

WORSHIP BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-3

INTRODUCTION

A. This message is about the *Holy Spirit*.

B. The Holy Spirit shapes our understanding and practice of *worship*.

C. *True worship does not happen apart from the Holy Spirit*.

1. Paul wrote in **Philippians 3:3** that we are those “who worship by the Spirit of God” (ESV).

2. Attempts to *manufacture worship* apart from the Holy Spirit results in *lesser forms* of the real thing—

a. The Holy Spirit produces *fruit*.

b. Without the Holy Spirit, people manufacture *wax fruit*.

3. The Holy Spirit produces real worship in the life of a Christian – this is *Spiritual Worship*.

E. Now, let’s turn to the Bible to learn about *the person and work of the Holy Spirit*.

1. The first part of this message is *Doctrinal*: “*Meet the Holy Spirit*”.

2. The second part is *Practical*: “*Experience the Holy Spirit*”.

MEET THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit is a *Person*.

1. He is not an “*it*” but “*who*”; not a “*something*” but “*someone*”. He is a *personal spirit* possessing *personality* — *intelligence, will, and emotions*.

2. Here are 4 reasons why we believe this:

a. First, the Scriptures speak about Him using *personal pronouns* – “He” and “Him”.

b. Second, *He possesses the characteristics of a person*; that is, intelligence and a will and emotions.

c. Third, *He performs the acts of a person*. He speaks, intercedes, teaches, commands, and guides.

d. Fourth, *He receives treatment as a person*; such as, He can be grieved and insulted and lied to and blasphemed.

B. The Holy Spirit is *God*.

1. We believe that Holy Spirit is God; the Third Person of the Trinity.

2. Here are 5 reasons why we believe this:

a. First, *the Bible calls Him “God” in Acts 5:3-4*.

b. Second, *He possesses the attributes of God* – all-powerful, all knowing, everywhere present at the same time, and eternal.

c. Third, *He performs the works of God*.

- He was active in the creation of the world.

- He regenerates sinners who believe and receive the Gospel.
- He inspired the written word of God.

d. Fourth, statements ascribed to YHWH in the Old Testament are ascribed to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

e. Fifth, the Bible teaches us that He is third Person of the Trinity, alongside the Father and the Son.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. FIRST, HE INDWELLS US.

1. This happens the moment someone believes the Gospel and receives Christ by faith.

2. This is the mark of a true Christian.

Romans 8:9, ⁹ Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

3. Real worship starts when the Holy Spirit comes inside us.

4. This experience is called “born again” and “born of God” and “born of the Spirit”.

5. Everyone needs to be “born of the Spirit”.

a. **D.A. Carson**, “God made us to ‘image’ himself; he made us for his own glory”.

b. **THIS MEANS**, when God created us, He made us in His image so we can REFLECT to Him His glory and praise.

i. **John Calvin** (1509-1564), “To image God means to *reflect* God like a mirror.”

ii. God made us to reflect *to Him* the truth of who He is in our **worship – praise – adoration.**

(The glory of the mirror is NOT the mirror, but the reflection of the person staring into it.)

iii. God made us to reflect the truth of who He is *to others* in our **attitudes and actions.**

c. THIS MEANS, when God breathed His breath of life into us, He gave us spiritual life so we could FELLOWSHIP with Him who is spirit, and to express to Him real SPIRITUAL WORSHIP.

d. Sin, however, ruined all this –

i. Sin made us self-centered, not God-centered.

ii. Sin replaced “the glory of God” with “the kingdom of self”.

e. The mission of Jesus Christ on Earth was to bring us back into a right relationship with God – that is, to be God’s “true worshippers”.

John 4:23-24, ²³ ...the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

f. The Holy Spirit regenerates and indwells everyone who is “born of the Spirit”.

5. The moment the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside us, we are the “*temple of the Holy Spirit*”.

a. **1 Corinthians 3:16**, ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

b. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**, ¹⁹ ...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

i. In both cases, the word translated "*temple*" refers to "the holy of holies"; "the Holiest of all".

ii. God's House of Worship in the Old Testament was A BUILDING – the Tabernacle and the Temple.

iii. God's House of Worship in the New Testament is A PEOPLE – God's redeemed, covenant people.

iv. This is what Jesus meant when He said:

John 4:21-24, ²¹ Jesus said to her (Samaritan woman), "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain (Mount Gerizim) nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

v. We are *God's House of Worship* – this is why **1 Corinthians 6:20** said, "Glorify God in your body".

vi. Because the Holy Spirit indwells us – because we are God's Temple – our lives should be constant worship.

aa. If your view of worship is just music, then your understanding of it is too small.

bb. Worship is more and bigger than just music – it is a lifestyle.

bb-I. Romans 12:1-2, ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

bb-II. 1 Corinthians 10:31, ³¹ ...whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

4. The Holy Spirit dwells within us – we are the temples of the Holy Spirit – therefore, we should live as *God's Houses of Worship*.

B. SECOND, HE FILLS US.

1. The Apostle Paul wrote:

Ephesians 5:18-21, ¹⁸ ...be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

2. To be “filled with the Spirit” means we are “controlled by the Holy Spirit”.

3. Also, in the Greek text, this command is to be “*continually* being filled with the Spirit”.

- a. Paul is *not* speaking of the Holy Spirit's indwelling – *He is rather giving a command for Christians to live continually under the influence of the Holy Spirit.*
 - b. Each Christian has all the Holy Spirit, but the command here is that the Holy Spirit have all of him.
4. Observe the relationship between **Ephesians 5:18** with **5:19-21**—
- a. **Ephesians 5:18**, ¹⁸ Be filled with the Spirit...
 - b. In **Ephesians 5:19-21** we see 4 results of being filled with the Spirit:
 - i. We *encourage and edify* one another – “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”.
 - ii. We *sing praises* to God – “singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart”
 - iii. We are *grateful* to God – “giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”.
 - iv. We are *humble* towards one another – “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ”.
5. The Holy Spirit leads us – His House – in worshipping God.
- a. He teaches us about God and the truth about true worship through His written Word.
 - b. He shows us our motives and attitudes in worship – using the *Mirror of the Word* — because the *condition of the heart* matters.
 - c. He guides us in our expressions of worship.

d. Knowing this, we submit to His rule, and follow His lead as the “Lead Worship Leader”.

C. THIRD, HE EMPOWERS US.

1. In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus said to His Spirit-born followers, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2. This point pertains to HOW we make known God’s glory and praise in the world.

3. **Acts 1:8** tells us about “*The Baptism with the Holy Spirit*”.

a. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we are empowered with God’s supernatural power to be effective witnesses for Jesus on earth.

b. “*Witnesses*” testify of Christ – and on the Day of Pentecost, the first Spirit-empowered Christians testified of “the mighty works of God” (see Acts 2:11).

4. When God’s people worship by the Holy Spirit, it has both a *vertical* and *horizontal* impact:

a. VERTICAL – we glorify, magnify, exalt, honor, and please God.

b. HORIZONTAL – we make people aware of God’s presence and salvation.

i. **1 Corinthians 14:24-25**: ²⁴ ...if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

ii. **Psalm 40:3**, ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

c. We need the power of the Holy Spirit for all this to happen – we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

D. FOURTH, HE GLORIFIES CHRIST.

1. **John 16:14**, ¹⁴ He (the Spirit of truth) will glorify me (Jesus)

2. **1 Corinthians 12:3** (NLT), ³ So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

a. *Worshipping by the Holy Spirit will always glorify the Lord Jesus.* This is what He loves to do – this is what He will always do.

b. Who does your “worship” seek to glorify – Jesus or you? Let the Holy Spirit glorify King Jesus in and through you today.