

The Spirit of the Early Church **Isaiah 63:7-14; Acts 2:14-24**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 A play on words – human spirit or God’s?
- 0.2 The Spirit of God...the Spirit of Christ...the Spirit (Rom.8:9-10)
- 0.3 The Trinity and historic, orthodox Christianity: two Persons have familial terms, yet Third is imaged in water, fire & smoke, wind, energy – harder to personalize

1.0 The Accounts of the Spirit

- 1.1 Creator and creation – Gen.1:2 (creating out of nothing – Ps.33:6)
- 1.2 Giving extraordinary powers to some – Jud.3:10; 14:6
- 1.3 Protector of God’s people Israel – Deut.32:10-11
- 1.4 Executive influence – Is.63:7-14
- 1.5 The “energy of life in God” (S. Ferguson) – Is.31:3; Job 33:4

2.0 The Arena of the Spirit - Then

- 2.1 Opening thoughts & voices of prophets, apostles...and all – Ac.2:4,17-18 (Joel 2); and coming upon different believers in extraordinary manner (Ac.2,8,10)
- 2.2 Speaks of what he hears in heaven – Jn.16:13-14
- 2.3 Involved in ministry - e.g. of Philip (Ac.8:39) and of Paul (Ac.16:7)
- 2.4 Convincer and Convicter of all – Ac.18:5
- 2.5 He lives inside believers (Rom.8:9) and influences their pathways (Rom.8:1); believers are actually *sealed up* by the Spirit (Eph.1:13; 4:30)
- 2.6 The gift-giver - I Cor.12,14

3.0 The Act of the Spirit Today – Today

- 3.1 He is as active as ever, in whatever way God wishes
- 3.2 An intimate relationship with our human spirit/soul (Rom.8:16,26)
- 3.3 New person, new life: fruit/virtue of the Spirit (Eph.5:9) - are you advancing here?

Forthcoming:

August 15 – The Synagogue at Nazareth – Lk.4:16-32

August 22 – Dr. Robert Frazier, Guest Preaching

August 29 – The Timing of the Spirit – Jn.7:37-39

September 5 – Fall Sermon Series: ‘Minority Reports’