

Teach: Encountering the Holy Spirit

Intro

Our theme this year is GO FIRST!

KEY THEME VERSE: **Matthew 28:19**, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

We need to follow His footsteps and GO FIRST! We do this by following the Holy Spirit. This week, we will watch a teaching by our Founding Pastor Neville McDonald. This is an older sermon but a powerful one, especially as we prepare for Pentecost Sunday on 28 May.

Let's watch it now. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb6CfEG0CxE> “The Holy Spirit In You! with Pastor Neville McDonald.” 9 min 12 seconds.

(Play video)

Transcript: **Leaders Note** This is provided for your reference.

“Holy Spirit and God encounters. I want to speak to you about encountering the Holy Spirit. I'm Neville McDonald. When we speak about the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, or the Spirit of God: these terminologies are used today commonly but not always understood that **the Holy Spirit is a person**. In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself as our Father. In the New Testament especially in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Jesus reveals Himself as our brother, the Son of God, and our Savior. Thereafter He said, 'I'm going away but I'll send the comforter, the helper, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, or the Spirit of God,' **We don't serve three gods. The Bible is clear, we serve one God**. So many times people will say to us as believers, 'you're serving three gods.' No, we're serving one God. The Bible says, 'the Lord our God is one.' God, He first came as our Father to give us a good father image in the Old Testament. Then as our elder brother and Saviour and now He's here by His Spirit. The best way to understand it is in the book of Romans. Which says, 'nature itself teaches us.' Whenever we look at nature, we see the egg, we see the white, we see the yolk. If you look at yourself there's your body, there's your mind, your emotions, and your will, which is internal.

There's your spirit or your breath. When people pass away they breathe out their last breath, so the Holy Spirit is known as the breath of God. The word 'spirit' comes from the word 'pneuma' or breath. We know that when we breathe out our last breath we'll say the person's gone but actually their breath left. Now that doesn't mean that God is just a breath. There are numerous types and symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Bible where God is trying to reveal His nature and character to us as the kind of person the Holy Spirit is.

The reason we try to understand or misunderstand His value and purpose on earth is because of the terminology: Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost. **We always think in terms of a ghost or a spirit or something weird that we cannot touch but the Holy Spirit is a real person. He is the Spirit of God. He and God are the same person.** He is the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead. Now we can look at that and go, 'you know pastor Nev that's really, really complicated.' Well the Bible tells us that understanding the Trinity is complicated but when we look at ourselves we are a Trinity, that's not that difficult to understand.

Now in the scripture, Jesus after He had departed and gone to heaven, He'd been taken up to heaven in a cloud. In the book of Acts chapter One, He told His disciples, 'that they would receive power.' They then go and wait in the upper room. In Acts chapter Two and the Bible says, 'and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.' Now this encounter with God was an intentional encounter. Many times there were those who say, 'well this was just for the New Testament Apostles and the hundred-and-twenty in the upper room.' But we will actually discover as you read through the book of Acts in Acts 19 the Holy Spirit is still encountering people. They're still speaking with a prayer language. But because praying is a prayer language, it has been so misunderstood many times it is viewed as people just falling out or speaking in a language they don't know.

The book of Romans tells us that the power of the Spirit, the power to pray in a prayer language is vitally important because it builds our Spirit and we communicate with God. Notice in Acts chapter Four verse Eight it tells us that, 'Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke to the rulers and the people of Israel and told them to come to the Lord Jesus Christ.' So when we begin to look at these encounters with the Holy Spirit you'll find in Acts chapter Four verse 31, the good news translation says, 'when they had finished praying the place where they were meeting was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness.' **So the Spirit of God, the person of the Holy Spirit, is a separate encounter that we receive after we've received Jesus where He fills us with His power so that we can be witnesses to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Remember the very purpose of Jesus and the anointing upon His life when He said, 'the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.' **His primary motivation was firstly to see you come to Jesus. Then secondly to see you healed in every area of your emotions. Then thirdly to see you set free.** So the ministry that you and I have, and that the early church had was to be filled with the power of God so that we can bring

everybody into an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. For them to experience His love and His salvation, for each one to be healed and for them to be set free. Let's go back again then to the book of Acts. In Acts chapter Nine verse seven, you will notice that after Peter had preached there is the story of a man called Ananias. Ananias was a prophet of God. Ananias didn't really want to go and bring a message to Saul. Because Saul was known (or Paul) was known to persecute the church. He was known to murder Christians. But God speaks to Ananias and tells him to, 'go and pray for Saul to receive the Holy Spirit.' So again we see that Saul had already encountered Jesus on the Damascus Road. But now he goes and he submits and after he has been prayed for by Ananias the Holy Spirit is imparted to him. In Acts 19 verse 7 it says, 'so Ananias went and found the house.' (Remember as a prophet God sent him) 'Placed his hands on blind Saul and said brother Saul the Master sent me. The same Jesus you saw on your way here, He sent me so that you again can be filled with the Holy Spirit.' So we see here it was necessary for Paul, the great apostle, to receive the person of the Holy Spirit. In chapter 13 verse 9 this is Saul (or Paul) speaking here and he tells us then, 'Saul who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked at the paralyzed man and told the paralyzed man to get up on his feet.' Now notice again, Saul now is filled with the Holy Spirit and the power of the Spirit comes on him and he is raised up and he walks.

The very first thing that you need to do is receive the Holy Spirit and receive His anointing.

The Bible tells me in Acts 10:38 how, 'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.' Receive His presence. Receive His power. It's His power that releases miracles. It's His power that releases His presence. It's His power that gives you the ability to pray in the Spirit or with the spirit or with a prayer language and receive answers to your prayers. I'm Neville McDonald. I want to encourage you this week to pray and intentionally seek God and ask God to encounter you by the power of His Spirit. God bless you."

Ask

- What stood out to you from Ps Neville's sermon?
- What challenges you? Inspires you?
- When you think of the Holy Spirit, do you think of Him as a real person?
 - (He is not an 'it')
- What would you say to someone who says, "You serve three gods?"
 - Answer: No, we're serving one God. The Bible says, "the Lord our God is one."
- What did Jesus promise His disciples in Acts One?
 - Answer: That they would receive power from the Holy Spirit.
- What is our Heavenly prayer language?
 - Answer: Speaking in tongues as given by the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- Why is it important to pray in our Heavenly prayer language?
 - Answer: Because it builds our Spirit and we communicate with God.

- Why do we need to encounter the Holy Spirit after salvation and 'be filled with the Holy Spirit?'
 - Answer: So that we may receive power from God to be witnesses to all the earth
 - (Inherently we find that the infilling of the Holy Spirit brings us connection to God, relationship and communion with Him, vision and wisdom from Him, and the supernatural power to accomplish His vision.)
- What was Jesus' motivation?
 - Answer: His primary motivation was firstly to see you come to Jesus. Then secondly to see you healed in every area of your emotions. Then thirdly to see you set free.

Prayer

- Pray for all to encounter the Holy Spirit. For all to be filled with the Holy Spirit either for the first time or again.
- Pray for the release of tongues and interpretation of tongues.
- Pray for a new level of connection to the Spirit of God. Ask for spiritual blindness to be broken and release of the power and presence of God.
- Pray for all to come to Jesus, be healed in every area of their emotions, and to be set free.
- Pray for the upcoming Life Connect Bread of Life or Prayer Walk.

Upcoming

- Next week, Wednesday 31 May we will have combined Life Connect.
- On Saturday, 3 June Life Connect Bread of Life or Prayer Walk