

Remnant Life Church

August 16, 2026

The Holy Spirit

Pt 3

Longsuffering

Judges 2:10-16

We began this series by recognizing, among other things, the purpose of the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit was given and came to guide those who believe into all the truth (John 16:13)
 - 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
 - And that there are several virtues of the HS that are given to help us in our daily lives

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

- Meaning He is unchanging
- But it is even more than that for, in fact, the Holy Spirit cannot change!
 - The action of change must be for either better or worse
 - But since God is perfect so too then His nature will always be and remain perfect
 - That is true for all three of the Trinity Godhead
- And so, when you are faced with the difficulties and challenges of life you can put your trust wholly and fully in the goodness, love and presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit
 - God never disappoints
 - He never offers us anything out of selfishness
 - He is always truth presented in His perfect love
 - This is why I believe a Christian should seldom be captured in the depths of 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 raised Jesus from the dead!
- 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
 - And you should 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 2:10-16

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

- It began almost immediately after they left Egypt
- When Moses delayed coming back from being on Mt. Sinai where he was receiving the 10 Commandments and the Law directly from the hand God what did the people do?
 - They started complaining and grumbling
 - And let's understand something about what that does
 - Complaining distorts your vision of reality
 - To embrace complaining means that you take your eyes completely off the blessings of your life and focus solely on what you are unhappy about
 - The Israelites actually began to believe they had it good in Egypt
 - They wanted to cast Moses and Aaron aside and head back to Pharaoh (Exodus 32)
- But God was patient, longsuffering with them
- After Joshua died the people turned from God as they entered the time of the judges

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
 - And that is certainly 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, because I say it is
 - Even the rules of law are not being followed
 - People who are famously breaking the law are not facing the consequences of their actions
 - And when that happens, sin becomes emboldened
 - That is because absolute truth no longer exists
 - There is no black and white
 - No right and wrong
 - Only shade of grey that can be manipulated to fit a person's desires
 - It is called relative truth
 - And it is a spiritually deadly place for a Christian to occupy
 - There is right and wrong!
 - Not because I determine what that is
 - But because of what the Word of God says it is
- 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 person refuses to live by the moral compass established by God, they will perish
- It has happened throughout history
 - The Egyptians
 - The Babylonians
 - The Medes and Persians
 - The Greek dynasty
 - The Romans
- And Israel was headed down that same path
- What saved them?
 - God's patience
 - His longsuffering

One of the judges from that time in Israel's history is a perfect example of that

- This is found in **Judges 14:1-3**
 - The Philistines were the mortal enemies of the Hebrew people
- To understand this better you need to know that in those times it was not unusual for kings to marry a daughter, sister, or other relative of another nation's king to form a political alliance with them
 - David did that, so did Solomon
 - But I don't think that was what Samson was doing
 - Because Samson's life was not governed by wisdom, but by lust
- And so, look at how he responds to his parent's objections
 - **14:3** - *Get her for me. She's the right one for me.*
 - IOW she is right in my own eye – because I say she is
 - As a result of his decision, she betrayed Samson and he ended up giving her to another man!

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 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
 - Even Joshua got himself into this predicament once

READ – Joshua 7:1-5 (and with this I'll close)

- What we witness in this account is 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

Because the desire to do as we please, is at the heart of the first sin of man

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 thoughts followed by actions that take us directly away from 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 every single day
 - Just like the people of Israel did time and time again

What is the answer?

- Live your life in submission to God in humility with a heartfelt 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

- He is patient, long suffering, and slow to anger
 - What an incredible, unearned, undeserved blessing that is given to each and every one of us
- And He is unchanging
 - These attributes were made available to the Israelites
 - And it is available to each and every one of us this morning
 - Just as we read in...
 - **John 1:9** - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
- Patient, unchanging – what a loving and magnificent, Almighty God we serve!