

# Sermon Outline

## “LIFE IN HIS NAME”: THE PURSUIT OF WHOLENESS AND THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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### THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN, PART FOUR: JESUS, BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (JOHN 1:30-34)

#### I. Introduction

#### II. John Further Explains Jesus (John 1:30, 31)

- A. In verse 29, John announced that Jesus is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
- B. John says that Jesus is the one he had been talking about all along: “This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’”
- C. John says that he did not know Jesus, “but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel” (v 31).

#### III. He on Whom the Spirit Descends and Remains (John 1:32, 33)

- A. John “saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him” (v 32).
- B. John tells us what he heard from God: “I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit’” (v 33).
- C. As we ponder John’s own recollection of God’s message to him, we find that we can learn a lot about Jesus and his work.
- D. Jesus is “‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain...’” —Jesus is the One who possesses the Holy Spirit. He is the new temple of the Holy Spirit in the world (Jn 2:19).

#### IV. The First of Many Beloved Sons

- A. “But what does that have to do with *me*?”

—Ans: Unless Jesus has the Spirit, you won't. Unless Jesus was baptized by the Spirit, we won't be baptized by the Spirit.

- B. That lesson connects to an even larger lesson that you and I must absolutely grasp if we want to understand how God works in our lives, how God “feels” toward us.

—GOD NEVER DEALS WITH YOU AND ME OUTSIDE OF HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON.

1. First Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus [.]”
2. We are able to receive the Holy Spirit and become beloved children of God because we are joined to Jesus. That is how God's love enters our lives.
3. The reason God can love rebels like you and me—the reason this steadfast love will not be removed no matter how much we sin (cf. 1 Sam 7:14-15)—is because we are to Jesus.

- C. This news works in two encouraging ways.

1. Because God loves us on the basis of Jesus, you and I need never be afraid that God will reject us because of our sins.
2. Because God loves us on the basis of Jesus, God truly does love us.
  - Psalm 16:3: “As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”
  - Psalm 149:5: “For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.”
  - Isaiah 62:5: “For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.”

- D. God intends for Jesus to be the first of many beloved sons of God.

- Romans 8:29: “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.”

## V. He Who Baptizes with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33)

- A. God said to John, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain...”

- B. Since Jesus is the high priest who represents you and me before God, this is very, very good news! It means that we get to share in the Holy Spirit as well.
- C. John goes on to say this: “this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” —The One who has received the Holy Spirit will, in turn, pour out the same Holy Spirit on those who belong to him.
- D. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?  
—*It is to be cleansed, washed, and purified by the Holy Spirit.*
- E. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not some event that reserved only for super-spiritual Christians.  
—It is the beginning of the Christian life. It is the long-awaited renewal of the human race. It is the birth of a new people of God.

## VI. The Holy Spirit, Heart of the New Covenant

- A. The idea of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is rooted in the Old Testament. Even if the terminology is not used, the idea is there.
- B. One passage which features the washing by water and the Holy Spirit is Ezekiel 36:

<sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

- 1. Verse 27 is key: “And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”
- 2. The end result is reconciliation between God and his people (v 28).
- C. Jeremiah 31
  - 1. There is a related passage in Jeremiah 31.

<sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

2. In Jeremiah, the writing of the Law upon our hearts comes in the context of the new covenant.
3. This new covenant replaces and supersedes the covenant of Moses.
4. The basis of this covenant is forgiveness: “For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”
5. In short, the new covenant is for failures and moral losers: tax collectors; adulterers; prostitutes; murderers; idolaters, etc.

D. Jesus the Lamb of God *connects* with Jesus the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus the Lamb takes away the sins of the world and accomplishes our forgiveness.
2. From that forgiveness—achieved through the violence of the cross, where God subjects himself to the fire of his own judgment—the new covenant is put into force.

E. The core blessing of the new covenant is the *Holy Spirit* (Ezek 36:27)—The Spirit of God finally makes his home where he has always wanted to dwell—not in a tent or a great cathedral of stone, but in the affections and thoughts, hearts and minds of his beloved people.

## VII. He Comes to Baptize Us

God offers his Son Jesus to us as the One who washes away the darkness of our hearts by his Holy Spirit. Jesus puts the new covenant in force by his own atoning death. We are not the ones who baptize with the Holy Spirit. We are not the ones who create the new covenant. Jesus is. We are the ones in desperate need of this saving work. We must turn from our sins and go to the One who can make us new. He has promised to “surely do it” (1 Thess 5:23, 24).

### Questions for Reflection

1. What does heaven instruct John the Baptist to look out for? (v 33)
2. Jesus is the One “on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain” (v 33). What does this teach us about Jesus and his relation to the Holy Spirit?
3. “God never deals with you and me outside of his only-begotten Son” (cf. 1 Tim 2:5). What encouragement(s) does this give you?
4. Based on Ps 16:3; 149:5, and Is 62:5, how does God feel about you, his holy one in Christ? How does this affect how you feel about God?
5. Jesus will baptize his people with the Holy Spirit. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Is it reserved only for Christians who have attained a higher state of holiness and obedience?
6. According to Jeremiah 31:34, what is the basis of the new covenant, of which baptism of the Spirit is a part? How does Jesus’ role as the Lamb of God put the new covenant in force?
7. Now that God has given you his Spirit through Jesus, how does this affect your relationship with God? How does this change your disposition toward God? How can you relate to God and show God your love? How does your new relationship with God affect your relationships with others?