

**May 30, 2010
Trinity Sunday**

"The Holy Spirit Shows Us the True God"

JOHN 16:12-15

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

It is possible for someone to draw the conclusion there is a God from what they observe in the world around them. Psalm 19 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Have you ever been outside at night in a place where there very few lights and there are no clouds? I remember traveling through South Dakota with some friends during my college days. We stopped in the middle of nowhere and slept on the ground. As we looked up into the sky without any lights around us, it almost seemed as if we floating up into the sky. There are over a billion stars in our Milky Way Galaxy and over a billion galaxies in the universe. Every star in the sky proclaims that there must a God who put this all together.

Travel in the other direction. Look into the atom and see how complex the tiny atom is with its protons, neutrons and electrons. A multimillion dollar supercollider in France is trying to unlock the mysteries of the tiny atom. Look into the cell at the complexity of the DNA molecules within each cell. Francis Collins, the scientist who headed up the Human Genome Project, came to believe in the hand of God in creation from what he observed in the complexity of what was once called "the simple cell." Romans 1 tells us that "God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-having been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made."

We can see the evidence of God's power and his majesty from the world he has made, but we cannot come to know who God really is and how much he loves us unless God reveals himself to us. When we listen to what God tells us about himself on the pages of the Bible, we learn that our God is three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit- and yet one God. In the words just read to you we hear Jesus describe how the Holy Spirit takes the truths about God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and makes them known to us.

We need the Holy Spirit to guide us into the truth

We need the Holy Spirit to guide us into the truth. Listen to what Jesus tells us. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Holy Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." There was so much for the disciples of Jesus to absorb and remember. What a blessing it was for them to know that the Holy Spirit would guide them into the truths that they heard from Jesus. Earlier in this conversation with his disciples on the night before he died, he told them, "The Counselor will teach you

all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." Have you ever gone to the store and forgotten an important item because you were working off your memory instead of a list? The Holy Spirit helped the disciples remember what Jesus had taught them.

To help us appreciate how the Holy Spirit guides us into the truth, I would like to have you think about one of these GPS devices people use for guidance when they are driving. You can type an address into the screen and the GPS navigator will tell you how to get to your destination with voice commands that pop up when you travel along. Someone once told me that they enjoy walking at night. I asked them how far they walked and he said, "Last night we walked 2.29 miles." With such guidance systems you can tell how far you walk even down the hundredths of a mile.

The Holy Spirit helped these followers of Jesus put his words down into the Bible. "Holy men spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." If they could not exactly remember what Jesus had said, the Holy Spirit brought the words of Jesus to their memory and helped them write these words in the Bible. That means we have a totally reliable source on who God is and what he wants for our lives.

We cannot understand or believe in who God is or what he has done for us without the blessing of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2 quotes the prophet Isaiah who said, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." I can look up into the stars and draw the conclusion there is a God who made the stars, but I cannot learn who this God is and believe in him unless it is revealed and made known to me by the Holy Spirit. That is why it says in 1 Corinthians 2, "God has revealed it to us by his Spirit."

What does the Holy Spirit reveal to us about Jesus and our heavenly Father? Well, let's have Jesus tell us. "He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come." The Holy Spirit takes important truths about the heavenly Father and about Jesus and makes them known to us. Our heavenly Father wants us to know how the world began. That is why the Holy Spirit has recorded how the world came into existence. The Bible begins with these words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Holy Spirit takes what Jesus said about being our Savior. He places it into the pages of the Bible. That allows us to believe with all our hearts that "God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." The Holy Spirit does not hesitate to convict us of sin so that we begin to see clearly how lost we are without Jesus. The Holy Spirit lets us hear Jesus speak from the cross, "It is finished" so we can be sure that a complete payment was made for every sin we ever committed. Without the Holy Spirit all of these blessings would remain hidden to us and foolish to us. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2, "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, for they are spiritually discerned."

Jesus said the Holy Spirit is going to tell you what is to come. We don't have to go to a fortune teller or palm reader to know what the future will bring for us. The Holy Spirit tells us what is to come. The Holy Spirit helps us see that in the future in these last days there will be an epic battle between good and evil, between those who follow Jesus and those who hate his holy name. The Holy Spirit tells us that in the future nothing will ever separate us from the love of God that exists in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Holy Spirit

lifts our eyes beyond this world and shows us the place that Jesus has prepared for us so that what we believe about the future becomes a living hope. The Holy Spirit keeps that hope alive with us. Romans 8 tells us, "But we ourselves who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, for the redemption of our bodies." I know what the future has for you and me as we open our Bibles and read God's Word. We are assured that as the rain and snow come down from heaven to water the earth and cause things to grow, the Lord tells us, "So shall my word be that goes out of my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

The Holy Spirit reveals the glory of the Father and the Son

Let's listen to more of what Jesus tells us about the Holy Spirit. For as we listen to what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit we see the glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that existed from all eternity. Jesus said, "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." The Holy Spirit loves to show you who Jesus is and what he has done for you. He takes the glory of Jesus and makes it known to us. Jesus possessed a glory with his Father that goes way back into eternity. In the next chapter of John we hear Jesus pray "Now Father, glorify me in your presence, with the glory I had with you before the world began." When we look at a tiny baby born in Bethlehem we believe that child possesses the glory of God from all eternity. In the first chapter of John we realize how valuable the Holy Spirit is to us as we confess with John, "We beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Jesus wants the Holy Spirit to show us the glory he had with the Father and the glory he earned from the Father as he lived the only perfect life anyone has ever lived on this earth. At Jesus' baptism the Father said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The Father gave glory and honor to Jesus for the life he lived. He gave glory to Jesus for the sacrifice he made for our sin by raising him from the dead. The Holy Spirit makes this glory known to us.

It is so important for the Holy Spirit to bring glory to Jesus by taking what is his and showing it to us because of how lost and hopeless our condition is. This past week I heard about someone who has over \$300,000 in credit card debt. As large as that debt of money is, it is small compared to the debt of sin we accumulate in just one day of life here on this earth. There is no glory found before God in the life that I live. We have to agree with the prophet Isaiah who said, "So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light and all is darkness, for brightness but we walk in deep shadows." The Holy Spirit helps us see the glory in the life that Jesus lived including his payment for our debt of sin.

Well, dear Christian friends, Jesus tells us even more about the Holy Spirit's amazing work of making him known to us. "All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you." When Jesus tells us "All that belongs to the Father is mine" he is making the claim for himself that he is equal to the Heavenly Father. And if the Holy Spirit is able to take these things that belong to the Father and to the Son and make them known to us, then the Holy Spirit must also be God.

Our human minds are limited in understanding how our God can be one God, yet at the same time be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. At the same time we are overwhelmed with how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work together to bring salvation and eternal life to us when we are lost. I cannot understand how this tiny jump drive for my computer can store thousands of pages of information, yet I know it works. The Holy Spirit shows us the mystery of a Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together to take what belongs to Jesus and the Father and giving it to us as a free gift.

And you were even baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That's the true God we worship and love. Amen.