

**Summer Topical Series - #7**  
**Spirit Descent – Matt.3:13-17; Jn.3:3-8; Eph.1:13-14**

0.0 Introduction

When/why/how Spirit of God makes entrances + baptism of C. Eriksson

1.0 The Spirit of the Trinity

- 1.1 Tertullian (c.155—c.240 AD) – coined term *Trinity* + said “Christians made, not born”
- 1.2 One/three Persons, “co-equal” (essence) and “co-eternal” with Father and Son
- 1.3 His individuality as Person (and representing God’s presence) more open in NT > OT
- 1.4 In Jesus’ life: baptism (Matt.3:16), driven to desert (Matt.4:1), follow up (Jn.16:7-11)
- 1.5 In early church: alerts Peter to Cornelius (Ac 10:19), sends Barnabas & Saul (13:2-4), guiding Jerusalem council (15:28), re-directing mission (16:6)...and more

2.0 The Spirit in Personal Operations (= how Christians are *made*)

- 2.1 To convert a human being – Jn.3:3-8 (Rom.8:10 – the Spirit is *Life*)
- 2.2 To enter, possess and seal – Eph.1:13-14 (Rom.8:9 – he lives within every believer)
- 2.3 To interact with human spirit – Jn.16:7-11 (on multiple levels)
- 2.4 To lead those who “walk by Spirit...not flesh” – Rom.8:1
- 2.5 To intercede for a believer – Rom.8:26-27
- 2.6 To lead in new-family relationships – Rom.8:14-16 < Spirit of adoption (Rom.8:15)
- 2.7 To perform ‘special operations’ and effects – Ac.2:4; 8:39

3.0 The Importance of This for Us Today

- 3.1 So, when does Spirit enter a person? Ans = operating even before we know it
- 3.2 Today we represented & welcomed Spirit’s work in life of infant (cf. Col.2:11-12)
- 3.3 Welcome him into your life.

*Next week (August 23) – Summer Topical Series #8*  
*On Humility – James 4:6-10*

## **Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

## **John 3:3-8 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

## **Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.