

01-01-03-The Two Creations-Part Three
God, creation, regeneration, Holy Spirit
Gen 1:2b

The God of order is willing and waiting to work with our disorder.

INTRODUCTION:

- Gen1:1-2a, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep... Where is God in all this disorder? v.2b, ... and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*
- This sermon series shows how the creation account reminds of our old life and our new life in Christ. Today we're looking at how **HOM.idea.**
- Creation shows the pattern of re-creation: God sticks with what He starts. His Spirit moves with concern over this world's disorder.
- V.2b introduces the Trinity's 3rd Member. [Remember, In the beginning God is Elohim—plural noun, singular verb: divine grammar expressing Trinitarian Unity]. As the Spirit is God in creation, so He is God in re-creation.
- Whatever the Holy Spirit does is special, but often, when what He's doing is especially significant, He announces Himself. We call this...

I. The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit

- A. The Holy Spirit is called the “ruwach [lit., wind, or breath] of God”
 1. This name identifies how He works, and the way He manifests.)
 2. In the creation account, He was like a wind blowing over the formless, empty darkness to bring it life, order and harmony.
- B. In our salvation, He can also manifest Himself the way wind does:
 1. We see this in His work of new birth— John 3:8, “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone **born of the Spirit.**
 - a. God doesn't like being put in a box, even if we make nice little theological boxes describing how someone comes to salvation.
 - b. God's Spirit does as He pleases, moving like wind in people's lives. (As we can't control wind, we can't make the Spirit work faster than He wishes. [Years of prayer for our kids: God took His time in their lives to bring them spiritual renewal, and He's still working.]
 2. In empowering our spiritual walk, He manifests Himself as the wind does: the initial event— Acts 2:2-4, “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the

Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

- a. What identifies *Spirit filling* isn't to speak in *unknown tongues*, but to have God's Word on our lips. (Pentecost was about *clear communication*, and that's what we need as *witnesses* today.)
- b. But a *godly witness* goes beyond what the tongue—God wants His holiness in our lives. He offers it through the ***Holy Spirit*.**)

TRANS: God isn't a *ventriloquist* using us as *puppets*. Believers don't become the speakers of His *sound system*. He *re-creates us* to be *holy*. **The God of order waits to work with our disorder, to turn unholy habits into a lifestyles of holiness.** This comes not by sermons, but by...

II. The movement of the Holy Spirit [NIV, “hovered”—KJV, “moved”]

- A. The original movement was not matter in motion, but God moving over matter with divine intent to create beautiful design.
 1. [In high school I found that evolutionism required too much faith. The mind behind it wasn't Darwin but Herbert Spencer, who claimed everything came from mixing time, space, matter, force, and motion. He plagiarized that list from Genesis, but left out the Author! His God-less ideas shaped our modern world by creating a new creator called Chance or Accident—How would it be if you were told that your birth was an accident? That's exactly what you're told by *evolutionism*. That's all it can say, because that's its religious creed!]
 2. Believing in *evolutionism*, some people trust in their own natural powers to move though life meaningfully [Sculpture of the naked, self-made man, trying to carve himself out of stone—the sculpture is true, but the real story is that sin lulls people to sleep in a pit of moral confusion made of wet cement. When they awaken, they're set in concrete, trying to chisel themselves out with the tools of *science, philosophy and religion.*]
- B. Over this moral chaos of humanity lost in sin, the Holy Spirit is “hovering” [lit. “brooding” like an eagle “fluttering” over her nest]. This is the heart of the Creator, waiting to show His care and concern:
 1. In the Holy Spirit, we often see portraits of the emotional side of God [emotion is about movement outward] His heart moves out to us.
 2. God's Spirit is moved with compassion over lost souls (His hovering over disordered creation becomes a “brooding” over the sinner's chaotic life— Jesus speaks the Spirit's heart in Mat 23:37, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.”)

TRANS: The God of order is willing and waiting to work with our disorder. But His way of *correcting us involves us*. This is...

III. The method of the Holy Spirit [*hovering over*, not invading the sinner]

- A. God's approach is to start from the outside to draw us to Himself,
 - 1. using the Word (in sermons, tracts, testimonies, various media)
 - 2. using circumstances (little everyday miracles, or big judgments
[Rosemary's grandfather surviving lightning striking him, when he shook his fist at God for the rain falling on his neighbors fields, but not his.])
 - 3. using the conscience (an external instrument of God that works on the inside [like the telephone line or cable TV, from the outside])
- B. God hovers over our free-will like a Gentleman, never barging in, but also with the persistence of a Salesmen, never giving up:
 - 1. Jesus keeps knocking, but we must open the door.
 - 2. Free-will can run away, but the Holy Spirit keeps on pursuing

[like the *divine chase* in Francis Thompson's "Hound of Heaven"....]

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; / I fled Him, down the arches of the years; / I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways / Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears / I hid from Him, and under running laughter. / Up vistaed hopes, I sped; / And shot, precipitated, / Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears, / From those strong Feet that followed, followed after. / But with unhurrying chase, / And unperturbed pace, / Deliberate speed, majestic instance, / They beat- and a Voice beat / More instant than the Feet- / "All things betray thee, who betrayest Me." (Creation chases us if we flee... nature itself pursues us with God's signature written all over it!)

CONCLUSION:

–The God of creation is the Lord of re-creation. **The God of order hovers over and is ready to work with our disorder.**
–Deism's creator is absent. The God of Scripture is involved. The accident-god of evolutionism offers no rhyme or reason for human existence. The true Creator made us on purpose, and even sent His Son to rescue us from the chaos and emptiness of the sin we fell into.

–“Finish the job!” is God’s motto—Phil1:6, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

–The Holy Spirit wants to finish the job with us. When we surrender to the *Hound of Heaven*, we find our Pursuer to be the lover of our souls: Halts by me that footfall: / Is my gloom, after all, / Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly? / “Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest, / I am He Whom thou seekest! / Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me.”