

Week 12:

The Spirit

### God is Spirit: **Connection with God**

There are several ways we could be connected to God. If we were born in a pastor's family for instance. We would be forever branded as a PK kid. The pastor's kid is supposed to be just like his dad and mom. There is a ton expected from a PK kid. A person could be given to a religious orphanage. You could grow up in the company of nuns and monks. Thousands of years ago, you might have been given to the church as a child like Samuel was in 1 Samuel. What if you read a book like the Bible? Did that connect you to God? Others think drugs or an experience connected them to God. The primary way we know God is by his spirit. Do you think you know God?

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In the old testament, we see the Spirit coming upon men. This spirit does not go inside men. In the New Testament, we start the same way. John declares that he baptizes with water but someone else much more powerful baptizes with the Spirit. Jesus disciples are witnesses to people terrorized by demonic spirits. They see Jesus heal and do miracles. There is a ton of spiritual events going on. Then all of a sudden Jesus says you don't know God unless you have the Spirit. This is crazy talk they had never heard before. What crazy talk have you heard about the Spirit, like healings?

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In John 14-16 Jesus painfully attaches himself to the Father in heaven. He also attaches himself to the Spirit of God. Matthew 12 has an interesting section of the healing of a demonic blind man. It is mentioned in all four gospels. I think it is that way because this event is historically Biblical. We watch movies like *The Exorcist*. There are thousands of Hollywood examples of a spirit dwelling in people like *The Ring*. Jesus not only heals this man easily, but the religious rulers don't seem to care. Instead they are connecting this spiritual stuff to Satan. Jesus slams the door on that talk by beautifully crafting an answer. God or Satan would not go against their own house.

Secondly, we have mention of this mystical thing called the Holy Ghost. In the old testament, this Ghost helped but never was considered inside a person or as an actual being. Jesus boldly blows out the notion that the Spirit of God is just a spoken thing. It is real. In Matthew 12 Jesus references the Spirit as someone you cannot dish. Someone you cannot insult without insulting God. He even goes farther to say that you can insult Jesus but not this spirit. Jesus proclaims that the Spirit of God is real, revealed, and personal.

Jesus in John 12-14 gives us some insight into the workings of God. There are many arguments about Jesus relationship to God the Father. Is he an extension of God? Is he part of God? Is he a creature made of God? The same is said of the Spirit in relation to Jesus and the Father. How do we get three in one called the Trinity? It's found here in these chapters. Jesus tells us plainly that the Spirit, God the Father, and he are one, yet completely separate and different. There is a good chance that this Spirit is the love and essence of the relationship between God the Father and the Son Jesus. Within all this, Jesus connects this Spirit to one other person: you and me.

Extra reading is read Matthew 12:22-32 and John 14-16. Extra reading check out the Spirits involvement in the life of Sampson in the Old Testament, Judges 13-16.

1. Jesus makes his relationship personal between him and the Holy Spirit. They are Brothers of Sorts. In Bible circles we call it the Holy Spirit and Jesus the Son. Yet, technically the Spirit is a Son or relative too. They both come from the Father. This is a relationship we will never fully understand in this life. You can insult me but don't insult my family. That is what Jesus is saying. Jesus mentions that the house can be swept clean. He also mentions that any spirit, good or bad, can come live in a clean house. This mention of the Spirit residing within inside a person is new teaching.  
Matthew 12:32 **"Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."**  
Judges 16:20 **"Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him."**
2. John 14 has several sections that change the way we should look at Jesus. John 14:6 is a whopper. I think it's bigger than John 3:16. Jesus is boldly saying he is the only way to God. That is stunning, hypocritical, and blasphemy. To this point anyone who said things like that were killed. We can never say we are God. Jesus is also saying it's the only way. You can't buy in, work in, or believe in enough. Following Jesus is the only way. Secondly, starting in verse 15 Jesus connects the Spirit to himself. Now Jesus is not just the only way but you need the Spirit to know Jesus.  
John 14:6 **"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**  
Judges 14:6 **"The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done."**
3. John 15 is another Whopper. I guess there are a lot of these. In verse one, Jesus points out he is the vine. He also points out that God the Father is the vine grower. In respects to a plant, Jesus

is a shoot of the Father. Verses 15 and 16 again point out that God made us known to him. Jesus then says you did not chose him but he chose you by the Fathers knowledge. There is a ton going on that we cannot know; however, we can be assured that Jesus and God want to know us. Finally, in verse 26 Jesus again attaches the Spirit to himself and to us. If the Spirit searches God and lives within us, then we could know God for the first time in history.

John 15: **“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.”**

Judges 16:28 **“Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “Lord God, remember me and strengthen me only this once, O God, so that with this one act of revenge I may pay back the Philistines for my two eyes.”**

4. Just sitting here reading John 16:8 amazes me. There are always verses that amaze us. This one says this Spirit will prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgement. He also says we will know that truth through the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is connected between Jesus and God. Now this same Spirit is connected between and within Jesus and us. That is huge. John 4:16 sums it up with all the Father has is now all that Jesus has. Jesus then goes on to declare that all of that is now ours to share too. At this time, and in this chapter, the Disciples did not really get these words or concepts. I bet that in time they got it. Just as you and me get more and more as we walk in Christ.

John 16:15 **“All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”**

## The Jesus connection

It's easy to discount things. There is always a scientific answer. If that were true then how does intuition work? I know we all have been surprised at the outcome of amazing situations. Is it just fate or random chance? If we claim to not know everything, then why can't there be a God and Holy Spirit? In the dark, many people are spooked by something. What?

Jesus claims a lot in John. People that claim to be God appear to be nuts. What if the connection I presented above was true? Jesus is the way to God. What if that way was through the Holy Ghost? I used some scripture in Judges about a man named Sampson. He was a boy that was called of God. The Spirit rested on him so that he could work for God. In the end, he ignored that call and it cost him everything. I mentioned a verse in Judges 16 because Sampson did not know this Spirit had left him. In the end, he called on God to rescue him one last time. This was a sad story. It's also a Spirit story.

The Jesus connection is a spirit story too. Jesus claims he was sent by God. He also claims that the Spirit of God will come and teach us all things. Only after Jesus dies. In the Old testament we regularly see God the Father interacting with people like Moses. In the New Testament Jesus claims to be God interacting with people. When he died, the Spirit came to dwell within those who believed. This Spirit rest upon Sampson. This Spirit now rests within people who believe. This Jesus story connects him to God. This Spirit story connects us to God too, like never before. It's all connected through Jesus.