

3. Holy Spirit and you.

READ the following two passages. **Mark what stands out to you.**

Acts 2:38-39 ³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

A major theme of The Book of JOEL is *Prediction of the Holy Spirit Age*.

Peter is quoting Joel 2:28-29 in the passage below.

Acts 2:17-18 ¹⁷ “In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out My Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ In those days I will pour out My Spirit even on My servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.’”

REFLECT Write your observations & thoughts from the above passages in ACTS.

I.E. The word “**will**” is used 7 times in these passages – regarding things that Jesus and the Holy Spirit will do or cause to happen. Those things are: _____

The **sympiotic union** the Holy Spirit wants with us exactly represents the union of the Trinity. The union works because all are **in agreement**.

Conclusion

Do you view the Holy Spirit as your God?

How often do you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in your decisions so that you, too, can be in agreement with God?

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? (Write them out and highlight key words or phrases.) _____

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you at this time in your life?*

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about? (Give specifics/ action steps)

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date _____ (2) Progress Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church

(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bryce Ball on April 23rd, 2017)

SPIRIT OF GOD--Series: The Apostles’ Creed

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

While the creed itself is not **Scripture**, every statement found within is **inspired** by Scripture.

I suggest we use it as a **tool** to define what we universally **believe**.

Today

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

1. Who is He?

The first question we should all ask ourselves is: **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Apostles’ Creed pairs the **Father** and **Jesus Christ** with the titles of **God** and **Lord**. But, when it comes to the Holy Spirit, the Creed simply acknowledges a **belief** in Him.

There is no **explicit** statement in Scripture that the Holy Spirit is God. Scripture does recognize that the Holy Spirit’s work **aligns with God’s will**, and simply **suggests the deity** of the Holy Spirit.

READ John 14:26 “But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” (Jesus)

Following are **definitions** which may enhance your reflection on John 14:26:
***advocate** – n. – 1. One who pleads the cause of another, as before a tribunal or judicial court; a counselor. 2. One who defends or espouses any cause by argument; a pleader; also, an intercessor. ***advocate** – v. t. – To plead in favor of; to support, vindicate, or recommend publicly. – Syn. SUPPORT.
***representative** – adj. – 1. Representing, portraying, or the like. 2. Being, or acting as, the agent for another, esp. by authority. ***representative** – n. – One who represents others or another in a special capacity; an agent or deputy; specif., one who represents a people or community in its legislative or governing capacity.
WEBSTER’S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, A Merriam-Webster, G.&C. Merriam Co., Publishers, © 1959

REFLECT Write your observations & thoughts from John 14:26.

I.E. Jesus said, and because Jesus said it – it is a promise – that the Holy Spirit will remind me of EVERYTHING Jesus said. That means that the Holy Spirit will help me with scripture memory-getting God’s Word in my heart.

READ Matthew 28:19 “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (Jesus)

This verse is one of the top examples for Trinitarian argument: “the name [singular] of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” One nature, three persons.

Apostles’ Creed: around 180 A.D. – belief in the Holy Spirit

Creed of Nicaea: 325 A.D. – belief in the Holy Spirit

Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed: 381 A.D. – Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, worshiped and glorified with the Father and Son

2. What does He do?

My first suggestion is that, this week, you read through the entirety of the book of Acts. 28 chapters = 4 chapters a day. A longer title for this book of Scripture is Acts of the Holy Spirit. Read it with the Holy Spirit as the main character.

READ Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Jesus)

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what Jesus said in the above passage.

[Note – there are promises and instructions.] _____

The miraculous power of the Holy Spirit comes with the responsibility to witness to people everywhere.

READ John 16:7-9,13 **Mark everything that stands out to you.**

⁷ “But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, & of God’s righteousness, & of the coming judgment.

⁹ The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in Me... ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.” (Jesus)

REFLECT Write your observations & thoughts from what Jesus said in the above passage.

I.E. The word “will” is used 6 times in this passage – regarding things that Jesus and the Holy Spirit will do.

READ Acts 3:5-11 **Mark what stands out to you.**

⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk! ⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon’s Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Write your thoughts from what you marked in the above passage.

READ Acts 4:4 *But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.*

Inhabitation leads to Christ-like imitation. Spirit-led freedom leads to being right with God.

READ the following two passages. Mark everything that stands out to you.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ¹⁷ For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.

Galatians 5:22-25 ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

REFLECT What do the above passages say regarding what effects the Holy Spirit should have in your life? _____

Describe how those things would look in your daily living.
