

**Holy Spirit Series**  
**The Forgotten Gift of Christmas**  
**“Think...”**  
**NN Campus**  
**12/08/18**

**Opening**

-comments about 2018 Christmas giving...also giving in general...

-new series this month on the Holy Spirit...

-PRAY

**Introduction**

-last week we talked about the importance of accepting the reality there will always be a mystery when it comes to understanding the nature of God...The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. But just because we will never understand this fully doesn't mean we shouldn't do the hard work of deepening our understanding. (listen to last week's message)

**-Let's look at a curious story in Scripture when people encountered something beyond their understanding...**

**-Acts 14:8-15**

- Legend in this region was that Zeus and Hermes had once visited disguised as people and only one couple showed them hospitality. Zeus vowed to one day destroy the city for being so unfriendly and also promised to spare the couple.
- Zeus is the king of the God's
- Hermes is the spokesperson for the God's

-last week we talked about the risk of “minimizing” (ignore, deny, over simplify) in the face of mystery...

-tonight, the caution is that we must **be careful to not do what Lystra did...trying to understand the mystery of God through our own human experiences**...like these!

- The banana is a triune fruit...
- Water can be solid, gas, or liquid... (Bevere's book)
- The nature of man: body, soul, and spirit...
- The sun: light, heat, and radiation...
- Contrast with parables and comparative experience learning

-Let's let the text of Scripture do the heavy lifting...we cannot understand the mystery of the Holy Spirit and The Trinity through our experience...we understand the mysteries of God by way of an epiphany, divine revelation!

### Think Plural

-Genesis 1:26 (God refers to Himself in both a personal and plural way)

-Genesis 3:22 (personal and plural)

#### **Elohim**

- Over 2,500 hundred times in OT
- Elohim is plural... "im" as a suffix is plural
- El is the abbreviated version of Elohim...
- El Shaddai – God Almighty (We are...)
- El Elyon – God Most High (We are...)
- El Roi – God Sees (We...)

-God isn't just revealing the plural nature of who He is...He is also ascribing divinity to every part of who He is!

*-Thinking plural in vital because it gives me permission to acknowledge the individuality of the Holy Spirit!*

### Think Personal

-Genesis 1:26/Genesis 3:22

-We have a tendency to think of the Holy Spirit as a power or a presence instead of personal.

-our human experience accounts for personal for "Father" and personal for "Son" but not so much for "Spirit." (Bevere's list)

- **He has a mind (Romans 8:27)**
- **He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11)**

- He has virtues (Galatians 5:22)
- He comforts (Acts 9:31)
- He speaks (Hebrews 3:7)
- He teaches (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- He can feel sorrow (Ephesians 4:30)
- He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)
- He can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:1-11)

*-Thinking personal is vital because it gives me permission to pursue a relationship with the Holy Spirit!*

### Think Prayer

-So, I pray to who?

- Luke 11:1-4 (The Father considering)
- Romans 8:34 (Jesus interceding)
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-12 (Holy Spirit advising)
  - **this chapter addresses all THREE!!!!**

**-Prayer is a group conversation!**

- (think about talking with a group of people)

*-Thinking prayer is vital because it gives me permission to converse with the Holy Spirit!*

### Think Praise

-And, who should I worship?

- Isaiah 40:12-15 (Holy Spirit is divine...)
- John 14:16 (Bever's book)
  - **Heteros** - another of a different kind
    - Krispy Kreme vs. a Mica Mitchell cookie
  - **Allos** - another of the same kind
    - Krispy Kreme and Krispy Kreme

## **Band**

- Divinity deserves worship!
- Psalm 18:3
- Psalm 48:1
- John 16:13-14 (ref)...just because the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus doesn't mean I can't glorify Him!

*-Thinking praise is vital because it gives me permission to glorify the Holy Spirit!*

## **Close**

-Me, "Alexa, do you believe in Jesus?"

-Alexa, "Everyone has their own view of religion."

-Me, "Alexa, what is your view on religion?"

-Alexa, "I can't find the answer to the question I heard."

-May the Holy Spirit this Christmas use us all to help someone find the answer that all important question, what do you believe about Jesus.