

Remnant Life Church

June 11, 2023

The Holy Spirit

Pt 3

Attributes of the Holy Spirit: Longsuffering

Judges 14:1-3

We began with the purpose of the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit was given and came to guide those who believe into all the truth
 - What is the truth?
 - It is the truth found in Jesus Christ

- We recognized that the many names of the Holy Spirit are often descriptions of His purpose and nature

The first attribute is that the Holy Spirit is He is *immutable*

- Meaning He is unchanging
- But it is even more than that for the Holy Spirit cannot change!
 - The action of change must be for either better or worse
 - God is perfection so His nature will always be and remain perfect
- And so, 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
 - This is why a Christian should seldom be dealing with deep doubt, fear, or worry about the things of this life
 - He cares about every detail of your life and is there with you to work His will in and through your life
 - 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

- 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!

The second attribute of the Holy Spirit is that He is *longsuffering*

- To be longsuffering means to be patient
- God's patience is demonstrated throughout the Bible but especially in the OT as He dealt with His people the nation of Israel

READ – Judges 14:1-3

God's people, throughout their early history, continued to turn away from God

- It began almost immediately after they left Egypt
- When Moses delayed coming back from being on Mt. Sinai when he was receiving the 10 Commandments and the Law from God what did the people do?
 - They started complaining and grumbling
 - Complaining distorts your vision of reality
 - They began to believe they had it good in Egypt and cast Moses aside
 - **Exodus 32**
- After Joshua died the people turned from God as they entered the time of the judges
 - The final judge was Samson
 - In spite of his fame, his strength, and his great hair he was not a good judge
 - Even to the end he only accomplished the destruction of the Philistine's temple to Dagon
 - Consider the common thread throughout the time of the Hebrew people and why God had to be so patient or longsuffering with them

But first remember that the attributes we are examining of the Holy Spirit are also the same of God the Father and God the Son

Here is the common theme of that time and that same way of thinking is now running rampant in our culture today

Judges 21:25 - *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.*

- Another way you will read that is everyone did right in their own eyes
- IOW – they did not live according to God's Word and His law rather what they thought was right for themselves
 - That is how our society lives today
 - If I want something in a particular way, if there is something I want to have, if I think or believe something – then it is right
 - Once again, that is because absolute truth no longer exists only relative truth
- For the people of Israel it was a matter of living their lives according to their terms – not God's
 - This way of living will always, inevitably, fail
 - When a nation or a people refuse to live by a moral compass they will perish
 - It has happened throughout history
 - The Egyptians
 - The Babylonians
 - The Medes and Persians
 - The Greek dynasty
 - The Romans
 - Down throughout the ages...
- And Israel was headed down that same path
- What saved them?
 - God's patience

- His longsuffering

Now look at Samson again in **Judges 14**

- The Philistines were the mortal enemies of the Hebrew people
- I don't believe Samson was smart enough to be attempting to form a political alliance through marriage
 - David did, Solomon did, but not Samson
 - Samson did not think with wisdom, only lust
- But look at how he responds to his parents
 - **14:3** - *Get her for me. She's the right one for me.*
 - IOW she is right in my own eye

How many times have we made decisions without any input from others?

- What were the circumstances of that time?
- I can almost guarantee that they were situations that you knew others would tell you were not wise, foolish or dangerous
 - When we want our own way, we tend to isolate ourselves until it is either done or we are too far in to turn back
 - Joshua got himself into this predicament once

READ – Joshua 7:1-5

- Two things have happened here
 - First, Achan took some of the devoted treasures that were for the worship of God
 - Second, Joshua never inquired or asked God what he should do regarding their moving on Ai
 - Contrast that to the previous chapter when Joshua was in close contact with God regarding Jericho
- When we don't seek God for the decisions and actions of our lives we are going to experience an Ai defeat
 - Acting and doing things that are 'right in our own eyes' invariably leads to failure and destruction
 - Praise God that the Holy Spirit is longsuffering and patient with us

Where did this all begin?

Gen 3:6 - *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

- The desires of the flesh are those that take us directly against the things of God
- If the Holy Spirit were not patient, not longsuffering we would all surely be suffering the judgment of a righteous God
 - Just like the people of Israel did time and time again

What is the answer?

- Live your life in humility and with a desire to do what is right – always

- Pride is what takes us to the place of doing what is only pleasing to us

The attributes of the Holy Spirit are those that demonstrate God's great love for us

Next week we will talk about the righteousness of the Holy Spirit

- He is patient
- He is unchanging
- But He is also righteous meaning there is right and wrong and consequences for both