

Abide Part 2: The Holy Spirit is a Connector (9-16-2018)

New Series: Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

Today: The Holy Spirit is a Connector (Examples: Dove & Wind)

1) The Holy Spirit appears as a Dove (Assurance)

Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)

(16) And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (17) and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Note: When the Spirit shows up, He brings Identity, Affirmation, and Peace

- It's a sign or designation of **Identity** - This is MY Son!
- It brings **Affirmation** - You are my beloved & I am well pleased with you! (I love you & Like you)
- Symbol of a Dove - Universal Symbol for **Peace**

This truth wasn't just for Jesus; it now is for you and me!

Romans Chapter 8 - Read the whole thing on your own; here are a couple key verses . . .

The Holy Spirit is a connector, reminding us that we belong to God and are now in His family!

a) Identity

Romans 8:14 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Note: Our Identity is that we are now children of God

b) Affirmation

Romans 8:15-16 (ESV)

(15) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (16) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Note: No Fear, instead Familiar! When we forget, He reminds us of our position!

c) Peace

Romans 8:6 (ESV)

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Note: Left to ourselves, we can forget who we are and whose we are - leading to death. But the Holy Spirit connects me to God and reminds me of Life & Peace that comes from being in His Family. Here are some examples . . .

Romans 8 - Key Promises to those now living as Sons & Daughters . . .

- There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (8:1)
- Law of the Spirit makes me free from the law of sin & death (8:2)
- All things work together for good to those who love God & are called according to his purpose (8:28)
- If God is for us, who can be against us? (8:31)
- We are more than conquerors (8:37)
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God (8:39)

When I walk in this assurance then I'm free to follow the Spirit into adventure. . .

2) The Holy Spirit is like the Wind (Adventure)

Wind - Invisible, Unpredictable Power & Movement of God's Spirit

Jesus speaking to Nicodemus about being born again . . .

John 3:8 (ESV)

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

App: To surrender to this kind of invisible, unpredictable power & movement - we have to have the Peace that comes from our assurance as his son or daughter.

Then we have to trust & follow (obey). That's an adventure!

All real relationship involves risk; love is risky!

Think about the wind - you have no clue where it will take you . . .

Example: Alex & I on our little Catamaran sailboat

Trusting your life to the Wind is risky, but that is also where freedom & adventure is found!

Jesus told His disciples not to go on their adventure until the Holy Spirit came upon them, and when he showed up it was like the wind! (And fire - next week)

Acts 1:4-5 (ESV)

(4) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 2:1-2 (ESV)

(1) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Note: Real freedom in God's kingdom comes with the risky adventure of being in His family and learning to surrender to His leading!

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit connects us into God's Family - bringing Affirmation & Adventure

Immediately following Jesus' baptism & His declaration as the beloved son . . .

Matthew 3:16-17, 4:1 (ESV)

(16) And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (17) and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (4:1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.