

Week 10: The Holy Spirit

The Story about Creation part two

(it's all about being new)

We have a plan in life. Well some of us. I think I will retire at 58. My house will be paid for and my pension kicks in. It sounds perfect. I have known so many stories of friends retiring and dying that it makes me sick. Some even die before they get to the end of the plan. I am horrified that it just might not go my way. God created a world he loved. It was very good to him. It's like a sculpture sitting back and admiring the handy work. The smile, admiration, and satisfaction seeps inside and outside.

Job 38:1-4 *"Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand."*

1. What have you accomplished?
2. What went the wrong way as planned?

I look at the existence of God like this. It would be easy to tell a story about how the world began. Maybe we could use that story to build a cult or religion. Is it to control people or gain wealth and fame? This Christian religion is more than just a story. Stories don't have plans. They don't push us to love more and care more. Stories don't guide us to be a community. Stories entertain and give a moral outcome. Is this God story told to entice morality and breed morality? Are we to seek the unknown? Should we live by faith with the unseen? Religion is either dilutional or brilliant?

Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

1. What do you think?

In some of the creation stories we have a god at war. We have gods using their bodies as our land, air, and sea. In the Greek world, there are multiple Gods for multiple things. In all these cases, the writer depicts God or Gods as distant and over bearing. They control, show anger in the seasons, and let us use fate as our hope. So many religions want us to act to gain Gods favor. In this Jewish God story, it is totally different. God created. God acts. Gods has a plan of bringing us back home to him. That is a strange story and a strange God.

We are going to enter a new place after today. A place where God steps up the game. He also expects us to step up the game. I read that this God created. It is said he has a Son who is called Jesus. How do we get from creation to Jesus? It's by and through this thing called the Holy Spirit. In Christian circles, they love to use the cross as the bridge to God. I think they are wrong. The bridge to God is by the Holy Spirit. The plan by God to bring us home is methodical. He sends us out of Eden. He then comes to earth through his son Jesus and lives among us. Then, in a final act, he in-dwells within us to re-create us. From beginning to end is the Holy Spirit. From beginning to end is also God creating. Let's take a final look at the bridge he is building to us through creating.

Genesis 1:1-2 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

Colossians 1:20 *"and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*

John 1:14 *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

John 14:15-17 *"If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever. The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

1. God could of just spoke this universe into existence. He could have just come down to an earth full of life and dominated it. He is God and could do anything he wants if he is all powerful. That's it really, why doesn't this God act like the all-powerful. Think about it. Why not dominate with power? Why not make us submit? Instead he is happy with creation. Compassionate over people. Generous with his power.

Gen 1:31 *"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."*

2. We are creatures of habit. People are always over thinking the obvious. Throughout history humankind has been a certain way. People believed there were men, woman, animals, and other species. In all the generation accounts, all over the world there is human and everything else. In the last 100 years' humans, have decided that maybe we evolved though cells. Maybe we were created by accident. Are the ancestors of man: monkey's? I look at it this way. Smart people say we look like monkeys, are we all just a monkeys uncle? They say let science decide. Christian thinkers are told they are not smart because there appears to be another way. The way of being created by a God.

Gen 2:18 *“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.”*

Exodus 3:12 *“And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”*

Deuteronomy 31:6 *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

3. If we look at God creating, then why choose to read Acts 9? There are tons of psalms and other scriptures that tell us about how God is creating. I wanted to bring you from there to here. In a way, we are looking at a mall sign. We are looking (Acts 9) at the *you are here* spot on the map of God’s plan. God, to this point, has been making things happen. He created. He came as Jesus. This time the creating goes inside. God takes a man that hates Christians and turns him into a lover of people. A God-man. Paul is a great example of what God is trying to do for each one of us. Creating something new.

Acts 9:17-18 *“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” “And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.”*

4. I love the saying *chickens come to roost*. There is a point when all our actions come to a close or at least we can see the fruit of our labor. I love Romans 1 because Paul can see how it all connects. He points out that creation drips of God. He can see that God drips in us. In the beginning, we left creation in Eden. How was God going to return us to an Eden like relationship with him? It’s through creating a way through history, miracles, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the community of God.

Romans 1:20 *“Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So, they are without excuse.”*

Here is some extra reading that shows God is at work directing a new plan. Romans 12:2, Gen 17, Gen 32:22-32, John 1, Acts 13:9, 2 Corinthians 5

The Jesus connection

Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit a ton. John 14 thru 16 marks a new beginning. We were introduced to Jesus and now he is introducing a new way to God. God has said from the beginning he would provide. If we would be his people he would be our God. Jesus says if people believe in where he came from then he would provide another to represent God in us.

This is where the Holy Spirit takes center stage. We have heard the name Holy Spirit or Ghost. What is it? I believe that to know Jesus is to have this Holy Spirit within you. To know God the Father is to have this Holy Ghost within you. To understand how we got from creation to here is complicated. Yet, it is understandable through the knowledge found in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came down to earth on a mission. The mission was to continue what has been doing since the beginning. Over the next three weeks I want to help you understand that mission through the Holy Spirit. For now, all I can say is Jesus represented God. When he died, Jesus called on the last piece of the plan of God into action: The Holy Spirit. We have gone from an unseen God to a seen Jesus. Jesus then returns us back to an unseen Holy Spirit. Without the Jesus coming to earth part we would not receive that Spirit. That is the Jesus connection.

1 Corinthians 2:10 *“these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”*

John 14:6-7 *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

John 14:25 *“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*