

The Story

Chapter 6 — Partnering with God (The Holy Spirit and His Gifts)

Teaching Notes

March 10th, 2021

1 AN OVERVIEW

- **Introduction: Story Matters**—Story is the primary metaphor of how God designed life to unfold.
- **Chapter 1 (At the Beginning)**—From the beginning, the creation story shows the contrast between LOVE and FEAR. Ultimately, fear leads to the loss of the Presence of God, our divine mission as imagers of God, and the tree of life.
- **Chapter 2 (The Story of the Son)**—Meaninglessness and the power of Sin spread through the land because of the “fear of death.” The only solution was to introduce The Son into the story.
- **Chapter 3 (Crossing the River Into Our Story)**—Ultimately, the call of God into the Kingdom is to believe Him again. So, Jesus gifted us the powerful tool of REPENTANCE & BAPTISM—not as a way to win God’s affection, but as an ongoing daily process of restoration to a pre-Fall lifestyle of presence and mission.
- **Chapter 4 (Between the Words of the Story)**—Between the words of the story, God has given us the powerful gift of faith; specifically, a Word of Faith. God has spoken a Word into your story, and it is by faith we appropriate and are led by the Holy Spirit into that story!
- **Chapter 5 (The Word Behind the Word)**—The Word is the foundation upon which everything in the Kingdom of God is built. There is no success, overcoming, or victory without the Word. The Word is THE tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit to give you life in the midst of your journey and all circumstances. Word, in all its forms, is the truth that sets us free from the burden of warfare in this life.

2 WHAT MAKES US ADMIRE ANOTHER?

- We admire others when character and heart rule over their circumstances.
 - They have integrity – they are consistent in what they say and what they do.
 - They have great vision.
 - They finish what they start.
 - They discipline their time (and other activity) for the best outcomes.
 - They have a real sphere of influence that benefits others.
 - They are unmoving in their faith, hope, and love while enduring all kinds of hardships.
 - They know who they are and are undeterred by the attacks of others, or even spirits.
 - They are not as concerned about where they land in life as much as how they journey through it.
 - They believe when others give up.
 - They have a seemingly inexhaustible energy that others do not possess.
- Sometimes the admirable life can seem out of our reach and outside of our ability.
 - It can become very discouraging when we’re comparing ourselves to others and their success.
- After the death and resurrection of Jesus, God had to include plans that would ensure our success.

3 **JESUS DID NOT LEAVE US ALONE TO FIGURE OUT OUR STORY.**

- **John 14:15–21 (ESV) — 15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. **18** “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”
- **Acts 2:38–39 (ESV) — 38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”
- Jesus promises a “another helper” after his departure.
 - Encourager, comforter, exhorter
 - There is no need for these qualities if we were never going to face struggles.
 - Advocate—one who comes forward and defends and promotes another
 - Holy Spirit is here to defend and promote God’s cause through you.
 - “another Helper” = someone equal in authority, power, and ability
- There is a lifestyle that promotes the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives! (v.15)
- What if there was no Holy Spirit?
 - There would be no Christianity as we know it.
 - Your life would still depend only on you...like the rest of the world.
 - The Book of Acts (the birth of the Church) would never have happened.
 - We would become religious orphans—we would living off the ramblings of a dead prophet.
- This is personal...you are personal to the Holy Spirit.
 - Start asking, “What are you doing, Lord? What would you have me do?”
 - When you starting asking the right questions, it gets your eyes off your problems and gets your focus on you being God’s answer.

4 **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REVELATION AND POWER IN THE UNFOLDING STORY**

- **Romans 8:26–30 (ESV) — 26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- What is our true “weakness”? (See v.18ff)
 - We tend to think of weaknesses as physical shortcomings, illnesses, life’s obstacles, etc.
 - In the context, overcoming our weaknesses is about knowing the “will of God.”
 - This is really huge idea for our culture, right now, or perhaps your life. We don’t know how to see God’s will in the midst of evil things happening to us.
 - Look at these words: called, justified, and glorified. (v.30)
 - Called = there’s a life to which you’ve been ordained and set-apart for.
 - Justified = you’ve been set free for your calling.
 - Glorified = God will lift you up!
 - God is working out something we may not understand, but the Holy Spirit does.
- **1 Corinthians 2:6–13 (ESV) — 6** Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. **7** But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9** But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— **10** these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11** For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. **13** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
- The meaning and purpose of your life, in every moment, is critical to the Holy Spirit’s work.
 - All of you will face something that will challenge the meaning of your very existence!
 - Your reaction will be to pray yourself out of it, but the Holy Spirit’s greater agenda is your understanding.
 - Knowledge is power.
 - God’s wisdom doesn’t look like the world’s.
 - God’s understanding transcends time and place.
 - I am being prepared for something greater.
 - Holy Spirit reveals what God has freely given us.
 - God loves me no matter what is going on in my life!
 - Right now, many are struggling in the Church because we can’t see beyond our despair.
- 5 **IT IS THE HEART OF THE FATHER, THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO EQUIP YOU FOR YOUR STORY.**
- your physical talents + spiritual gifts + application = your full story
- Read **Psalm 139:13-18.**
 - You are physically, genetically, and intellectually wired for the life God foresaw.
 - You have a gift...enjoy it...use it...be the best you can be at it!

- **1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (ESV)** — **4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
 - The Holy Spirit gifts you with what's necessary to supernaturally build up Kingdom purposes.
 - The gifts are according to Holy Spirit's will not our desire.
 - Your value, then, doesn't come from the talent or the gifts.
 - God graces you for a sphere of influence.
 - **2 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)** — **13** But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.
 - God calls us to rise to the *measure of faith* called for by our assignment.
 - **Romans 12:3–5 (ESV)** — **3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 6 SUMMARY THOUGHTS: EVERY PLAYER IN THE DRAMA OF LIFE IS EQUIPPED UNIQUELY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THEIR STORY.**
- The Holy Spirit uniquely knows you!
 - No one knows you better...because He sees you from the end as well as the beginning.
 - Your gifting matters to God.
 - The joy in the Gospel is not just freedom from the power of death, but our release by the Holy Spirit into our assignments.
 - Hope and power increase as I rest in the knowledge that I'm walking by the Word and the Holy Spirit.