

Encouragement

September 04, 20XX

The needs, the difficulties, the disappointments, the challenges that members of our congregation face in these hours. Lord, though for those who are laid aside with illness, we pray that you'll encourage them and comfort them. We pray for healing. We pray for healing in their bodies and in their minds and in every way possible. For those who are going perhaps through financial struggles, we pray, Lord, that their faith in you will rise and they'll continue to trust you, Lord. For your word says, once I was young, now I'm old. I've never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.

So, Lord, we give you thanks for all that you do for us. We bless your holy name. In Jesus' name, we say, Amen. I started a couple of weeks ago talking about the Holy Spirit. It's a favorite topic of mine and I'll never run out of thoughts and nuggets to present on this topic. And so this morning I want to trace a little bit some of the things that we find in the Old Testament as well as in the new with regards to the Holy Spirit. It's important for especially people that are not schooled in the Word of God to come to an understanding the Holy Spirit is a person so the word it should never be applied to the person of the Holy Spirit. We would never call each other it.

That would be discourteous. He is a person. He thinks. He plans. He has feelings. The Lord Jesus said that there was a sin that would not be forgiven and that's a sin against the Holy Spirit when we grieve him. So we must be careful to understand he's a person but he didn't just show up as a dove at the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. He was among people on the planet long before that. Genesis chapter one and verse two, the earth was without form and void and darkness was on the face of the deep and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water.

Second verse. Second verse of the Bible. John went on to talk about the Holy Spirit's activity in the creation and Job did. Job said by his spirit he adorned the heavens. Genesis goes on and says God endows people with life with breath when it says that the Lord stooped down and breathed into his God breathed into man spirit. There was the spirit of the Lord imparting. And

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then in Genesis chapter six we read this word. The Holy Spirit will not always strive with man. That's speaking of our tendency to go astray and become involved in sin. We must not cross that line where we say well God will forgive, God will forgive. That's called cheap grace. Cheap grace. God will not always strive with us. He will not always be pressuring us to get right with him.

But there's promises also then very positive about the Holy Spirit and what was about to come. I found this verse. I forgot. I had found it years ago. I discovered it as I was preparing for today.

Isaiah chapter 32 says and I like the word poured because then I kind of get a visual. The spirit will be poured out from on high. This was a word to the Jewish people. But it's also a word for us because when we read in the New Testament especially through the teachings of the Apostle Paul, we like a branch have been grafted in to God's family. They were naturally in God's family because they're the children of Abraham. But you and I have been imparted with a glorious faith and we have been grafted in to the family of the Lord. So the promise of the outpouring is to all who would receive him. We read about the workings of