

When Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit, He always used a personal pronoun. “*He*”, “*Him*”, or “*Himself*”. Never once did He refer to the Holy Spirit as “*it*” or a “*feeling*”

(see John 14-16)

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

(John 14:26, NKJV)

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit with a personal pronoun because He related to the Holy Spirit as a real person

- Not an invisible, intangible, mysterious, or unknown entity

This is important to know because the Third Person of the Godhead possesses the attributes of personality

Just as Jesus is the perfect imprint and very image of the Father’s nature, the Holy Spirit perfectly represents the life and nature of Jesus Christ

We have already seen...

***The Holy Spirit comforts us, indwells in us, Teaches Us, Reminds Us, Testifies With Us, Convicts Us, Convinces Us, Guides and Reveals to Us, Helps Us Worship***

## ***The Holy Spirit is Jealous For Us***

*“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?”* (James 4:4–5, NKJV)

The word adultery has all kinds of connotations, such as unfaithfulness, impurity, and violation of a commitment to marriage

- Nothing is harder on a marriage than adultery

The phrase, *“friend of the world”* was not about owning things, rather it was about being consumed or preoccupied with things of this world

- Being seduced by the things of this world

Rather than being concerned with the needs of others, and living for the Lord they had become self-consumed with the things of the world

- Is my life consumed with serving myself?
- Or am I concerned with serving the Lord and others?

Have I lost the spiritual fire that is intended to continually burn in our hearts?

- Worldliness tries to wrap its arms around all of us
- Not one of us is exempt from its seductive pull
- Take a moment to honestly evaluate yourself

## ***The Holy Spirit Can Be Grieved***

*“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30, NKJV)*

- If we want to develop intimate communion with the Holy Spirit, the last thing we want to do is grieve Him
- The word used for “*grieved*” is a word that would have been used to denote *the emotions of a betrayed spouse*
- A feeling of being betrayed, deceived, lied to, misled, hurt, wounded, and abused
- This word is used to describe how we affect the indwelling Holy Spirit when we tend toward worldliness

When we cease to make our relationship with the Holy Spirit the number-one priority in our lives and allow other things to take His place, it hurts in the same way as an unfaithful spouse

The Holy Spirit is the One who works to produce the character of God in us

He has been sent to reveal the will of God, which is the mind of Christ, and to cause us to walk in the victory that Jesus won for us through His death and resurrection

- The Holy Spirit is here for us
- That is why He was sent

When we ignore Him, turn a deaf ear to Him, or consistently disobey what He nudges us to do, it grieves Him

Let's look at the things that grieve him according to

### Ephesians 4:25-31

- Lying – V. 25
- Letting the sun go down on our anger – Vs. 26
- Giving place to the devil – Vs. 27
- Stealing – Vs. 28
- Letting corrupt words proceed from our mouths – Vs. 29

He tells us to...

*“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” (Ephesians 4:31, NKJV)*

- Remember that Paul is writing this to Christians not non-believers
- Christians were committing these sins!
- No wonder the Holy Spirit was grieved
- We need to think before we talk and act
- We need to remember that someone lives inside of us
- His name is the Holy Spirit
- He is called the Spirit of holiness – Romans 1:4
- That is what He comes to produce in our lives

The good news is that He will come to our aid whenever we choose to repent to restore us to our place of intimacy with Him

- The sins we see listed may not be the more obvious ones such as drunkenness and sexual immorality
- The things we must deal with the most often are the wrong inner attitudes that we can all tend to harbor

Not only do these attitudes grieve the Holy Spirit they also give the enemy a foothold to gain access to our lives

*“looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.”* (Hebrews 12:15–16, NKJV)

- We must make ourselves more aware of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence
- It will help change the way we think and live
- It will most definitely help us think before we talk and act
- Don’t sell your future for something NOW – Gen. 25:29-34

The Holy Spirit lives in you and deserves the utmost reverence and respect

When we choose to take a worldly path, we set ourselves in opposition to God

*“Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”* (James 4:4, NKJV)

- Enemy – “extreme hostility, intense disrespect, an all-consuming hatred”
- The extreme opposite of love, friendship, warmth, and commitment in a relationship

James is telling us that when we put ourselves in the warmth and friendship of the world, we are making ourselves the enemy of God

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31, NKJV)*

- If this is true, what does it mean when God is against us?
- We can trust that frustration and defeat lie in our future
- We are “finished”

However, if we choose friendship with God, we put ourselves in direct opposition to the friendship of the world

- This opposition is so strong that it makes us enemies with the world
- Remember the word used for enemy means hatred

The worlds system and ways of behaving hate us for our friendship with God

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

*(Matthew 6:24, NKJV)*

- Jesus is saying that it is impossible to give ourselves to two masters
- We will love one and hate the other
- The word mammon was used to express the idea of worldliness
- The word “*serve*” is where we get our word servant or slave
- A slave catered to his master’s every wish, desire, or demand

Both God and mammon are going to require a wholehearted investment of your time, attention, energy, and money

- There is not enough of you to serve both God and worldliness
- You must choose which you will serve

Serving God means spending time with Him

- Learning to know His voice
- Learning to develop a daily pattern of obedience

His sheep hear His voice

- Are you a sheep or a goat?
- The choice is yours

A life lived for Him must be serviced continually with prayer and fasting, obedience, repentance, and worship

- Serving mammon means giving your fullest attention to material pursuits
- If you're going to succeed according to the world's standards, you won't have room for anything else
- You won't have time to give attention to God
- Serving mammon will require all time, attention, and money

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33, NKJV)*

What are you serving in your life right now?

- What requires most of your time and attention?
- Can you truthfully say you are giving God your fullest attention?
- Is He the chief priority in your life?
- Are you living to serve and obey Him

Or are other pursuits taking too much of your attention and energy?

Stop, think, and ask yourself, what do you think about more than anything else?

- That's what you are living for and serving with your time and talents

God will stand in opposition to the Christian who is outside the life He has planned for him or her

*“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6, NKJV)*

- Remember grace is the power to live a godly life  
– **Titus 2:11-12**
- Resist – *“to stand against, to oppose, to take a stand against another”*
- A believer who has chosen to go his own way has chosen to take a stand against God
- If you don't repent God will take a stand against you
- You can rebuke the devil all day long but if God is against you no one can be for you!



Fasting (humility and brokenness) will break the power of worldliness in our lives

Brokenness makes room for God to release His strength through our weakness to accomplish His plans

Is such a fast as yours what I have chosen, a day for a man to humble himself with sorrow in his soul? [Is true fasting merely mechanical?] Is it only to bow down his head like a bulrush and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him [to indicate a condition of heart that he does not have]? Will you call this a fast and an acceptable day to the Lord? **Isaiah 58:5 AMP**

- God saw right through that religious fast as just routine
- Fasting is supposed to break the routine
- Not become another passionless performance
- It's our spirit crying out for our Bridegroom – **Mark 2:20**

Bulrush – a tall grassy reed that grew along the rivers

- Hollow on the inside and easily bent over by its own weight

If we are not careful any one of us can become hardened to the Spirit of God and indifferent in our worship

- No brokenness – No passion

A faithful lifestyle of prayer and fasting will bring blessings into the lives of our families, marriages, finances, and business

- But there is so much more that God wants to do through our lives

The brokenness that comes through fasting starts with throwing everything aside that we identify with in our own strength

- Acknowledge that Jesus can do more through me broken than I could ever attempt to do on my own

Do you feel like something is holding you back from your destiny?

- Do you live with the weight of depression and discouragement?
- Do you feel the weight of finances and family obligations?
- As you cry out to the Lord in fasting and prayer, He will break those bonds and lift those burdens
- He will put the pieces of your life back together
- It is one of the rewards of fasting
- He will then use you to bring freedom to others

Do you feel like you are yoked, weighed down, or held back?

- Are you yoked to something that is ruining your life?
- Do you have bad habits that are keeping you in bondage?
- Do you feel like it's hopeless?
- Like you've wasted far too much of your life?
- The fast God chooses can break every yoke!
- We are exchanging our hunger for the lusts of the world with the hunger for Him

Longing for the Bridegroom!

*“But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.”*

**(Mark 2:20, NKJV)**

When you engage in seasons of fasting and prayer your stomach hungers but eventually fades

- Yet, your spiritual hunger rises up
- It can only be satisfied with the will of God and fulfilling His call on your life

It's impossible to do God's will with human zeal

- It requires fasting and prayer
- Where there is hunger there is passion
- Where there is passion there is power
- David danced with passion

Blind Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus even though He was told to be quiet

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree to get the attention of Jesus
- The woman with the issue of blood risked everything to get to Jesus and touch His robe
- Mary poured out her expensive perfume – **John 12:1-7**
  - The disciples thought it was a waste
  - Jesus rebuked them on her behalf

When you spend time with Jesus, what's on Jesus will rub off on you

- You can't truly pour out your worship on Jesus without some of that fragrance coming back on you
- That's what happens when you spend time in broken worship

This is what "*Waiting on the Lord*" is all about!

What do you do while you're waiting on the Lord?

**Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

- Quiet yourself
- Turn off the distractions of life
- Press into God's presence, open God's word, and devour it
- The Bible contains the answer to every dilemma you face
- As you fast and read the word, God *WILL* speak to you!

There are two powers at work when we fast

- The human will and the supernatural power of God

When we put our will under submission to God His power helps us succeed

*“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you **double-minded**. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:6–10, NKJV)*

- We are either resisting the devil or resisting God
- Fasting is a choice to break the allure of the world
- Fasting will cleanse and purify your heart
- Fasting gives you a fresh anointing to fight for your family, your kids, and your marriage!