***Breathe: Holy Spirit Moving Through Me***

1. **When we talk about the Spirit, we are talking about \_\_God\_\_\_\_.**

**The Spirit is God, interrelated to the Father and the Son. The Trinitarian relationship between them has been there from the beginning.**

**A. The Spirit has been present \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from the beginning\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

***John 1:1-3--In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.***

**B. The Spirit shared in the creation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_universe\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

***Genesis 1:2—The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.***

**Hebrew *ruach=*Spirit a dynamic force in creativity.**

**C. The Spirit shared in the creation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Incarnation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

***Matthew 1:18—This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.***

**The Holy Spirit initiated the Christian drama, the Gospel, by impregnating a woman.**

**D. The Spirit is in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_intimate relationship\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.**

**This intimate relationship is nowhere more evident than when Jesus prayed. After Jesus taught His disciples how to pray the Lord’s Prayer, He told them that the Heavenly Father would *“give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Luke 11:13)*.**

**Jesus places a high value on this relationship with the Holy Spirit.**

***Luke 3:28-29—“I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven,but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences.”***

**Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390 A.D.) described this unique relationship in this manner: *“Christ is born; the Spirit is His Forerunner. He is baptized; the Spirit bears witness. He is tempted; the Spirit leads Him up. He works miracles; the Spirit accompanies them. He ascends; the Spirit takes His place.”***

**The Spirit is the third manifestation of our Trinitarian God. But from the beginning of the Gospel story, the Spirit’s function is clear…**

**2. The Spirit’s primary function is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_point to Jesus\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Go back to the beginning of the Gospel story:**

***Luke 1:35—The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.***

**From the very beginning, the Holy Spirit had a task—not to call attention to Himself, but to point to Jesus as the Son of the Father.**

**Later, at Jesus’ commissioning baptism:**

***Matthew 3:16-17--After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”***

**The Spirit delivers the message that Jesus is God’s beloved Son.**

**Then look at the words of Jesus Himself during His farewell discourse:**

***John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8, 13 (underscores added)—***

***“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you...I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me...And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin…that it refuses to believe in me…When the Spirit of truth comes…he will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard…He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.”***

**The primary work of the Holy Spirit is the exalting of Jesus Christ.**

**Anticipating Pentecost, Jesus says:**

***Acts 1:8 (underscores added)—But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

**When the Spirit comes on the waiting disciples, they become witnesses not to the Spirit. Rather, they are empowered by the Spirit to be witnesses to Christ.**

**With the Spirit’s coming in power at Pentecost, knowing Christ became a personal opportunity.**

**OT=God the Father/Creator🡪Gospels=God the Son🡪Pentecost=God the Spirit.**

**When we receive the grace of Christ, the Spirit becomes personal, moving in us and moving through us! Why? To point to Christ. This leads us to our 2017 emphasis…**

**3. \_\_\_\_Breathe\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_moving through me\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

***When we speak about the Holy Spirit, we speak about the breath of God, breathing in us. The Greek word for “spirit” is pneuma, which means “breath.” We are seldom aware of our breathing. It is so essential for life that we only think about it when something is wrong with it.
The Spirit of God is like our breath. God’s Spirit is more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. We might not often be aware of it, but without it we cannot live a “spiritual life.” It is the Holy Spirit of God who prays in us, who offers us the gifts of love, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, gentleness, peace, and joy. It is the Holy Spirit who offers us the life that death cannot destroy. Let us always pray: “Come, Holy Spirit, come.” ---Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey***

**\*Prayer for this year: That we would yield to the Spirit and let the Spirit move in and through us so that we can work with the Spirit in pointing to Christ.\***

**How do we attain this yielding?**

**A. \_\_\_\_Humility\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Dr. Charles Erdman--“Erdman’s Law”**

***“I have become convinced that those persons are most filled with the Holy Spirit who are least conscious of it; all they know is they wish to serve Jesus Christ, and they feel that they are unprofitable servants.”***

**Just when we are least conscious of our breathing and just letting our breathing sustain us, so we are most Spirit-filled when we are least conscious of it; we are not manufacturing the Spirit, we are yielded to Him.**

**Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3). A theologian suggests that this can be paraphrased as such: “Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the filling of the Spirit.”**

**B. \_\_\_\_Integrity\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? Clearest answer: *Galatians 5:22-23***

**C. \_\_\_\_Passion\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **A passion for the Spirit \_\_\_in us\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Holy Spirit=*paraclete*=”one who walks alongside and in us”**

***Romans 8:9-11--But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you….And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.***

**The same Spirit that rested on and in Christ at his Baptism rests on and in you. The divine, holy, sovereign Spirit of God lives within you, can work through you to do Christ’s work.**

1. **A passion for the Spirit \_\_\_\_through us\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 ***“The work of the Holy Spirit is simply to thrill us with Christ, to infect us with enthusiasm for all that Christ can do for men and women for the world to change things, to renew institutions, and to salvage lives.” Frederick Dale Bruner, A Theology of the Holy Spirit***

**“Pray for the amateur Spirit.” Let the Spirit move through you to help improve, sanctify you each day. WWJD----HSMTM Holy Spirit moving Through Me.**

***Stanley Houerwas—The church lives not by savvy, worldly wisdom, and techniques for church growth but rather lives moment by moment, in every time and place, utterly dependent upon the gifts of the Spirit. Thus the Holy Spirit is nothing less than a life-and-death matter for the people of God…Christians are people who dare to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, that is, live lives out of control, coming to God dependent, empty-handed, lives driven by and accountable to Someone more interesting than ourselves.***

**Let this be a year of yield. Yielding to the Spirit through humility, integrity, and passion. Goals are good to set, but set higher than that your primary calling:**

**to be infused, enthused and, therefore, used by the Spirit of God!**

**Our Yield This Year:**

**\*Welcome the Spirit,**

**let Him move in and through us,**

**with the goal of pointing to Christ**

**in all we think, feel, say, and do\***