

The New Testament Church
The Holy Spirit #12 – The Revealing of Christ and His Kingdom
September 21, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Review of this series on the Holy Spirit – John 14-17

- A. The Holy Spirit is brings Christ into your heart through new birth (the great *transition*)
 - 1. Jn. 20:21-22 – Jesus appeared – *peace I give you, receive the Holy Spirit – regenerated*
 - 2. Acts 2:1-4 – The day of Pentecost – *be baptized in the Holy Spirit – empowerment*
 - 3. The Holy Spirit **comforts** (as a shepherd) and **convicts** (as an attorney)
 - 4. You receive all of the Spirit at **conversion**, but are **baptized** for greater empowerment
 - 5. Diversity of **gifts** (Spirit), differences of **ministries** (Jesus), **activities** placed by (Father)
- B. The gifts of the Spirit distributed by the Spirit to the one who needs it – 1st Cor. 12:7-11
 - 1. Revelation gifts – wisdom, knowledge, discernment – *a “word” of direction*
 - 2. Power gifts – faith, healing, miracles – *an empowerment of encouragement*
 - 3. Prophetic gifts – prophecy, tongues, interpretation – *edification, exhortation, comfort*

II The Holy Spirit Reveals Christ and His Kingdom - Romans 8:18-25

- A. The Holy Spirit’s work in preparing to manifest Christ and His Kingdom
 - 1. He **convicts** us of sin and **regenerates** our spirit renewing us and our families
 - 2. He then **places** us in a **community** of believers (church) for fellowship and discipleship
 - 3. He gives us **gifts** to share, **ministries** to others, and **activities** to serve
 - 4. His primary job is to **bring forth the nature of Christ’s character in us**
- B. Romans 8:18-25 *the Holy Spirit’s ultimate job is to reveal Christ and His Kingdom*
 - 1. Why suffering and evil? – why would God allow such darkness in the earth?
 - a. Sin is the origin of evil, not God – it comes from the nature of man (and is limited)
 - b. v. 18 – we portray the glory (Christ’s character) and it’s contrast with present evil!
 - 2. Are we isolated from the creation and culture around us? – No, we are part of it!
 - a. The entire creation (including mankind and the culture produced by him) suffered due to sin in the garden – nothing works right on the present “old earth”
 - b. v. 19-20 – creation/culture eagerly awaits the hope of redemption – return of Christ
 - c. It is progressing now until that day – tied to the increased maturity of believers!
 - 3. Doesn’t it appear that the Kingdom of God is decreasing on the earth?
 - a. No, statistics indicate about one third of the entire population are now believers!
 - b. v. 21-22 – earth in birth-pangs for the Kingdom of God (*accelerating* – see back)
 - c. Birth-pangs are painful, you think you are going to die, but joy awaits the result!
 - 4. Are we Christian nationalists? – endeavoring to force Christianity by political laws?
 - a. No, for the Kingdom of God comes from within – politics is the result, not the cause
 - b. v. 23 – We (believers and the church) have the firstfruits of the Spirit (Christ)
 - c. The contrast is growing clearer – God’s people should call for peace
 - 5. Is the earth *not* our home? – we must learn to contrast this sinful earth with the new one
 - a. When we are converted, we are saved with this hope – culminated at Christ’s return
 - b. The sinful culture is not our home, but we are accelerating toward His return
 - c. This process produces perseverance – tenacity, and power of the Spirit within us
- C. Christ is expressed more and more as the Kingdom comes on earth (quote Alcorn)
 - 1. We see glimpses of the “new cleansed earth” – our temporary and eternal home
 - 2. Stewardship, the tree of life, death gone, fertile ground, sin conquered, learn to rule

Sources utilized in this sermon:

In Elijah Kim's *Rise of the Global South*, he writes: *As of 2010, the majority of Christians worldwide can no longer be found in the West, but in non-Western regions such as Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The greatest number of Christians reside in Asia, yet Asian Christians are not the majority in their own nations... Christianity has transitioned on an axis from Jerusalem, to Europe, and to North America and is now turning in multiple directions to Latin America, Africa, and some countries in Asia... Though western Europe and North America have seen a decline in Christian influence, that is beginning to change as the Global South comes North!*

As D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe write in *The Gates of Hell Shall not Prevail, ...Dr. David Barrett, probably the greatest church statistician alive... indicating the ratio of Bible-believing, or evangelical Christians, to the total number of people in the world... 1430 (1 to 99);*

- 1790 (1 to 49); 1940 (1 to 32); 1960 (1 to 24); 1970 (1 to 19); 1980 (1 to 16);
- 1983 (1 to 13); 1986 (1 to 11); 1989 (1 to 10); 1993 (1 to 9)... **today 1 to 3!**
Kingdom of Christ is expanding... at over three times the rate of world population!
- In 100 AD/CE – 100 persons a day were being converted; 1900 – 943 per day;
1950 – 4,500 per day; 1980 – 20,000 per day; 1993 – 86,000; **today 68,938+**
- 1989 – 89 nations had a presence of believers; 1990 – 103 nations; 1991 – 117;
1992 – 137; 1993 – 155; 1994 – 174; and today **more than 200 of the 211 nations!**

Os Guinness, in his book *Renaissance*, page 33, he states

To claim that the Christian faith is the world's first truly global religion is not a matter of cheap triumphalism but of hard facts. There are other truly global religions, such as Buddhism and Islam. But Jesus of Nazareth has the greatest number of followers of any religion on planet Earth, the church is the most diverse community on earth, the Bible is the most translated and translatable book in human history, churches are the most numerous social service agencies across the world, and in many parts of the world the Christian faith is the fast growing (and most persecuted) faith – and growing through conversion rather than simply through the birth rate. And again, all this at a time of momentous significance for the future of humanity.

Randy Alcorn, in his book *Heaven*, page 81 below, and then highlights from pages 82-85 *The biblical doctrine of the New Earth implies something startling: that if we want to know what the ultimate Heaven, our eternal home, will be like, the best place to start is by looking around us... the idea of the New Earth as a physical place isn't an invention of short-sighted human imagination. Rather, it's the invention of a transcendent God, who made physical human beings to live on a physical Earth, and who chose to become a man himself on that same Earth. He did this that he might redeem mankind and Earth.*

- We are to steward the earth; sin warps this to extremes; in Christ it is positive stewardship
- Tree of life in Eden; now forbidden and only in paradise; but will be in the New Jerusalem
- There was no death in Eden until sin, it now permeates all, but it will be defeated!
- The ground was one fertile, now cursed with disease, but will be fertile once again
- Humans didn't sin, now do all the time, but there is coming a day when there will be no sin