

Spirit & Sacrament Week 1

Washed New

Only Jesus can wash us new.

Date of Sermon Aug 6th

1# Week in Series

Series Title Spirit & Sacrament

Core Scripture: Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Summary of Main Points

- 1. Despite our best efforts, only the Spirit of God draws us into righteousness, pointing us to Jesus.
- 2. Only Jesus Christ can make all things new, not our faithful practices.
- 3. The Spirit of God brings the Biblical sacraments to life.
- 4. The Spirit of God makes a relationship with Jesus vibrant and meaningful! He is someone to be loved.

// Introduction Ideas

- Let's just say it. Many in reformed Christian circles believe that us charismatics or "Pentecostals" are a bit crazy. That's because some of us... are. => Because there are some who don't have the fruit of the Spirit but only the gifts, sadly many conservative Christian ministers are doing their level best to discredit all charismatic expressions of Christianity.
- But what about those who grew up in the liturgy of a protestant church that values tradition and sacraments as a way of connecting to God? Are those traditions and patterns for worship simply thrown out now that "pentecost" is here?
- No. I don't think they should be. While many in pen
- First, let's answer a few questions about these terms because for many of our new members the word "pentecost" is totally new to them. So... "What is pentecost?" and what does it even mean?

1. Despite our best efforts, only the Spirit of God draws us into righteousness, pointing us to Jesus.


Pentecost (Spirit)

- The Charismatic Movement was an outpouring of the Spirit of Jesus Christ from the outset; it has not changed into something bad since. It was a sovereign "outpouring" of God's Spirit on the Day of Pentecost - 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The

followers of Jesus that were in the Upper Room anticipating being filled with this “gift from on high” were filled with the Holy Spirit just as Jesus promised. This was roughly 2,000 years ago.

- Since then there have been other outpourings of the Holy Spirit.
 - Charles Parham and his small church in Topeka Kansas - Assemblies of God
 - When ministers like Baptist pastor John MacArthur trace the entire history of the Charismatic Movement to Charles Parham, it's simply not accurate because Charles Parham is NOT the only minister who experienced an outpouring of God's Spirit 100 years ago in the US. By discrediting him, MacArthur thinks he has discredited it: He says “The Charismatic Movement could not have been more different [than the original Pentecost]. It grew out of the Holiness Movement; it was marked by inconsistent eyewitness testimony; it produced counterfeit religious experience; and it was initiated by a disreputable spiritual leader. Such factors call its legitimacy into serious question” This is a direct quote from his book Strange Fire which he still holds true today.
 - MacArthur seems unaware that there are Pentecostal denominations, such as the Church of God, that trace their origins to events preceding Parham. Moreover, he ignores Allan Anderson's warning about ignoring the multiple, multinational, and multicultural origins of Pentecostalism

- This alternate description of the Charismatic Movement doesn't mean that it is perfect or beyond criticism. Even the Church we read about in the Bible - the first church - the one Jesus started in the Upper Room had plenty of bad actors, theological errors, moral failures and problems. But it does mean that, on the whole, the Charismatic Movement is all the same - all of God or all heresy.
- Our subject today is SPIRIT & SACRAMENT - how do hold these two ideas in tension.
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was genuine in Kansas 100 years ago and genuine in Wales as it changed an entire country. It was genuine in Browsville Florida as it changed the face of the earth with millions coming to Christ. The outpouring in Paul Wimbers church that sparked the VINEYARD movement was genuine. Yes, you may not like the laughing and certain things but you can't put the whole thing in a basket and call it heresy.

 There will always be things you can't explain in the way God deals with people. The fact that you can't explain it proves that you are not God.

For example if someone laughs uncontrollably in the back of the sanctuary you have a choice - you can assume that they're just trying to get attention and that they have bad doctrine and so forth - or - you can wonder "I wonder if they fought a spirit of depression for years and finally are getting set free?"

You see the difference?

Spirit AND Sacrament are both important.

The SPIRIT brings life but the letter of the law kills.

The SPIRIT of God brings organic, spontaneous love for God and love for people.

Sacraments are only a method by which we connect to God. They're not to be a tool or weapon used by other to discredit other brothers or sisters in Christ.



2 Co 3:3-6

³And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the **Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but **on tablets of human hearts**.

⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God**, ⁶who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. **For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.** ESV

What makes the “New Covenant” new is that it is NOT a list of laws on stone tablets but rather a personal God who writes His law upon our hearts. He changes even our desires by giving us a new nature! This is super important in understanding the Gospel. It's the BORN AGAIN part.

But when you're not renewed by the Spirit of God, you can use the Word of God as a weapon. Sadly, many have done that and called it “church.”

Did you know that you can beat people up with the Word of God? You can. There

So for all of you who have grown up in the Assemblies of God or possibly Church of God or another pentecostal fellowship, you might not understand why other faiths are so dogmatic about the tradition of sacraments. Well, let's ask "What are sacraments?"

Sacraments

Things like confirmation, holy communion (eucharist) and baptism are staples in the protestant church. They're important and sacred.

According to the Catholic Faith ... "The sacraments help to make people holy and build-up the body of Christ. They are a way to relate to God throughout life's transitions and help us to give praise and worship to God. They help us nourish, strengthen, and express our faith."

I would agree with that. When I take Communion, when I s
While there are basically seven sacraments During the second half of the 2010s some dioceses of Latin Church in the United States, as elsewhere, returned to the original order of the three sacraments of Christian initiation, that is: Baptism, Confirmation and, lastly, first Communion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church references this order.

So the tension lies in holding TRUTH


Wisdom is often found in the tension.

Tension, not to be confused with compromise, is when you're holding two things to be true at the same time.

We want to be led by the Spirit and full of LIFE but we also want to have sound doctrine!

For example, t

The reality is in an effort to have “sound doctrine” and be “only biblical” you can miss out on things that God is doing in the earth and wants to do in your life by buying into the line “extra-biblical” For example John MacArthur and others who are just about weekly using their podium to discredit ministries for have “extra-biblical” type miracles are falsely claiming to have “sound doctrine.”


Bottom line:  In an effort to have sound doctrine, you can grieve the Holy Spirit if you’re dismissing or discrediting what He’s doing here and now! Plenty of ministers are doing that and it’s very dangerous. Be careful who you’re listening to and know that God’s Spirit is always moving in powerful ways.


- more on that later in the sermon.

A good dose of humility goes a long way in realizing that you don’t have the corner on everything. None of us do. When someone at my life group last week asked about a particular doctrine I had I prefaced it with this - because it was a sticky subject that one could find many verses to defend their position on either side of the argument - I said “We will all get to heaven and likely realize that we were wrong on a few things. Not one of us have the corner on every doctrinal stance.”


I know this. I don’t want to miss out on the promise given to us in Acts 1:5


Acts 1:5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.


 **Jesus promises to baptize us with the Holy Spirit to enable us to hear His voice, be sanctified and mainly to empower us to tell others about Him!**

 Pastor, some faith’s believe in water baptism but not Holy Spirit baptism. What’s the difference? (glad you asked =)

What is Water Baptism & why should we get baptized?

 **Water Baptism is an act of obedience to the words of Jesus in an effort to follow His example and declare to the world, you're a Jesus follower. As we go under the water, we're asking God to "put to death" our old way of thinking - to bury it and be united with Christ in being made new - washed new!**

 **Holy Spirit Baptism is when God baptizes you in His Holy Spirit and empowers you to be His witness. It's a gift from the Father and is there for all who simply ask, seek, knock and patiently wait.**

 **Why Be Water Baptized? What's the point of this sacrament or exercise?**

- Obedience to Jesus
- Jesus Example
- Sign of fellowship
- Opens the Heavens

Obedience to Jesus

When Jesus is LORD and not just Savior, we aim to do what He says - to obey Him. In Scripture, Jesus commands His followers, therefore us, to be water baptized. He even tells His disciples as He sends them out to baptize people after you teach them the truth. *MT 28:19 It's meant to indicate our new life in Him. This new life also indicates our power over sin and power to walk in

Jesus' love. It gives us a visual that says "sin no longer has power over me." Powerful!

Jesus' Example


In Luke 3:22, We have this picture of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. In this moment of humility, He asked His cousin John to baptize Him. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove.

The voice of Father God came through the Heavens to affirm three things: Jesus' identity as a son. God's affection "whom I love" and Father's affirmation "In whom I am well-pleased." Let the Father do the same in your life! WOW!

Can we just make a childlike assumption here and say that if we want to hear the voice of our Heavenly Father & begin to impact the world around us with His love like Jesus did, maybe we too should be baptized, like Jesus was. We can and should follow Jesus' example.

Water-baptism is just like many things in the Christian life; it's a step of faith. It's the answer to the question "What's Next?" after you've chosen to repent of your sins and follow Jesus.

Scripture indicates to us that Water Baptism is a demonstration or an act that displays our love for Jesus and choice to be His followers.

 **Romans 6:3-4 "That's what baptism in to the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus. When we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus."**

This is why water baptism is so powerful! It's an act of worship and surrender. It's telling Jesus "You have all of me. Nothing is off limits to You. I'm SUMBERGED!" When we are water baptized, it signifies this union with Christ! Last but not least ...

It opens the Heavens over our life.

After Jesus' baptism, He moves in the miraculous, bringing Heaven's reality to earth - displaying what He prayed "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God's reality can become what we experience here on earth! We have access to heavenly things while here on earth. We can experience the joy of Christ, the peace of God in the midst of chaos, the healings - physical signs of God's power over nature! Without the voice of Heaven, without the Father's instruction, without the Father's smile of approval, life is empty and void. Baptism is portrayed as a act of obedience that Jesus took to *begin* to live this kind of life! I want my life to be open to the voice of Heaven! Just like Jesus began to move in supernatural power, He invites us to as well! **When I'm hearing the voice and language of Heaven, I'm able to impart the ideology of Heaven, Heaven's way of thinking to the broken world around me.**

 **Is the Holy Spirit Baptism different from the Water Baptism?**

Yes.

In John 14, Jesus promises us that the Father gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit.


Why?

To remind us of what Jesus has said - to tell us the truth - and to

empower us to be His witness.


His Spirit comes to empower us to believe the truth - to believe that God is able to forgive sins, heal the sick, deliver the person who is tormented by evil thoughts...

His Spirit enables us to share with confidence the Gospel to those who are lost. He wants us to partner with Him. We are no longer servants, but friends and partners with Jesus! WOW! So that GOD can not just be with us but IN us.

Read  John 14:26 (ESV)

...26 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 that I have said to you....

At Rock of Grace, we value BOTH the Spirit and the Sacrament!

 John 15:26–27 (ESV) “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

Water Baptism is not required to be saved as “We are saved by faith through grace” alone.

We’re saved when we believe Jesus to be the one who died in our place and gives us the power to overcome sin and be with Him forever as Family. His Father becomes our Father. **JN 1:12; 1 CO 15:22; RO 8:1**

Water Baptism, however, is commanded by Jesus to illustrate and demonstrate our commitment to following Jesus. Scripturally, it’s a catalyst for moving in the power of God.

What we believe at ROG is not that it’s “just” a sign. But that it IS a special moment where GOD shows up and gives us courage to be His witness. We’re following Jesus’ example to be baptized and then enter ministry.

Water Baptism is a picture of us being buried with Christ (water/ grave) and us rising up out of the water (grave) to new life! Christ now lives in me!

There's a local church teaching that you must be IMMERSED in water to have the demons come out of you. They're saying that you must be immersed in water by their pastor to be delivered of the demons in you - even if you're a Christian.


I've had two people now share this with me and they shared how much turmoil this gave them because this bad doctrine is causing their church members to accuse other church members of having demons!


So listen DOCTRINE is important - it's important that you understand what we're teaching today.

Water Baptism does not save you. Jesus saves you.

Water Baptism does not cleanse you of demons.

Water Baptism is an act of obedience to faithfully follow Jesus. That's it. The only reason to be baptized a second time by the way is when you have certainly not been following Him decide to re-dedicate your life to Him, repenting of your sin, and re-committing to following Jesus.

 // #2 Only Jesus Christ can make all things new, not our faithful practices


-  Galatians 3:26-27 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- **Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**


Some falsely believe that DOING a certain religious routine makes them righteous or “saved”

Many Christians around the US go to Mass, take the Eucharist or attend First Presbyterian Church on Main Street and in doing so believe that they are “in the faith.” But it’s ONLY by grace through faith that we are saved. It’s only by believing in Jesus and deciding to follow HIM are we truly saved.

Many Christians disagree on certain issues but if they are “CORE” issues then we should not condemn those “other” Christians to be heretics or “lost.” Some issues are simply a matter of viewpoint. Others are a huge deal and if it is a huge deal, it’s crystal clear in God’s Word.

 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Colossians 2:11–12 “having been buried with Him (JESUS) in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

 **Water Baptism isn’t just an obedience thing; it’s a renewal thing. We are buried with Christ when we go under that water, believing God to make US new.**


For example, the Presbyterians in the last 10 years have taken a very liberal stance on homosexuality, even ordaining homosexual ministers and elders and deacons!

This is why they've lost over 50% of their congregations in the last 15 years. Many Christians who had enough discernment to realize that ignoring clear scriptural boundaries for Marriage and sexual purity is a line in the sand.

So doctrine DOES matter when it matters.

Holy Matrimony - aka Marriage - is a sacrament and MUST remain sacred.

// #3 **The Spirit of God brings the Biblical sacraments to life.**

- Sacraments should not replace the organic, genuine relationship with God. They simply remind us of core truths. In fact, the Spirit of God can flow powerfully through them! They should not be abandoned as so many churches are doing. They should be embraced. If Jesus said to take communion and ... “Do this in remembrance of Me” and Paul reiterated “Do this often” then we should obey the Word of God. At Rock of Grace, we are grounded in Scripture.
-  **Philippians 1:19 calls the Holy Spirit, “the Spirit of Christ” and in that, we see that the Holy Spirit is the voice of Jesus on the earth today. This explains why Jesus would say to His disciples “It’s better for you that I go to Heaven and send the Spirit because He will teach you everything I’ve said and lead**

you into all truth.”

- Because Jesus is alive and well and wants to be apart of our very lives, speaking to us, engaging with us in conversation, we experience Him in a beautiful way through sacraments and traditions like communion. But it's important to understand it all.
- For example, Catholics believe that “The Holy Eucharist is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ.”
- However as Spirit-filled Christians we don't believe the juice and bread physically become the body of Christ. We believe them to be a symbol of Jesus' body and blood - reminding us of what Jesus did on the cross, dying in our place, suffering so we don't have to suffer, being punished so we don't have to be punished.
- Again this sermon series is called Spirit & Sacrament very intentionally. I believe modern day Christians need to value both the Spirit of God AND the Sacraments instead of throwing one out or focusing on one at the expense of the other. For too long, Christians in the Church of God, Assemblies of God, Pentecostal faiths, have disregarded the sacraments. Some have even mocked the repetition. But if God's Word teaches it then we embrace it! At Rock of Grace we are grounded in Scripture and the Scriptures teach us the importance of taking communion, being water baptized and so forth.

- When it comes to communion look how the Bible brings the sacrament to life! We'll talk more about it next week but I wanted to share one passage:

1 Co 11:27-34

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. ³³ So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— ³⁴ if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

- The point is this - Don't just come take communion because you're hungry or because it's just habit and what everyone else is doing. That's what Paul was addressing at the Church of Corinth. Instead, evaluate your heart and take it seriously. **It's a moment when time stops as we remember the price Jesus paid for us. In short, take communion consistently and take communion seriously.**

The Holy SPIRIT brings the SACRAMENT to life. Once we're baptized in the Holy Spirit, now communion matters SO MUCH and is so

personal whereas before, it can be simply a mundane mantra, voice of passion or meaning.

Will I speak in tongues when I'm baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Probably.


Acts 2:3-4

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 19:4-6

And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

It's not an experience to be frightened by. It's exciting!

 // #4 **The Spirit of God makes a relationship with Jesus vibrant and meaningful! He is someone to be loved.**

For those of you who are not baptized in the Holy Spirit, you must understand that life is NOT meant to be lived apart from this experience! It's the Spirit of God who brings ALL things to life. On the very first pages of the Bible, the word "breath" in Genesis, when God put breath

into Adam, it's the same greek word used when Jesus breathed on the disciples and they received the Holy Spirit!

Acts 15:28

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing. He is the third person of the trinity. Scripture teaches us that the Person of the Holy Spirit has emotions like joy, grief, empathy, etc. Are we bringing Holy Spirit joy through the way that way we live and speak?

- He can be grieved.


Mt 12:31 gives us a stern warning not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit - meaning

- To speak evil of the Holy Spirit
- To mock or abuse the Holy Spirit
- To slander or accuse the Holy Spirit falsely

Why did Jesus get so adamant about not blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

Because the Pharisees attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil. Jesus was in perfect union with the person of the Holy Spirit.

Father, Holy Spirit and Jesus are a triune God, three in one. So to mock and lie about the Holy Spirit was very personal to Jesus.

 **This is why I am VERY SLOW to deny something being “genuinely a move of God” or not and you should too.**

I am VERY SLOW to identify judge something as being “genuine” move of the Spirit and you should too. I’m truly afraid for these people who create channels on YouTube and IG and Facebook and gather 10s of thousands of followers only in an effort to discredit as many as possible.

Get back to INVITING THEM INTO AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD - go from “teaching” to “preaching” and inviting

// Conclusion

- Practical Application
 - Define

- In-Service Response
 - Define

 -

// Summary of Conclusion

- What do we want to see the outcome be? Repentance and Salvation for anyone lost - in particular those who have assumed their faithful adherence to sacraments (or any religious habit) warrants their salvation.
- Practical Application: People who've yet to be batized in the Holy Spirit be baptized!

Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title Date of Sermon

Bottom Line

// Main Points

- Main Point

- Scripture
- Key Notes
- Main Point
 - Scripture
 - Key Notes
- Main Point
 - Scripture
 - Key Notes

// Discussion Questions

1. Question 1
2. Question 2
3. Question 3
4. Question 4
5. Question 5

