

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit – BCCYC Tour 2018 SPEAKING PARTS

“*O Rejoice Ye Christians Loudly*” words by Christian Keimann (1607-1662), music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), edited by Peter J. Wilhousky (Luke 2:10-14)

Reading 1: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

The Father sent his Son to perform the work of atonement on the cross for our salvation. The Father also sends the Holy Spirit to apply that salvation to us personally.

In the Old Testament, the Spirit is referred to as the “breath of God” the principle of life. The Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is a person that is divine.

In the Gospel of John Chapter 14, Jesus promised to his disciples that the Father would send “another” advocate-- one just like himself--to help and be with them forever. The Bible assigns all of the attributes of divinity to the person of the Holy Spirit.

The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ. The Holy Spirit teaches about Christ in the Scriptures, draws people to Christ, reproduces Christ’s character in Christians and directs us into Christian service.

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend is a prayer about the Holy Spirit’s renewing power in our lives.

The first verse is a petition for inward renewal, the second verse is a personal prayer that the outward fruit of our lives will reflect Christ and the final verse is a prayer for the church that the Spirit will show His power by exalting Christ.

“*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*” words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, arr. by David Angerman and Stewart Harris (John 14:15-27; Romans 8:12-17)

Reading 2: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit produces Fruit.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ by reproducing the character of Jesus in believers.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives will lead Christians to greater victory over themselves and over sin. The Holy Spirit also intercedes for us in prayer and reveals God’s will for our lives by enabling us to walk in it.

These ministries of the Holy Spirit combine to produce the “fruit” of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. There is one “fruit” of the Holy Spirit with different aspects to it, and the fruit is described in Galatians Chapter 5, verses 22 through 25:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ

Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (NIV)

These qualities described in the fruit of the Spirit were possessed perfectly by Jesus Christ. He demonstrated each quality in his life and ministry on earth.

Through the work and power of the Holy Spirit in glorifying Christ in us, we are to reflect Christ in our heart and in our actions to others. Paul urges us in Galatians 5:16 to “walk by the Spirit” rather than according to “the flesh.”

“*Fruit of the Spirit*” words and music by Pepper Choplin (Galatians 5:22-25)

Reading 3: The Holy Spirit and Bible Study

The ladies in our choir will sing the song “God Be In My Head” that was adapted from the Book of Hours, a year 1514 service book used in Clare College, Cambridge, England. We know that through the power of the Holy Spirit and our study and memorization of God’s word, we can have God in our head, in our understanding, in our eyes, in our mouth and in our heart.

God teaches the importance of teaching and memorizing the Bible, and as a choir we recite the Shema every week, first in Hebrew and then in English so that we can have God in our heads. The Shema is taken from Deuteronomy Chapter 6.

[Shema is recited in Hebrew and then in English]

“*God Be In My Head*” words adapted from the Book of Hours Service Book (1514) and music by Andrea Ramsey

Reading 4: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 says that we are not to be “drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery” but to “be filled with the Spirit.”

Being filled with the Holy Spirit allows us to witness boldly for Christ. “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31

Our prayer is the same as the prayer of the early church in the book of Acts—fill me up Lord with your Spirit!

“*Fill-A Me Up!*” Words and music by Pepper Choplin

Reading 5: Jesus and Christians -- “The Light of the World”

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we reflect Christ. The fruit of the Spirit is a reflection of Jesus in the lives we live. We read in the Gospel of John that Jesus is the “light of the world.”

As Christians, we are to reflect Jesus and also be a light to this world.

Mathew Chapter 5 verses 14-16 teaches: “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

“*This Little Light of Mine*” Traditional Spiritual arr. by Howard Helvey

Reading 6: The Holy Spirit Unites Believers to Christ

When we become a Christian, we are united to Christ. The Bible uses various illustrations to explain the mystery of this union to Christ:

the relationship between a husband and wife,

that we are all members of one body with Christ as our head,

that we are branches joined to the vine and

and that we are a spiritual temple composed of many blocks with Christ as the foundation.

“But how does our union with Christ come about? How does it happen that we who were condemned should become the sons and daughters of God? How does it happen that we who were spiritually dead should be made alive, that we who were powerless and without strength should be made strong, that we who are made of dust should live forever?

The answer is the Holy Spirit. Only as the Spirit of Christ unites us to Christ do these truths become realities in our individual experiences.” (James Montgomery Boice)

Charles Wesley, within days after his “heart-warming” conversion to Christ on May 20, 1738, wrote the text to the hymn “And Can It Be.” The Holy Spirit convicted Charles Wesley of his sin, testified to Wesley of the amazing love of Christ to love and redeem sinners like him and united him to Christ.

"*And Can It Be?*" Text by Charles Wesley and Music by Dan Forrest (Galatians 2:20; Rom. 5:8)

Reading 7: The Faith of the Apostles

The Apostle’s Creed was originally a 2nd or 3rd Century confession of faith said at baptisms that was committed to memory.

The Creed was Trinitarian, and is divided into three main articles expressing belief (i) in God the Father, the Maker of heaven and earth, (ii) in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord and (iii) in the Holy Spirit. Please recite the Apostle's Creed with us:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried;
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting, Amen

Our faith is not so much “me” as it is “we.” We believe—we know—that God exists. God the Father has revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ and in His life, death, resurrection and ascension.

The power of the Holy Spirit shapes us together as ‘living stones’ (1 Peter 2:5) in a community that can stand against the onslaught of enemy tactics—desperation, doubt, fear, brokenness, weakness and temptation.

We are the church of God. That is what we believe. We are sent to preach the good news that Christ--through the power of the Holy Spirit--will save the lost and defeat the power of sin and evil. We know that God's love will never fail.

“*We Believe*” words and music by Travis Ryan, Matthew Hooper and Richie Fike; arr. by Heather Sorenson

Reading 8: The Holy Spirit is the Active Presence of God in the World

The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God was present at creation and appeared throughout the history of the Israelites.

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit manifests God's presence in the anointing of Jesus at his baptism and gave power to the first missionaries that spread the good news of Jesus to the very ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Our next song focuses on the Spirit's role in manifesting "the active presence of God" as we gather in worship. If you are able, please stand and sing with us the next two praise songs. The song "Build Your Kingdom" continues our focus on the kingdom of God and His church that we are striving to build through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Holy Spirit" words and music by Francesca Battistelli; arr. by Dave Iula and Dan Galbraith

"Build Your Kingdom Here" words and music by Rend Collective Experiment; arr. by Dan Galbraith and Shane Ohison

Reading 9: Behold Our God

The Scriptures give us stories when God chooses to reveal Himself to one of His servants. The reaction, whether from Moses, Isaiah, Elijah, Job or others, is always the same—speechless awe and wonder.

Our closing song captures this story. The verses speak of the wonder of God's character, revealed through his work in the unfolding drama of redemption's story. The chorus enables the worshiper to respond appropriately, saying like the prophet Isaiah:

"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (Isaiah 25:9) Come, let us adore Him!

"Behold Our God" words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird & Stephen Altrogge; arr. by Joshua Spacht

Closing Remarks

The Reason We Sing, words and music by Dick and Mel Tunney