Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

***The Spirit and the Resurrection***

***Acts 1***

*April 26th*, 2020 A.D.

The Year of Our Lord

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We have the first chapter of Acts for reading in preparation for this sermon study. This is important because the text here refers to previous events and understandings.

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

(Theophilus was the secretary that wrote for Luke, thus penned the 3rd Gospel. See Luke 1:3. This the same situation whereby Tertius penned the book of Romans for Paul. See Romans 16:22. This person is called an “amanuensis”.)

2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven,

after He had by the Holy Spirit

given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. (John 20:19)

3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering,

by many convincing proofs,

appearing to them over a period of forty days

and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

4 Gathering them together,

He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem,

but to wait for what the Father had promised,

"Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; (Luke 24:49)

5 for John baptized with water,

but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit

not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together,

they were asking Him, saying,

"Lord, is it at this time

You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them,

"It is not for you to know times or epochs

which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; (Luke 24:49)

and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea and Samaria,

and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**(Micah 3:8, Isaiah 43:10)**

9 And after He had said these things,

He was lifted up while they were looking on,

and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going,

behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

11 They also said,

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky?

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,

will come in just the same way

as you have watched Him go into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,

which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

13 When they had entered the city,

they went up to the upper room where they were staying;

that is,

Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

14 These all with one mind

were continually devoting themselves to prayer,

along with the women,

and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren

(a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons

was there together), and said,

16 "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled,

which the Holy Spirit foretold

by the mouth of **David** concerning Judas,

who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

17 "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry."

18 (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

19 And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.' [Psalm 109]

21 "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us--

22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—

one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

23 So they put forward two men,

Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias.

24 And they prayed and said,

"You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men,

show which one of these two You have chosen

25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship

from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

26 And they drew lots for them,

and the lot fell to Matthias;

and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**God’s Spirit In the Old Testament**

We are going to focus on God’s Spirit. This is often referred as the “Third Person” of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is present in the first few verses of the Bible. The Trinity is a supplied word to assign the oneness to God. Critics of Christianity will make the pantheistic charge against Christians. They do not understand the context of the Trinity. Granted, it is a challenge to explain. The reality in human history is that God has revealed Himself as Creator, Savior and Spirit. From this view, people can say God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God is not limited in form or manifestation.

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God (Hebrew: Elohim, plural form) created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

There is not any doubt that God, His Spirit and the Messiah/Christ/Jesus are all the same being. Verification of this is read in John and many other passages.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We will move now to the question of when the Spirit of God came into existence? To many this is a preposterous question, and rightfully so. We have already documented the Genesis account of God and His Spirit active in the creation and verified in the New Testament book of John. There are many more citations that could be brought to light, but these are sufficient. However, the reading of Psalm 51:11 and Ezekiel 36 are very enlightening. These prove, without a doubt, that God’s Spirit has been active from the beginning. Even in the days of Noah, God states that His Spirit shall not strive with man for more than 120 years. The context here is 120 years from when he first approached Noah to the flood. It is clear that God’s Spirit was present for people with which to interact, if they so desired to engage. The problem in Noah’s day was that his family was alone in their humble relationship with God.

**Genesis 6:3** Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

**God’s Spirit in the New Testament**

Now let’s move to the New Testament examination of God’s Spirit at work. We see God as Jesus specifically identifies to Believers, that is the Apostles, that they will have God’s Spirit at work in them. God’s Spirit gave them the authority and power to go and do the work of the ministry. This work is spreading the word about the kingdom of God.

In Matthew 10:1, Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

(See Luke 9:1-6 for same commissioning.)

Moving to the verse detailing God’s Spirit at work in the Apostles.

**Matthew 10:20 "For it is not you who speak,**

**but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.**

This statement, and commissioning, by Jesus was made early in His three- and one-half-year ministry.

Obviously, this commissioning is prior to the statement Jesus makes to the Disciples chronicled in John 7:39. Therefore, like in so many events in the Old Testament, the Spirit of God was active in people before the Resurrection time and Pentecost. This gave the disciples/apostles the authority and power to carry-out the ministry God sent them to accomplish as exhibited in Matthew 10.

Here are other citations in Luke’s Gospel.

**Luke 11:13** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

**Luke 12:12** for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

During the Resurrection Ministry of Jesus, He advises the Apostles in Luke. This is repeated in Acts 1:8.

**Luke 24:49** "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Here are more passages of Scripture referencing Jesus telling the disciples that He will not leave them alone.

**John 14:16** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

This statement in John 14:17 contains a present and future context of the Spirit being with the disciples. From this statement we see the Spirit was with the disciples before the time of the Cross and Resurrection. Jesus stress that the Spirit will also come to be with the disciples after the Ascension. Jesus does not want them to think He is abandoning them.

**John 14:17** that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

**John 14:26** "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 said to you.

**John 15:26** "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

**John 16:7** "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

**John 20:22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

**We need to differentiate the difference between the Spirit of God indwelling person for salvation from spiritual empowerment and authority. In John 3, Jesus is talking in the context of salvation. He calls for “rebirth of spirit” in order to be saved. These passages noted above are in the context of a saved person receiving power and authority for specific ministry purposes to be acted out. We see this at Pentecost. This is why the Holy Spirit is called the “Helper.” The Holy Spirit’s role regarding salvation is the “convector” John 16:8.**

**Acts 2:1** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

**Acts 2:33** "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God,

and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit,

He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

There can be confusion as to when the Holy Spirit comes to the Apostles due to the translation of the Greek Text. We must always keep in mind the context of the entire Bible. God’s Word does not contradict itself. We need to examine the text carefully.

In the Gospel of John, (NAS) we read . . .

**John 7:39 But this He spoke of the Spirit,**

**whom those who believed in Him were to receive;**

**for the Spirit was not yet given,**

because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The NAS is a fine English translation. It is derived from the King James of 1611, and this verse has been translated this way in many English Bibles since the KJV. However, my training in Seminary prepared me to study from the original language text of Hebrew and Greek. We will start by examining an English text that predated the KJV by 77 years. This is the translation of William Tyndale in 1534. I encourage all to read the verses before and after Jesus’ statements for a fuller context. It is important to see that Jesus was pointing to the time of His glorification and the state of being in which He would be at that time. We keep in mind that Jesus wanted His disciples to know that they would not be alone. In His physical absence, He would be with them in Spirit. Thus, the breathing of His Spirit in John 20:11 is the visible experience of God demonstrating that He desires His Spirit to be indwelled in Believers. This is the visible sign that God indwells and empowers Believers.

**Tyndale 1534**

TNT **John 7:39** This spak he of the sprete which they that beleved on him shuld receave. For the holy goost was not yet there because that Iesus was not yet glorifyed.

**Young’s Literal Translation 1862**

YLT **John 7:39** and this he said of the Spirit, which those believing in him were about to receive; for not yet was the Holy Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Neither of these translations contain the word “given.”

Now, let us read the Greek text.

**Nestle Aland Greek N.T. 28 Edition**

NA 28 **John 7:39** τοῦτο δὲ εἶπεν περὶ τοῦ πνεύματος ὃ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύσαντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὔπω γὰρ ἦν πνεῦμα, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη. (Not yet for I am spirit) (for I am not yet spirit)

(for Jesus not yet glorified)

<https://www.nestle-aland.com/en/the-28-edition/>

Again, note that the King James of 1611 is published 77 years after Tyndale N.T. The English word “*given*” is not present in Tyndale’s English translation of 1534 due to the Greek text from which he was working. To date, the NA 28 edition (2012) represents about 2000 years of Greek New Testament publication and study. The NA 28 does not supply the word “*given*” because it is not in the Greek text. In the NAS, which is considered a good translation, the editors tell you the word “*given*” is supplied because they “*italic*” the word.

NA 28 with morphological guide John 7:39 οὗτος@rdans δέ@cc λέγω@viaa3s περί@pg ὁ@dgns πνεῦμα@ngnsc ὅς@rrans μέλλω@viia3p λαμβάνω@vnpa ὁ@dnmp πιστεύω@vpaanmp εἰς@pa αὐτός@rpams οὔπω@b γάρ@cc εἰμί@viia3s πνεῦμα@nnnsc ὅτι@cs Ἰησοῦς@nnmsp οὐδέπω@b δοξάζω@viap3s

Byzantine 1995 John 7:39 Τοῦτο δὲ εἶπεν περὶ τοῦ πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὔπω γὰρ ἦν πνεῦμα ἅγιον, ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη.

Scrivener 1894 John 7:39 τοῦτο δὲ εἶπε περὶ τοῦ Πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύοντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὔπω γὰρ ἦν Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον, ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς οὐδέπω ἐδοξάσθη.

Alford Greek N.T. 1871 John 7:39 τοῦτο δὲ εἶπεν περὶ τοῦ πνεύματος οὗ ἔμελλον λαμβάνειν οἱ πιστεύσαντες εἰς αὐτόν· οὔπω γὰρ ἦν πνεῦμα [ἅγιον], ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὔπω ἐδοξάσθη.

I could not find one Greek Text that contained the word “given.” Obviously from the King James of 1611, the word “*given*” was supplied. After that time, translators simply followed their tradition.

In the context of Jesus’ Resurrection ministry, He is simply telling the apostles that He is not yet in spirit form because he was not yet glorified. After the Ascension, Jesus was in the state He called “glorified”, thus, in spirit form. This was a transitional time for the apostles and all the followers/believers. It is a one-time era in human history.

The previous verse (38) enhances the context of the meaning. This is a prophetic statement from Isaiah Jesus makes.

**Isaiah 44:3** For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring And My blessing on your descendants;

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" and this he said of the Spirit, which those believing in him were about to receive; for not yet was the Holy Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This account of Jesus teaching is well before the time of the

Cross and the Resurrection. There were people surrounding Him listening to His Gospel message. They were receiving, surrendering and humbling themselves to His message. This is consistent with Acts 2, when the people surrendered to the conviction of Holy Spirit preaching from Peter, indicative of their hearts being pierced/circumcised, detailed in verse 37. The text says they then can “receive” the gift of the Holy Spirit in verse 38.

Remember, Jesus is one and the same as God and the Holy Spirit. They became convicted of their sin and then they received Him. In other words, Jesus was with them in physical form then, but, after the Ascension, He would still be with them in Spirit.

Thus, this statement of Jesus is made at a single time in history. God was in the flesh in the presence of people. The Trinity cannot be divided. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are always present and one-in the-same. There was no other time in History like the Incarnation and Resurrection time. The closest we have is God walking and talking with Adam in the Garden (Genesis 3:8). We also have Enoch and Noah who walked with God (Genesis 5:22; 6:9).

Most of the time in the biblical text a person who “walked with God” means a person who lived the life God planned. What we see with Adam, in particular, is a person who is in some way in the presence of God.

**Genesis 3:8** They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

God desires for His presence to be with us. We see this in the Cloud by day and Fire by night in the Exodus account. We the people are vulnerable in a fallen world environment. God knows we need His presence. God designed for all of us to be capable of containing His Spirit. God leaves it up to us to invite Him into our hearts. This is the circumcision of the heart detailed in Deuteronomy 30:6. God says this in order for the people to live! Real life is living a life God has planned for us. God has plans in which for each of us to walk (Ephesians 2:10). Once “circumcision of the heart/rebirth of spirit” happens, people can follow God’s commandments (Deuteronomy 30:8). The text actually reads:

*So now turn back you are caused to hear the Lord.*

‎ וְשָׁמַעְתָּ֖ (Deut. 30:8 WTT) “So, caused to hear”

**Young’s Literal Translation****Deuteronomy 30:8**

'And thou dost turn back, and hast hearkened to the voice of Jehovah, and hast done all His commands which I am commanding thee to-day;

Thus, due to the “circumcision of the heart” people are caused to hear the Lord and follow the Lord’s commands. They then can do the things of God. In John 3, Nicodemus asks Jesus how He could do the things He does. Jesus tells him he must be born again of spirit to see or enter the kingdom on God. We are all called to the same confession.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

AMEN

**Word Study – Focus Old Testament**

Spirit, Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:11

11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Spirit: NAS 519 verses**

**Strong’s 1805 Holy Ghost**

**Hebrew 07307> רוּחַ ruach) 924c (Meaning: breath, wind, spirit)**

Origin: from an unused word

Usage: air(2), anger(1), blast(2), breath(31), breathless\*(1), cool(1), courage(1), despondency\*(1), exposed(1), grief\*(1), heart(1), inspired(1), mind(3), motives(1), points(1), quick-tempered\*(1), side(4), sides(2), Spirit(76), spirit(127), spirits(3), strength(1), temper(2), thoughts\*(1), trustworthy\*(1), wind(98), winds(7), windy(2), wrath(1).

Notes:

1 Or a waste and emptiness

2 Literally face of

3 Or hovering: Jeremiah 4:23; Job 38:9; Psalm 104:30;

Isaiah 40:13, 40:14; Deuteronomy 32:11; Isaiah 31:5

**The third Person of the adorable Trinity.**

His personality is proved

(1 from the fact that the attributes of personality, as intelligence and volition, are ascribed to him

John 14:17,26 15:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10,11 12:11

He reproves, helps, glorifies, intercedes

John 16:7-13; Romans 8:26

(2 He executes the offices peculiar only to a person. The very nature of these offices involves personal distinction

Luke 12:12; Acts 5:32 15:28 16:6 28:25;

1 Corinthians 2:13 Hebrews 2:4 3:7 2; Peter 1:21

His divinity is established

**(1)** from the fact that the names of God are ascribed to him

Exodus 17:7; Psalm 95:7

compare to Hebrews 3:7-11

**(2)** that divine attributes are also ascribed to him,

Omnipresence: Psalms 139:7; Ephesians 2:17,18

1 Corinthians 12:13

Omniscience: 1 Corinthians 2:10,11

Omnipotence: Luke 1:35 Romans 8:11

Eternity: Hebrews 9:4

**(3)** Creation is ascribed to him

Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30

and the working of miracles

Matthew 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:9-11

**(4)** Worship is required and ascribed to him

Isaiah 6:3; Acts 28:25; Romans 9:1

Revelation 1:4; Matthew 28:19

**Strong’s 3495** **Spirit**, (Hebrew. ruah; Gr. pneuma),

properly wind or breath.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 it means "breath,"

Ecclesiastes 8:8 the vital principle in man.

It also denotes the rational, immortal soul by which man is distinguished (Acts 7:59; 1 Corinthians 5:5, 6:20, 7:34)

and the soul in its separate state (Hebrews 12:23)

and hence also an apparition (Job 4:15; Luke 24:37,39

an angel Hebrews 1:14

and a demon Luke 4:36, 10:20

This word is used also metaphorically as denoting a tendency

Zechariah 12:10; Luke 13:11;

Romans 1:4; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17

Divine Nature: 1 Peter 3:18

**Old Testament Passages**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Psalm 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.

Psalms 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Isaiah 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him?

Genesis 41:38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this (Joseph) in whom is a divine spirit?"

Exodus 31:3 "I have filled him [Besalel, the son of Uri - to fabricate tent of meeting and ark.] with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship,

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.

Isaiah 63:11 Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them,

Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

1 Samuel 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

Haggai 2:5 As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!

**New Testament Passages containing “Spirit.”**

**Strong’s <4151> πνεῦμα *pneuma***

**Meaning: wind, spirit**

**Origin: from *4154***

**Usage: breath(3), Spirit(239), spirit(103), spirits(32), spiritual(1), wind(1), winds(1).**

**Notes: Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 2:1-4,11:16**