachings of the Word of God. Satan, the prince of this world, has no hold on Jesus, because the Lord is perfectly obedient to His Father (v. 30-31). The great news is this: Satan has no hold on us either if we will be obedient to the Son! “Come now; let us leave” (v. 31b) this old life of doubt and fears. Let's follow our Lord so that 2020 will be our best year yet!