

Empire Church of the Brethren

## *Sunday Service Sermons*

**29 October 2023**

The Holy Spirit Invites You

Text: "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let him who hears say, 'Come'. And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price." *Rev. 22:17*

Mankind's greatest need is to know God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Because our deepest need is spiritual, God sent his Son to die on a cross to show his love for us and to conquer death so that he might demonstrate to us the reality of eternal life.

Following this great redemptive activity, accomplished by Jesus Christ, God sent his Holy Spirit into the church and into the world to invite all non-believers to come to Jesus Christ, through faith, that they might receive the gift of eternal life and become the children and servants of God.

Non-believers are shocked to learn that the Holy Spirit of God is in the world today that he might invite people to become believers in Jesus Christ.

The words of our text declare that the purpose of the church and of the Holy Spirit is to invite people to come to Jesus Christ, who is the fountain of living waters.

He alone can quench the thirst of a person's soul.

Our Scripture for today urges us to listen attentively and responsively as the Holy Spirit of God speaks to our inner most being.

Jesus, in the closing days of his ministry, detailed some of the activities of the Holy Spirit who would come on the day of Pentecost.

One of the primary functions of the Holy Spirit was to bear testimony to people's consciences regarding who Jesus Christ is and what he came to do.

Listen to the Holy Spirit because of his divine person.

The Holy Spirit is more than just an influence.

The Holy Spirit is more than just a power like magnetism or electricity or gravity.

The Holy Spirit is the divine person of God.

He uses various means of communication with people.

The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures.

The Holy Spirit uses the church as a communicator.

The Holy Spirit uses individual believers as his spokespersons.

The Holy Spirit uses the events of life to interrupt your thoughts and to speak to you if you have the ears to hear.

Listen to the Holy Spirit because of his divine purpose for speaking.

He speaks to those who are unsaved.

He comes to convince them that the sin of unbelief is the sin that separates a person from God.

The Holy Spirit alone can convince a person of their sinfulness and of their need to cease rejecting God's love and his claims.

The Holy Spirit does not come to convict people and convince them of their lost and unsaved condition merely to make them feel negative about themselves and experience inward misery and depression.

He comes to convert them from unbelief to belief and from rejection to acceptance.

Only the Holy Spirit can take an X-ray of a person's heart and soul and reveal to them their lost condition.

He does this so that he might attract and persuade them to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

He speaks to those who are saved.

The Holy Spirit speaks words of comfort and assurance to the new convert.

It is the plan of the Father God to communicate the new relationship that follows faith to each believer.

The Holy Spirit comes to speak words of encouragement and to provide assistance for living the Christian life when one becomes a believer.

God does not want us to attempt to live the Christian life in human strength alone.

The Holy Spirit provides the power that is needed to overcome evil and to reap the harvest of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will also speak to the saved about the needs of those who do not yet know Christ as Savior.

He will seek to enlist us in leading the people to become believers in Christ.

Listen to the Holy Spirit because of his divine power.

Only the Holy Spirit of God has the power to produce the miracle of the new birth in the believer.

The Holy Spirit has the divine power to enable us to develop a Christian disposition and character.

He begins his good work within us at the moment of conversion and will continue this work of seeking to produce within us the very character of Jesus Christ throughout our lives.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to assure us of our victory over death and the grave.

The indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that one day we will have complete victory over death and the grave.

Listen to the Holy Spirit now.

He is inviting you to receive Jesus Christ in a new and complete way in your life.

Nowhere in all of God's Word do you find an encouragement to believe in Christ for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of new life tomorrow.

Today is the day of salvation.

Today is the day God wants to forgive your sins.

Today is the day God wants you to become his child.

Today is the day Christ wants to give you the gift of eternal life.

Today is the day the peace of God can be yours.

The Holy Spirit invites you.

Come to him now and become God's child in a more complete way.

We do this together as the family of God.

For each one of us is a member of the body of Christ, his church.

As the body we live in has many parts, so does the body of Christ.

As our body is a unity providing life for us, so is the body of Christ a unity providing life for its members.

As Paul told the believers at Corinth, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Each member of the church is different from every other member yet we are united in our oneness with Christ.

The church has the unity of a living organism.

Every member of Christ's church has some place of service cut out for them.

Under the leadership of the Spirit, each person has a privilege and duty to discover what that place is and to fill it.

Each member of Christ's church must perform their own function in the church.

If every member of every church would only fill their place of service, what a difference it would make.

No place of service is so low as to be despised or looked down on, and no place is so high that it justifies conceit on the part of the one filling it.

Just as in our bodies we need all parts functioning together for health and happiness.

Each member of the church is to be devoted to the best interests of every other member.

In Christ's church the ultimate aim is the well-being of one's fellow members and therefore of the whole church.

Since the church is a living organism, each member is to be devoted to the highest good of every other member.

For if one member suffers, every member suffers.

It is also true that if one member is honored, every member rejoices with that member.

For each member is dependent on every other member.

As the human body needs all parts functioning well, so does the church need all members well and good.

No part of the body is independent of any other part.

And no member is the whole, we complete each other.

If the church is to grow and move forward, every member must fill their place and perform their function, because every other member is dependent on them.

What is the function of the whole body?

Each member performing at their best!

We are the body of Christ.

What the physical body is to the mind and soul, the church is to Christ, the physical instrument by which he works his will in the world.

As we need Him to be whole, He needs us to be successful in winning the world to himself.

Surrender and follow, HIM!