

Remnant Life Church

August 30, 2026

The Holy Spirit

Pt 5

The Giver of Hope

Genesis 4:6-7

Gal 5:22-23 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.*

As we bring this brief series on the Holy Spirit to a close, we said last week that these fruits of the Spirit are an indicator of His presence in your life

- To have surrendered your life to Him is to these qualities demonstrated in your life
- And to show these traits is a commitment of your whole life so that you can life in joy, peace, and victory

But satan is attempting in his last hours, to eradicate or remove as much of these fruits from as many Christians as he can

- We see it every day as the exploits of those he influences the most saturate our every news outlet
- Our children are forced to deal with things today that, only 50 years ago, most adults were not even exposed to
- And perhaps one of the saddest things is that as the older generations die out no one will be left to remember what it was like when it wasn't this way – and it will be viewed as the norm of everyday life

We could go into much more detail about the condition of our world, our nation, the difficult aspects of our day-to-day lives

- But there is one main question that must be asked in spite of what we are witnessing...
- “Is there hope?”

Where did this struggle for hope begin?

- Certainly, it was following the introduction of sin into the line of man
 - From that time on we have been desperate for hope that shines a light in the darkness
- But what brought us to where we are in the first place?
 - It was pride at the heart of that first sin and it opened a door into our hearts for the enemy to work and influence our actions and thoughts
 - And we see it demonstrated from the very beginning

READ – Gen 4:6-7

In this brief passage God is speaking to Cain

- We know that Cain is the first human born of the bodies of a man and woman
 - He was associated with many firsts
 - Not only the first person born
 - The first to have a sibling

- The first farmer
 - The first recorded sacrifice brought to God
 - Also, the first to take another life
 - The first murderer
- One of the questions regarding the events leading up to Abel's death is why did God reject Cain's offering but accept Abel's
 - This would seem to have to do with the heart and not what was brought
 - Their actions were similar, but their hearts were not
- But we must also recognize is how God describes sin in the second part of verse 7
 - *...if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it. (Gen 4:7b)*
 - That word "desire" IOL means to long for, to crave
 - IOW it is a force that, like a wild beast, is not only ready but straining to attack and consume
 - We read this same description in I Peter 5:8
 - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
 - Devour means to swallow up, consume
 - It is why so many fall into the trap of the temptation because we think we can skirt around the edges and not fall in
 - The word drown is given as a synonym for this visual picture of warning
 - But then God gives a word of hope
- Gen 4:7c - *...but you must master it*
 - Therein lies our hope
- The word "hope" is found in the NIV Bible 180 times
 - The OT Hebrew word is *yah-(chk)EL*
 - It means to wait, tarry, and to expect
 - What is important to understand is that it is a firm belief, not an empty, self-made promise of something to come
 - But that same word in the NT Greek *el-PEES* adds something more to the definition because of Jesus
 - Now it is a confident and joyful expectation
 - In other words, to wait with pleasure (is that an oxymoron?)
- And as God said this to Cain so too Jesus offered hope to the people
 - Luke 21:26-28 - *People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads because your redemption (or hope) is drawing near.*
 - Jesus is saying that their hope will not be one of desperation or fear, but one of a bold certainty

First – Hope is found by first admitting your need for God

- It begins with surrendering your life and accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior

- Notice I did not say it is about being good, going to church, reading your Bible, or even praying
- There are a lot of people who read their Bible, even pray, that don't know Jesus
 - Salvation is not about what you do, but what Jesus did for you
 - Nice is not a synonym for saved
- I have said many times, I believe there are going to be a lot of "nice" people in hell
- There is only one action that will save your soul from eternal separation from God
 - That is asking Jesus Christ to come into your heart and be the Lord of your life
 - **Acts 16:29-31** - *The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."*
- That is the only way, and it is clearly stated
- And once you have accepted Jesus Christ, the change in how you act, talk, react to situations should reflect the new life you live
 - *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.* - **Rom 10:10**
- Surrendering your life to Jesus Christ is a matter of willingly giving up your pride
 - Pride is addressed throughout both the old and NT
 - Over 60 times and not once in a positive way
- Let's look briefly at one of those accounts
 - Following the death of Solomon in 931 BC the nation of God's people divided into two – Israel and Judah
 - Uzziah was the 10th king of Judah and began his reign as a godly king at the age of 16
 - **2 Chron 26:16** - *But after Uzziah (also called Azariah) became powerful, his pride led to his downfall.*
 - God blessed what he did through a large portion of his rule, but his pride changed all of that
 - Specifically, we read in **2 Chron** that Uzziah entered the temple and burned or offered incense to the Lord – something only the priests were permitted to do – Uzziah, in his pride, violated God's sacred law
 - And as a result of that action, leprosy broke out on his forehead (**2 Chron 26:19**)
 - Why on the forehead?
 - the forehead was one of two locations that the priests wore scripture passages on their bodies
 - Little leather boxes called phylacteries
 - One on the forehead one on the left arm
 - **Duet 11** – God said to keep His law on their hands (to help govern the things they do) and on their foreheads (to help guard what they think)

- Uzziah was breaking God's law, so the disease started at the point of his violation
 - It was pride that lead him to believe he could bypass the priests and offer the burning incense himself
 - In essence his actions demonstrated his belief that he did not need to follow the law of God
- To admit your need for God means recognizing your inability to deal with your life correctly and in obedience without Him
 - When we admit our need for God we are positioning our lives to receive all that He promises us as His child – including hope

Second part of our hope – Hope begins to take root and grow when we surrender both our weaknesses AND our strengths to God

- There is no question that satan knows where you are weak and they become the primary targets of temptation
 - But he also knows where you are strong
 - And he will attempt to exploit them both
- Let's look at a good example of this - Samson
 - He was the 13th and final judge of Israel
 - The time of the Judges was between the time of the death of Joshua and the coronation of King Saul
 - A period of about 300 years
 - Samson was actually a good judge with some very serious weaknesses and strengths
 - His strengths enabled him to accomplish much in protecting the people from the Philistines
 - But his weaknesses led to his downfall and death
- Surrendering a weakness is something we can understand and usually very willing to do
- But surrendering our strengths is much more difficult
 - Why?
 - Because it is a strength – we don't think we need anything or anyone in that area of our life...often including God
 - And something I also think is true
 - Strengths often produce our largest blind-spots
 - And this is yet another open door for pride to enter in
 - Pride says I can absolutely do this, I am good, I don't need anyone or anything, everything about this is good and positive
 - And that simply is not always the case
 - Yet you cannot see it – because it is in a blind spot
 - Humility understands an important truth
 - John 15:5** - *I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

When I surrender both my strengths and my weaknesses to God, I am calling on His strength to bolster my weakness, and humility to cover my strengths

Hope begins when you admit your need for God

It takes root and grows when you surrender your weaknesses as well as your strengths

Third – Hope is built, strengthened, and increased through prayer

- There are many types of prayers
 - Thanksgiving; petition; worship; desperation; etc...
 - Hope is built in all of those
 - Listen to what the Psalmist and the Prophet say regarding those who come before God...
- **Psalm 33:16-18** - *No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. (These all speak to our actions and efforts)
But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love*
- **Isaiah 40:31** - *...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Prayer changes everything

- It changes the heart
- It changes the atmosphere and condition of our lives
- And it changes the outcome
 - Even if the final result is not what you wanted it to be
 - When you pray, you are aligning your heart and mind with the will of God

Hope is available

- But it must be a hope that is found in God, through Jesus Christ, and not in our own strength
- Hope is about surrender
 - Hope is not a subtle demand or an expectation of God
 - Because surrender means my plans, my desires, my aspirations are given over to His will for my life
 - His time, his outcome, his direction

Edward Mote was an English pastor in West Sussex in the early to mid-1800s

- He is credited with having written over 100 hymns
- None of which gained much prominence or popularity except for one
- Listen to these words
 - *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

Christ is the solid rock, and it is in Him that our hope rests!