



The Teachings of Jesus 3rd Q 2014

Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

~~Aug 21/23:~~ Dr. Jennings will be doing a spiritual emphasis weekend at Laurel Hill Academy. *Rethinking Hell Conference: The Legacy of Edward Fudge and the Future of Conditionalism* in Houston, TX To find out more visit: <http://www.rethinkinghellconference.com/2014/>

Oct 2-4: Dr. Jennings will be at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Convention in Branson, MO. He and Dr. Curt Thomson, Christian Psychiatrist and author of *Anatomy of the Soul*, will be conducting an 8-hour workshop entitled, **Neurobiology and the Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders**. Dr. Jennings will also be a plenary speaker and Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth to give away our materials.

Oct 24/25: Dr. Jennings will be at Loma Linda University presenting a Spiritual Emphasis Weekend for the psychiatry residents and students. The Friday evening meeting will be open to the public

Nov 16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the First Baptist Church in Frisco Texas. Speaking for the three church services Sunday morning and then a seminar Sunday afternoon.

AMAZON Smile: Amazon now has a program that a percent of all your purchases will be donated to support a charity. Come and Reason Ministries is a registered Charity. So, you can select us, and whenever you shop in their smile.amazon.com site a portion of your purchase will benefit this ministry.

NOTE: WARNING: There is another ministry with a similar name called "Come Reason Ministries" and they are located in California. Please be sure and select **Come AND Reason Ministries Located in Collegedale TN**.

From our facebook page:

"I just wanted to let Dr. Jennings and the class know how the Come and Reason Ministries has blessed us here in Japan. I'm an elder at my church and have the opportunity to preach on the Healing-Substitution view point which has been very well received. Unbeknownst to me, tapes and CDs of the sermons go out to people and churches in our area. I was just asked today to speak at another church about this view point. My first invitation to speak outside my home church. Praise God! It takes me way out of my comfort zone, but I'm claiming God's promise that He will always be with me and give me words to speak. Although my Japanese isn't that great, God always gets His message across to the people who need it the most. May His second coming be soon! I ask for your continued prayers for His message here in Japan. Japan is one of the areas in the world where the preaching and teaching of the eternal gospel is creeping a long at a snails pace. Love and Peace to all!"

An email:

When I ordered some of your DVDs in Febuary you sent some other materials as well and I want to thank you so very much. I have read and looked at all the materials and have shared them with many people but still have more people to share with so I'm requesting another box of what ever you can send me. I also bought Brad Cole's book "Servant God" and have read it and given about 12 away. We have listened to most of your [Bible Study] classes from the past 3 yrs.(some 2-3 times) as well as all the "Good News tours" and have been so blessed. We are sharing with everyone we can.



I gave a friend in College Place, WA the "God and Your Brain" DVD while we were visiting up there and she has already ordered more from you and is giving them out. She is in her 80s and loves the Lord and is very active in ministry. I'm praising God how this message is spreading.

We have found some people who are very excited about this material and some haven't taken time to listen yet. We just keep asking the Lord to not let the DVDs be forgotten but be used for His glory. So far we have not had any negative feedback.

Thank you again for the materials and may God continue to bless each one of you and your ministry.

One other email:

I have just had the privilege of hearing Dr. Tim Jennings at Lakeport CA. and it has changed the way I view God. I would like to order the DVDs to give to my friends.

I received an email from Livius Chebeleu who took particular note of the picture in lesson 13 of last quarter, titled Christ's Kingdom and the Law:

If you have your lesson from last quarter, note the picture, the 10 Commandments stand out prominently. Livius recalled a similar picture and its correction.

The first picture below was created by James White, one of the three co-founders of the Adventist Church, and shows the plan of salvation from the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem. The picture is dominated by the law tree with ten branches, one for each of the Ten Commandments. In this picture Jesus on the cross comes under the tree. This represents early Adventism. Its burden was to tell other Christians how important the law was, especially the fourth commandment. Jesus was there but he was not central. This was published in 1876.



After a while, Ellen White, James' wife, and one of the other cofounders of the Adventist Church (Joseph Bates was the third), came to realize that our preaching of the law and the Sabbath was turning us into legalists. She tried to get her husband to change the emphasis of the church. In 1880 and into early 1881 James worked on a new and improved version (below left). He died in 1881, but in 1883 Ellen White published the revised picture.



(Full article about these lithographs can be found at:

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1992/10/the-way-of-life-engravings>)

Thank you Livius for point this out to us!



SABBATH

Read memory text: “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.” John 14:16

What does the word “another” mean? In addition? Different than myself and the Father? Would this language be used if the Holy Spirit were not a separate and distinct Person of the Godhead?

If the Father were going to extend His own individuality and be present with us, wouldn't Jesus have said, “I am going to pray the Father and He will come to you in Spirit and help you”?

Why do you think there is such an attack against the Trinity and the Holy Spirit?

What is the function of the Holy Spirit?

Turn to Friday's lesson, read second paragraph, I have included a couple of sentence past what the lesson quoted:

- The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a **regenerating agent**, and **without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail**. [why? If the legal model is right, then the legal penalty was paid by Jesus, why would the sacrifice be of no avail? Because the legal model is a lie. We are not, nor have we ever been in legal trouble. We are sick, deviant from God's design and in need of rebirth, regeneration, recreation, renewal, thus without the Spirit what Christ procured, i.e. the Remedy to our condition, would not have been accessible to us.] The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. **Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. **It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature**. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. {DA 671.2}

Do you agree with this position? Do you notice this is not a legal problem but an actual condition of being that needs remedy? Then, if you were Satan would you want people to acknowledge and receive the Holy Spirit? No! The attack against the Holy Spirit is an attack designed to prevent the healing and transformation of people, to keep people enslaved in the bondage of fear and selfishness.



Further, the infection of thought within Christianity that has taught a legal religion, with penal substitutionary plan also obstructs God's plan because people are not seeking the indwelling Spirit for renewal and recreation, instead they are seeking to have legal pardon, their debt paid, their sins covered, to be hidden from the Father by the robe of Christ's righteousness etc. All of which if thought about functions to keep the sinner in their sin.

Read third paragraph Sabbath's lesson, "Another reason..."

No doubt the Spirit is constantly working to focus our attention on Christ and all that Christ has revealed and done. But, what do you think about the word choice of "subordinate"? The lesson describes this as serving the Father and the Son, is that subordinate?

I think it reveals the mindset of an authoritarian viewpoint. To serve in an authoritarian structure means to subordinate. But...

Jesus said, that He did not come to be served but to serve. (Mk 10:45) Does that mean He is subordinate to us?

In God's kingdom the first shall be last and the last first, and amongst the Trinity is there any first or last or all equal? So notice this progression:

- Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...Philippians 2:6-9

I prefer avoiding hierarchical designations amongst the Trinity and instead think of it as different roles, by choice, not by rank. Authoritarian distortions of God like to organize things by rank – not so with God. Why Christ is elevated above all others, because of rank? Because of title? Because of inheritance? Or because of the truth of His character of selfless love demonstrated by His life and death as a human on earth?

Christ gave the most – not that the Father or the Spirit wouldn't have done likewise – they would have – but Christ actually went through the agony of humility, lost ability, confrontation of the devil with human equipment and total surrender to death. He carried out love in the greatest degree, revealing perfectly the character of the Father, thus He is exalted above all in the kingdom of love.

As I understand their chosen roles, the Father acts as the source of all that is good. The Son is the medium, mediator, advocate, conduit, agent through which the Father reveals Himself or acts and the Holy Spirit is the actualizer or applier of what the Father and Son have achieved. Thus God was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself (2Cor 5:19), and the Spirit came upon Jesus to enable Him to do



so. Jesus' work on earth was the acting out of the Father's heart. His completed mission and victory over sin are applied to the lives of believers by the work of the Holy Spirit. In creation we have the Father as the source, the Son as the architect, designer, and builder and the Spirit as the actualizer or implementer of Their design.

- Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. Proverbs 8:30 NIV
 - I was beside him like an architect, I was his daily source of joy, always happy in his presence- Proverbs 8:30 GNT
 - Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, NASB95

So, with this understanding we realize what Christ meant when He said, "I do nothing of myself." Christ takes from the Father to fulfill all the Father's purposes for His universe. In this sense we can see Christ turning to the Father, not to persuade the Father to be kind, but to receive the fullness of the Father's purpose of love for His creation and carry that purpose out in meaningful action!

The Godhead does not operate like a human corporation or military. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." God's kingdom of love is not represented by human nations or corporations which are constantly seeking to promote themselves at the expense of others. God sacrifices Himself for others!

Here is a quote that gives a historical view of the Trinity from one of the founders of the SDA church:

- There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.-- Evangelism, p. 615. {7ABC 441.9}

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "With fear..." Why was it a good thing for the disciples and us that Jesus left physically? How is the work of the Holy Spirit different than that of Jesus?

Jesus actually did God's will perfectly, lived love perfectly, taught God's kingdom perfectly all by the exercise of His human brain. The Holy Spirit takes all that Christ achieved, worked out, accomplished, and reproduces it in us, via a willing cooperation with the believer.

The Holy Spirit enlightens the mind with truth, convicts of duty and sin, and empowers when we choose the right. Thus the Holy Spirit leads us to choose the right, empowers us to succeed when we choose the right and thus works to transform us into the image of Christ. By so doing He produces the fruits of righteousness, which included discernment, ability to think and act rightly and self-control.



Thus the Holy Spirit works in cooperation with us for us to think, reason, weigh, conclude, decide and CHOOSE and Exercise our God-designed powers of mind in harmony with the Spirit for our growth and development.

If Jesus would have stayed physically on earth, there was the risk that people would have run to Him for all the answers. They wouldn't seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, exercise their own brains, expand their own thinking, develop by practice the ability to discern the right from the wrong (Heb 5:14), but instead simply believe because Jesus made a ruling and thus "God said it, I believe it, that's all there is to it."

Jesus does not want such infantile Christians. He wants us to grow up to the full stature of Jesus Christ,

- to be conformed to the image of Christ,
- to have the mind of Christ,
- to have the character of Christ,
- to have the heart that loves like Christ,
- to be friends who understand the master, like Christ.

Thus, Christ went to heaven and sent the Spirit to lead us into all truth,

- to lead us to comprehend,
- to lead us to think, reason,
- to be fully persuaded in our own minds,
- to grow up and partake the Spiritual meat and
- to know for ourselves God, His character, methods, principles and choose the right because it is right!

Read second paragraph, "Helper, Counselor, and Comforter..." With what is the Spirit to help us? What does it mean walk beside? What does God want from us and for us?

Notice the lesson mentions the idea of legal advocate – certainly if one were in legal trouble a legal advocate would be a helper and counselor – but we are not in legal trouble, so this idea of the Holy Spirit being a legal advocate is false – and is based on Satan's view of God's government.

With what do we need the Spirit to walk beside us to help us? With discernment, comprehension, understanding truth, new motives, right principles, strength, power, purpose, duty, clean and renewed conscience. In other words for our healing and transformation – NOT for a legal defense.

We earlier read the quotation from Friday's lesson in DA 761 regarding the Holy Spirit as a regenerating agent. What weapon or means does the Spirit use to accomplish this work?

This is the paragraph that precedes the one in Friday's lesson, do you agree with this?



- The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." **His work is to define and maintain the truth.** He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. **It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind.** By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. **Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul.** It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself. {DA 671.1}

Any examples of how believing a falsehood misshapes the character?

What about believing God must punish sin – what does the dark ages show about the characters of people who worship an authoritarian god?

How does truth heal? How does truth set free? How does truth comfort? How does truth conform people to the image of God?

What is the central truth that the Holy Spirit wants to bring the world to understand? Would it be God's character of love?

Listen to this historic quote:

We have need of divine illumination... **[God's] transforming grace upon human hearts will lead to unity that has not yet been realized;** for all who are assimilated to Christ will be in harmony with one another. **The Holy Spirit will create unity.** {1888 1017.2}

"He shall glorify me." "This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." **[How does the Holy Spirit glorify God? Consider this answer] The Holy Spirit glorifies God by so revealing his character to his people that he becomes the object of their supreme affections, and by making manifest his character in them.** They see clearly that there was never any righteousness in the world but his, no excellence in the world but that derived from him. **When the Spirit was poured out from on high, the church was flooded with light, but Christ was the source of that light; his name was on every tongue, his love filled every heart. So it will be when the angel that comes down from heaven having great power, shall lighten the whole earth with his glory.** May the Lord help his people to see and understand what is truth. {1888 1017.3}

How does the Holy Spirit glorify Christ? By revealing His character and reproducing it in us. What angel is referred to here? The angel of Revelation 18 – the fourth angel which comes to give the message of the three angels again with greater power than the first time.

What is the message of the first of the three angels?



Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Rev 14:6,7

The everlasting good news is about God and we are to be in awe of Him and reveal His character, give Him glory, for the time in history has come

- for God to be judged rightly to be seen in His true beauty,
- for the lies of Satan to be rejected,
- for the people of earth to come back into unity with God.

And this only happens when we worship the Designer and reject the dictator that has infected all of Christianity, including our own church.

What does this mean in regard to how the Spirit works? The Spirit works to lead us to UNDERSTAND the truth, and then it is up to us to CHOOSE the truth and the Spirit empowers us to follow through with the choice.

What of the latter rain – will the Holy Spirit be poured out in power for people to misrepresent God? No! God is waiting for a people to come back to the truth about Him, His character and methods of love. To reject the dictator, the authoritarian view of God and the authoritarian methods used to lead the people of God and instead to put Jesus again as the head of the church.

But, this requires we think, we reason, we study, we exercise those abilities God has given us to search for and follow the truth wherever it leads.

Many have a religion that obstructs the truth in favor of mystical or emotional experiences and claim the Spirit is leading, or a religion of rules and regulations and legal requirements, but any activity that undermines truth is not of the Holy Spirit.

TUESDAY

Read fourth paragraph, “While on this earth...” What is the significance that Jesus performed miracles via the power of the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus not use His own power?

Was Jesus tempted to use His own power? Where?

- Rocks to bread
- Escape death

Why did Jesus not use His own power to perform miracles? Because He overcame with His human brain and had no advantages over us. What does this mean regarding Satan’s allegations against God?



Read last paragraph, "The comparison..." First it is a good point that blasphemy is when something is spoken against God and thus if the Holy Spirit were not fully God it would not be blasphemy.

But what is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? Is it primarily in words or in heart attitude?

How does one grieve the Holy Spirit?

Consider this description that our church used to teach a warning to teachers:

The Holy Spirit has been given us as an aid in the study of the Bible. Jesus promised... When the Bible is made the study book, with earnest supplication for the Spirit's guidance, and with a full surrender of the heart to be sanctified through the truth, all that Christ has promised will be accomplished. **The result of such Bible study will be well-balanced minds.** The understanding will be quickened, the sensibilities aroused. The conscience will become sensitive; the sympathies and sentiments will be purified; a better moral atmosphere will be created; and new power to resist temptation will be imparted. Teachers and students will become active and earnest in the work of God. {CT 357.1}

There is a disposition on the part of many teachers not to be thorough in giving religious instruction. **They are satisfied with a halfhearted service themselves, serving the Lord only to escape the punishment of sin.** Their halfheartedness affects their teaching. **The experience that they do not desire for themselves they are not anxious to see their pupils gain. That which has been given them in blessing has been cast aside as a dangerous element.** The offered visits of the Holy Spirit are met with the words of Felix to Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Acts 24:25. Other blessings they desire; but that which God is more willing to give than a father is to give good gifts to his children; that which is offered abundantly, according to the infinite fullness of God, and which, if received, would bring all other blessings in its train--what words shall I use sufficiently to express what has been done with reference to it? **The heavenly Messenger has been repulsed by the determined will. Teachers have virtually said, "Thus far shalt Thou go with my students, but no farther. We need no enthusiasm in our school, no excitement.** We are much better satisfied to work with the students ourselves." **Thus despite has been done to God's gracious Messenger.** {CT 357.2}

Are not the teachers in our schools in danger of blasphemy, of charging the Holy Spirit with being a deceiving power and leading into fanaticism? {CT 358.1}

What is described? Service designed to escape punishment. This is false service, this is rejecting of the Holy Spirit. Because it creates a false view of God as a punisher and creates fear in the heart and mind. Thus church becomes a place with no joy, no excitement or enthusiasm, all must be quiet, somber, morose and call it reverence.



Is rejecting as fanaticism the true presence of the Holy Spirit blasphemy? Why? What does it do to the mind to teach people that any excitement or enthusiasm is not from the Holy Spirit?

How damaging to young people to stifle such positive energy. What happens in the mind when people believe the Holy Spirit is devoid of excitement and enthusiasm?

How can one tell the difference between the truth Spirit and a false spirit of fanaticism?

Does enthusiasm and excitement mean loss of self-control, disinhibition, acting out, flopping around like a fish, losing reasoning powers? No!

The Bible tells us the fruits of the Spirit include self-control, but self-control does not mean lifeless robotic emotionless behavior. John the Baptist was enthusiastic and passionate, and filled with the Holy Spirit, yet he never lost self control.

We must be balanced.

Here is a quotation I find quite eloquent and powerful on the sin of blasphemy against the Spirit:

Conscience is the voice of God, heard amid the conflict of human passions; when it is resisted, the Spirit of God is grieved. {FLB 58.2}

Men have the power to quench the Spirit of God; the power of choosing is left with them. They are allowed freedom of action. They may be obedient through the name and grace of our Redeemer, or they may be disobedient, and realize the consequences. {FLB 58.3}

The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not lie in any sudden word or deed; it is the firm, determined resistance of truth and evidence. {FLB 58.4} [Did you hear that? The determined resistance of truth and evidence is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit – WOW]

It is not that God sends out a decree that man shall not be saved. **He does not throw a darkness before the eyes which cannot be penetrated.** But man at first resists a motion of the Spirit of God, and, having once resisted, it is less difficult to do so the second time, less the third, and far less the fourth. Then comes the harvest to be reaped from the seed of unbelief and resistance. Oh what a harvest of sinful indulgences is preparing for the sickle! . . . {FLB 58.5}

On the other hand, **every ray of light cherished will yield a harvest of light. Temptation once resisted will give power to more firmly resist the second time; every new victory gained over self will smooth the way for higher and nobler triumphs.** Every victory is a seed sown to eternal life. {FLB 58.6}



God destroys no one. The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence. {FLB 58.7}
[How this contradicts the standard teaching of most Christians as they falsely teach God as cosmic executioner and justice require He punish]

No one need look upon the sin against the Holy Ghost as something mysterious and indefinable. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the sin of persistent refusal to respond to the invitation to repent. {FLB 58.8}

Is repent confined to repentance of bad deeds? Or does it include a turning away from false ideas, false organization, false methods, power over, dictator like leadership styles, turning away from stubbornness to learn and examine new evidence?

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, “Who takes...” Thoughts? Do you like this way of saying it? It starts out quite nicely, but takes a turn, again revealing an imposed law construct infecting the thinking.

What is a more accurate way of saying it, that puts both our condition and God’s character in the right light?

The Holy Spirit convinces us we are sick, deviant from God’s design and in a terminal condition which God diagnoses accurately.

The problem with how they word it is it lends itself to misunderstanding our problem as a legal problem with God. If we are under God’s condemnation then we need to get God’s pardon, rather than our healing and transformation. Thus, we falsely think we need an advocate with God to get Him to be gracious and forgiving, rather than realizing we need an intercessor in our own minds and hearts to transform us to be Godly.

The fifth paragraph says it well, “Those who have tried...” notice that what is described here is healing, transformation, renewal, regeneration of the heart/mind of the sinner, not a legal adjustment with God in heaven.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “No doubt...” Does the Holy Spirit override your individuality? Does a false spirit, a satanic spirit, override your individuality?

Holy Spirit loves you and wants you to blossom, grow, develop into the highest possible levels of development, with freedom to think, choose, love, express yourself creatively and be free.



The false spirit loves itself and wants to control and impose itself upon you to make you do and be like itself, to prevent any real growth or development.

This false spirit frequently inspires people in their human relationships as they seek to dominate and control others, imposing their will upon others, damaging and destroying the minds of those they control.

What does baptism of the Spirit mean?

Read last paragraph, “In Acts 1:8...” thoughts?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1-4

MONDAY

Read first two paragraphs, “Ellen G. White...” What is the impact in our understand of God’s character to attack the Trinity, or teach there is no Trinity?

It destroys the functionality of God’s character of love. It would mean a time in eternity past there was a time when God was a singularity, i.e. no other for God to serve, thus God would not functionally be love. This is Satan’s allegation all along, that God is not truly love.