

Remnant Life Church

June 4, 2023

The Holy Spirit

Pt 2

Attributes of the Holy Spirit: Immutable

Hebrews 13:7-8

I would like over the next several weeks to teach on the attributes of the Holy Spirit

What does that mean?

- An attribute is a quality or characteristic or something or someone
- Those words do not directly apply to almighty God but we are forced to use words we understand as limited as they may be

To understand or at least recognize the attributes of the Holy Spirit is to better understand how He works in our lives

Allow me first, however, give you a very simple but powerful truth of who the Holy Spirit is

- The Holy Spirit was given and came to guide those who believe into all the truth
- **John 16:13** - *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.*
 - What is the truth?
 - It is the truth found in Jesus Christ
 - It is the love of God the Father, demonstrated and carried out in God the Son, and continued here in each of us through the God the Spirit.
 - And we are in desperate need of His Spirit in our lives
- When Jesus told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem after His ascension it was because without the Holy Spirit, they could not have accomplished the work they had been prepared to do – spreading the Gospel message to the world

What the Holy Spirit is called throughout the Scriptures describes many of His purposes in our lives

- He is the Spirit of God (**I Thess 4:8**)
- The mind of Christ (**Phil 2:5**)
- The Spirit of Truth (**John 14:17; 15:26**)
- The Comforter (**John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7**)
- Power from on high (**Luke 24:49**)
- He is also called a gift of God – in the same way that salvation is (**Acts 2:38; 8:20; Rom 5:5; Luke 11:13; Gal 3:2**)
 - All of these names and descriptions of the Holy Spirit (plus others) are what God has given us in order to live our lives for Him everyday
 - To live victoriously against the plans of satan

The first attribute of the Holy Spirit I would like for us to look at this morning is that the Holy Spirit is immutable

- Listen to what is written in an introduction to a sermon on this very subject preached by Charles Spurgeon
 - The great British mid-19th century Baptist preacher and one of three great influences on my own preaching

- *Immutability means that God is not subject to change through time or circumstances. In His nature and His character, God is absolutely without change. In God's essence, attributes, consciousness and will, He is unchangeable.*
- This is what the writer of Hebrews is saying when he writes, *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Heb 13:7-8)*
 - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all possess the same attributes
 - Each are unchanging; immutable

The fact is that God, in three persons, cannot change!

- The action of change must be for either better or worse
- God is perfection so His nature must also always be and remain perfect
- A W Tozer offers an interesting perspective by way of observing a contrast
 - *The immutability of God appears in its most perfect beauty when viewed against the mutability of man. In God no change is possible; in man change is impossible to escape.*
 - That is precisely why, when you are faced with the difficulties and challenges of life you can put your trust wholly and fully in the goodness and love of God
 - God never disappoints
 - He never offers us anything out of selfishness
 - He is always truth presented in His perfect love
 - Can you see why to doubt, fear, or worry about the things of this life is to, in essence declare...
 - God, you cannot handle this situation and because I am allowing the emotions of my flesh to dictate the condition of my heart, I also cannot trust you.
 - This is why it is so very difficult for me to justify any element of worry by a Christian
 - He is God!
 - The same God who created the universe with just a thought
 - The same God who split the waters of the Red Sea
 - The same God who brought those back from the dead include Jairus's daughter, Lazarus, and His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 - But you can't trust Him to lead you through your situation?
 - The Psalmist speaks of the immutable quality of God
 - **Psalm 102:25-27** - *In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.*

The immutability of God causes great fear to the wicked because it means that God must always deal with men in accord with His holy character and plan and not according to our desires or expectations

- IOW God make no deals and accepts no man's person apart from His plan of salvation in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- On the other hand, God's immutability is and should be a constant comfort to believers because it means God is faithful, always, to His promises and the principles of His Word.
 - It is for this reason that one of God's names found in **Duet 32:4** is "the Rock"
 - And this is loooooong before Dwayne Johnson!
 - God is called this because when the entire world around us seems to fluctuate and shake and mutate from one form to another, He is the One safe and faithful place of anchorage.

What this means for each of us this morning is that the Holy Spirit of **Acts 2** is the same Holy Spirit working in our lives today

- The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to heal the sick, comfort the hurting, tell others about Jesus with boldness and conviction, and stand firm in the face of opposition
- That is available for us today as well
 - Why?
 - Because the Holy Spirit does not change
 - That same power is active today
 - That same supernatural intervention into this world is still available today
 - Then why do we see so much less of it?
 - Not because He has changed
 - But because we have
 - The faith of man has been beaten, battered, and stolen from our hearts
 - And we have allowed it
- This is why we must not compromise and turn from the truth of God's Word
 - His truth is the same today as it was 2000 years ago
 - He cannot change because He is perfect
- The question is, will you stand unchanging in that same truth when all the world is telling you that you are wrong?
 - There are many today, even those who do not profess a relationship with Jesus Christ, who when they speak out against the agendas of this world, are being shamed, rebuked, and called all sorts of terrible things
- He is the same yesterday, today, and forever
 - It is in that unchangeable sameness, His immutable nature, that we find peace, comfort, strength, and victory
 - Trust in that with all your heart!