

BEHOLDING THE WONDER OF THE TRINITY

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Session Four:

BEHOLDING THE WONDER OF THE INCARNATE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. Introduction

Review: There is one and only one God, eternally existing and expressed in three divine Persons. Each is equally God, and each is fully God—not three gods but three Persons, equal in essence but different in personal expressions of the one undivided and eternal divine nature.

The Spirit, then, is fully God—not one-third God, but fully God. Yet, it is not the Spirit alone who is fully God, but he exists along with the Father and the Son, each of whom possesses fully also the identically same divine nature.

So, what distinguishes the Spirit from the Father and the Son is not the divine nature of the Spirit. This (divine nature) is also possessed equally and fully by the Father and the Son. What distinguish the Spirit are the *relationships* that he has with the Father and the Son and his particular *roles* in relation to each of them. What, then, characterizes the distinct relationships and roles of the Spirit in relation to the Father and the Son?

II. Jesus' Submission to the Direction and Empowerment of the Spirit – in His Role as the Long-Awaited Messiah, the Greater Son of David

- Why would Jesus, the God-man, need to have the Spirit of God upon him? What can the Spirit of God add to the deity of Jesus?
- And, how can Jesus in his sinless obedience and sacrificial service rightly be upheld as a model for how we should live, since he was the God-man and we are not?

Isaiah 11:1-5 – ¹ Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Isaiah 61:1-3 – ¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; ² To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To grant those who mourn *in Zion*, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

Luke 1:32-35 – He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and

His kingdom will have no end. Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

Luke 3:21-22 – ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

Luke 4:1-2a – ¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. Or, even stronger is Mark’s account. Mark 1:12 reads – Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness.

Luke 4:14 – And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

Luke 4:16-21 – ¹⁶ And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.” ²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Matthew 12:28 – But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Acts 10:38 – You know *of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the

Seeing this helps explain some things that otherwise are quite puzzling, to be sure. Consider for example, the following statements about Jesus:

Luke 2:40, 52 – ⁴⁰ The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. . . . ⁵² And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature

Hebrews 5:8-9 – ⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source

III. Applications from the Role of the Spirit in Re: to the Father and the Son

1. Marvel at the Spirit’s deep and abiding willingness to serve unnoticed, without overt recognition and honor. Though He is fully God and is equal to the Father and Son, yet his role is consistently to defer honor, and to seek to bring about the honor of the Son, to the glory of the Father.
2. Marvel at the Spirit’s willingness to assume authority over the incarnate Christ, but not for his own name’s sake, but to the glory of the Father, and for the Son to fulfill His mission!