



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

---

**Sunday – March 28, 2021**

## **To Know Christ...**

Have you ever paused to consider how much the Holy Spirit impacted the perfect life of Jesus? The Holy Spirit was at work from the conception of God in the flesh. Mary asked, “**How can this be, since I am a virgin?**” [Luke 1:34-35] She was wondering how a virgin could conceive a son in her womb to name Jesus. And the angel said, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.**” The Holy Spirit makes the seemingly impossible come to pass. And God became flesh and blood in Jesus Christ because of the work and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit continued His work with the Son of God. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit showed Jesus is the Lamb of God [John 1:29-34]. It was the Spirit that descended in the form of a dove to again show that Jesus is the Son of God [Luke 3:21-22]. Then being full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is led into and through the temptations in the wilderness [Luke 4:1-2]. After conquering the wilderness temptations, Jesus returns to Galilee in the “**power of the Spirit.**” [Luke 4:14] Then Jesus returned to enter Nazareth sharing with the Jews in the synagogue the Scripture in Isaiah 61:1, “**The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.**” [Luke 4:16-18] And that is the mission Jesus carried out over the course of the next three and a half years, the Spirit working with Him. The Spirit of God had a part in Jesus’ conception, coronation as a Son, overcoming temptation, as well as His preaching, empowerment, and miracles.

The most wonderful influence of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus is found in the resurrection. Listen to Romans 8:11, “**But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**” Did you catch that? Without the Spirit of God, Jesus would still be dead! The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, now dwells in the faithful saint after baptism. [See Acts 2:37-39]

So where would we be without the Holy Spirit in our lives in Christ? Dead! When we were spiritually born, we were “**born of water and the Spirit.**” [John 3:5] Without being led by the Spirit, we are not sons of God. [Romans 8:14-17] It is by the Spirit that we put to death the deeds of the flesh in temptation. [Romans 8:13] We are strengthened with power through God’s Spirit in the inner man. [Ephesians 3:16] And because of the Spirit we are raised up from spiritual death now, & even physical death later. If we don’t see the vitality of the Holy Spirit within our lives in Jesus, we have truly missed seeing the Spirit in the Life of Christ empowering Him. The Spirit of God does not seek to be worshipped, but we must see that walking faithfully by the Spirit after being washed in the blood of Jesus, is what will allow us to overcome. There should be a natural drive to share Christ. The Spirit will testify of Jesus [John 15:26-27], and that is what we will desire as well. Meditate on the life of Christ that overcame the world, being empowered by the Holy Spirit of God. Must we walk by the Spirit to overcome? What would Jesus say?

- Carey Terry