

引言 INTRODUCTION

Last week we mentioned that the Holy Spirit is one member of the Trinity God. The Bible teaches us that God exists in three persons – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As such, the Holy Spirit is not a religious concept, a force or a thing. He is a personal God. He sits up in heaven, yet He interacts with us too. In our previous lesson, we learned some general aspects about the Holy Spirit. Today, we will focus on His works that are related to our salvation. We shall see how He transforms us from a non-believer to a believer. The Holy Spirit brings us out of darkness, brings us near the light and brings us into God's family. According to the Bible, no one chooses to believe in Jesus. It is God who makes the decision who He will save. The Holy Spirit guides us in the process from lost to saved. We take no credit for the result. God deserves all the glory.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 聖靈啟發我們 The Holy Spirit Inspires Us

First of all, the Holy Spirit inspires us. He draws us to the truth. The Bible says we live in darkness before we are saved. Sinning is part of our instinct. We show no interest to spiritual matters. Paul describes in Romans 8:6-7 – **6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.** In Paul's terminology, the "flesh" is the state before we know Jesus. We are not just lost. We are spiritually dead. We do not and cannot submit to God's law. We can substitute God's law with the Bible. By saying "does not," it means we are unwilling; while "cannot" refers to our inability. Those who have never learned to swim cannot do so. Whereas, a kid fails to complete a chore may be because he does not want to do it. We show no interest in God's commands nor do we have the power to obey Him when we are still sinners. Jesus paints another picture in Matthew 13:15 – **"For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them."** The context is Jesus' parable of the sower. He compares four different soil types. Only the seeds sowed in good soil will result in a harvest. The Lord is quoting the words of Isaiah. The prophet condemned the Israelites for rebelling against God. They knew the Bible but they did not practice the truth. The result is many people hear the gospel, but only some will be saved. The problem has to do with their hearts instead of their ears. They are like a husband who fixes his eyes on the TV while his wife is talking to him. He reacts with "hmm" and "OK." All he hears is just noise without meaning. So far we see that we lack the natural tendency to seek God or to listen to Him. We are doomed unless God changes us. God foretells good news in Ezekiel 36:26-27 – **26 "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."** At that

time, it was a message of hope to the Israelites who were in exile in Babylon. God disciplined them for their disobedience. But one day He would bring them back to their homeland. Furthermore, God would perform a spiritual surgery and give them a new heart. He would turn their stubbornness to softness, making them to love God and His commands. God is doing the same thing in us. The Holy Spirit changes us and causes us to pursue the truth. Something then clicks in our minds. It is similar to the following situations. You were stuck in a tough problem, it may be math homework, a research or work project. All of a sudden, a light bulb switched on in your brain and you completed the task easily. Perhaps you see a certain classmate or coworker all the time. One day the person drew your attention. You asked yourself: “How come I never have a crush on him/her?” In the same way, the Holy Spirit inspires us and makes us think of God. He clears our vision so that we can see His works. He opens our ears to hear His calling. Dear seeker friends: have you wondered why you come to church today? A friend invites you, and you decide to attend our service. But ultimately it is God who puts the desire in your heart. He wants you to know Him and receive Him. Do not ignore His offer of salvation. Many parents bring their kids to the church. It is a blessing that they started learning the Bible early on. But just like you did, children must make up their mind and receive Jesus. Going to church alone will not save anyone, much like eating at McDonald’s often will not make you a shareholder! Help your kids make a decision to accept Jesus when they still listen.

2. 聖靈指控我們 The Holy Spirit Indicts Us

The Holy Spirit inspires us and causes us to pursue the truth. Secondly, He also indicts us for our sins. He helps us realize that sin is serious and the gospel is the only solution. Jesus describes the work of the Holy Spirit in us in John 16:8 – **“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”** By saying “world,” Jesus refers to mankind instead of this planet, much like what He says in John 3:16 that God so loved the world. The Holy Spirit indicts us based on God’s righteous requirements. The result is that everyone fails. We are destined for God’s judgment. The Holy Spirit indicts us by stirring up a guilty feeling. We feel sorry for our bad behavior. We get uneasy when seeing the people we have offended. Where do all those feelings come from? Among all lifeforms, only humans are created in God’s image. He put a conscience in us to help us discern right from wrong. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit casts a burden in us, causing us to look for a solution to clear our guilt. Some people will suppress His voice, excusing that no one can be perfect and everyone does the same bad things anyway. Only those submit to the call of the Holy Spirit will be saved. As a result, we are changed from sinners to saints instantly. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:4-5 – **4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved.** Our focus is on verse 5. God makes us alive the moment we receive Jesus. He died on the cross for us when we were still lost in sin, indulged in pleasure and ignorant of God’s judgment. He rose three days later. All who put their faith in Jesus will receive a new life too. The Bible describes those people as born-again. We are saved by God’s grace through faith. That faith does not come from us, but God. We cannot boast that we become believers because we choose Jesus. No one has the ability to choose

Him while dead in sin. It is the Holy Spirit who wakes us up and gives us the power to respond to God's calling for salvation. Every Christian young and old went through the same process. I remember there was a senior Caucasian sister in my previous church. We called her Mrs. Millheim. She did a lot of wonderful things for kids. She is like an older version of Nadine! At the end of a meeting, Mrs. Millheim handed me a piece of paper. She asked students who would like to receive Jesus to write down their names. I keep that piece of paper to this day. Among those kids was my older son. He was only five-year-old then. Mrs. Millheim told me that age is not a concern. In her long years of children ministries, she observes that those who are truly saved will have some visible changes in their lives. That is what the Bible says! Our old self died with Jesus on the cross. Our new life is alive in Christ. We will not respond to Jesus unless we humbly accept His indictment. Jesus once said that only a sick person will see the doctor. When I visit my doctor, I do not expect him to say nice words but true words. It does not help if he tells me: "Some of your indices are quite high. I also see shadows in your body scan. But don't worry, since you are a good person and you volunteer for the community." I hope that he will tell me how serious my condition is, and how to correct those problems. Similarly, we will not realize how great the gospel is unless we admit we are horrible sinners. Sin is not personality flaw. It is more serious than bad habit. Sin is deliberate rebellion toward God. By indicting us, the Holy Spirit deals with us like an honest doctor. He gives a correct diagnosis of our spiritual condition. He also prescribes the single effective treatment. Only the blood of Jesus will wash our sins away.

3. 聖靈內住我們 The Holy Spirit Indwells Us

The Holy Spirit inspires us of the truth. He indicts us of our sins. Thirdly, He also indwells us. Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:13-14 when and why the Holy Spirit comes into our lives: **13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.** The Holy Spirit indwells us the moment when we are saved. Paul uses the word "sealed" to describe how the Holy Spirit lives in us. In the context, it means both an enclosure and an imprint. You may have seen in movies when a king sends a letter to someone. He writes the content on a piece of paper, folds it up, seals the opening with wax, then puts his stamp on it. When people see the mark, they know it is a concealed order from the king. When God seals us with the Holy Spirit, it is like signing His name on our hearts. It is a symbol of possession. From then on, we belong to God. It is not only a seal of ownership but also a seal of guarantee. The Holy Spirit will never leave once He indwells us. It gives us security, knowing that once we are saved, we will be saved forever. We will not lose salvation no matter what serious sins we commit later. Not only that, the presence of the Holy Spirit also ensures us of our future inheritance when we reach heaven. God will give different rewards to believers depending on their faithfulness in this life. We can feel it when the Holy Spirit indwells us. Paul says in Romans 8:16 – **The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.** The Holy Spirit echoes with our souls if we belong to God. We can experience His presence in us. It is similar to taking medicine when you are sick. Say you have a flu. You know all the symptoms: fever, headache, body ache, running-nose, sore throat and cough. You lack the

strength and mental capacity to do anything. But after you take some medicines, you feel that all those discomforts gradually fade away. You regain health because the medicines are working in your body. Similarly, we can tell the difference when the Holy Spirit is in us. He will change us and make us more like Jesus. Let us consider another illustration. Think about the time when you are in love. That person will completely change you. You will eat the food you used to dislike, enjoy activities you have no interest before or become more motivated in your studies or job. The power of love will cause you to do whatever it takes to please the other person. What if the two of you break up unfortunately? Then you may go back to your own way. Durian smells like stinky socks, opera sounds like people screaming and you lose interest in school or work. In comparison, the Holy Spirit brings continual and permanent change in us. Our love for God will keep growing. It underscores that salvation is about building an eternal relationship with God. There should be some visible changes if the Holy Spirit indwells you. You will hate the sins that you found thrilling before. You love the truth and stay away from falsehood. You are able to control your temper because you become more patient. You have peace when you face hardship. You praise others for their good works rather than criticizing their minor mistakes. You enjoy serving in the church without being asked. All those changes are evident. Your family and friends can see that you become a nicer person because you become a godly person. You gradually adopt God's nature. You are the same whether people are watching or not.

結論 CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit brings us out of darkness, brings us near the light and brings us into God's family. He inspires us to the truth, indicts us of our sins and indwells into our new life. The Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside and out. Patrick Hardison had a similar experience. He used to be a volunteer firefighter in Mississippi. He was injured in 2001 when the roof of a burning building fell on him. He suffered severe burns to his head, neck and upper torso. He underwent over 70 surgeries and treatments to restore his health. But his life was never the same. In particular, Patrick had to live with his deformed face. Strangers would stare at him and ask what had happened to him. Little kids would cry and scream when they saw his look. The shame and emotional scars were unbearable. Fourteen years passed by until one day a friend read about the works of Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez of New York. He is a face transplant surgeon. Dr. Rodriguez agreed to help Patrick. He assembled a team of 100 doctors and medical experts. They spent 26 hours to operate on Patrick. They had success. For the first time since the accident, Patrick could chew without pain, fully close his eyes and speak clearly. He thought his life was over at one time. He imagined that he had to attend his daughters' weddings wearing a hat and sunglasses. He knew that he did not only receive a new face, but also a new life. He wrote a book to recall his journey. Patrick hoped to use his story to encourage others, especially soldiers and firefighters who have similar injuries. Unlike Patrick, we do not need a new skin. The Holy Spirit gives us something we desperately need. He gives us a new heart when we become Christians. Our title as God's children is thus restored. He continues to help us to behave like one.

引言 INTRODUCTION

上週我們提到聖靈是三位一體真神中的一位。聖經教導我們，神以三個位格存在：聖父、聖子、聖靈。因此，聖靈並非一個概念、一股力量或一個東西。聖靈是一位有情感的神。祂高高坐在天上，但祂也與我們有互動。在上週的信息中，我們學習了一些關於聖靈的一般知識。今天，我們將集中討論祂與我們的救恩相關的工作。我們將看到祂如何將我們從非信徒轉變為信徒。聖靈帶領我們走出黑暗，帶領我們靠近光明，也帶領我們進入神的家。根據聖經，沒有人選擇相信耶穌。是神決定祂要拯救誰。聖靈引導我們從迷失到得救的整個過程。我們沒有任何功勞，神配得所有的榮耀。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 聖靈啟發我們 The Holy Spirit Inspires Us

首先，聖靈啟發我們。祂引導我們走向真理。聖經說，在得救之前，我們活在黑暗中。犯罪是我們的本性。我們對屬靈的事物毫無興趣。保羅在羅馬書 8:6-7 描述：**6 體貼肉體的，就是死；體貼聖靈的，乃是生命、平安。7 原來體貼肉體的，就是與神為仇；因為不服神的律法，也是不能服。**用保羅的話來說，「肉體」是指我們認識耶穌之前的狀態。我們不只是迷失了，我們的靈性已經死亡。我們不會也不能服從神的律法。神的律法就是指聖經。「不會」是指我們不願意；「不能」是指我們無能為力。那些從未學過游泳的人就不會游泳。而一個孩子沒有完成家務可能是因為他不願意做。當我們還是罪人時，我們對神的命令不感興趣，也沒有能力順服祂。耶穌在馬太福音 13:15 中有另一個形容：**「因為這百姓油蒙了心，耳朵發沉，眼睛閉著，恐怕眼睛看見，耳朵聽見，心裡明白，回轉過來，我就醫治他們。」**這段經文的上下文是耶穌撒種的比喻。祂比較四種不同的土壤。只有撒在好土裡的種子才能結果子。主引用了以賽亞書的話。先知責備以色列人悖逆神。他們熟悉聖經，卻沒有行出真理。許多人雖然聽到福音，但只有一部份人得救。問題在於他們的心，而不是他們的耳朵。他們就像一個丈夫，太太在跟他說話，他的眼睛卻是盯著電視。他的反應是「嗯」和「好的」。他聽到的只是毫無意義的噪音。到目前為止，我們看到我們缺乏尋求神或聆聽祂話語的傾向。除非神改變我們，否則我們注定要滅亡。神在以西結書 36:26-27 預言了一個好消息：**26 「我也要賜給你們一個新心，將新靈放在你們裡面，又從你們的肉體中除掉石心，賜給你們肉心。27 我必將我的靈放在你們裡面，使你們順從我的律例，謹守遵行我的典章。」**對於當時被擄

到巴比倫的以色列人來說，這是一個盼望的信息。神因為他們的不順服而管教他們。但終有一天，神會把他們帶回故鄉。此外，神會施行屬靈的手術，賜給他們一顆新心。祂會將他們的頑固變成柔軟，使他們愛神和遵守祂的誡命。神也在我們裡面做同樣的事。聖靈改變我們，引導我們追求真理。然後，我們的心思就會豁然開朗。這類似於以下情況。你被一個難題困住了，可能是研究或工作的項目。突然，你的大腦靈光一閃，於是便能輕鬆地完成任務。也許你常常看到某一位同事。有一天，這個人引起你的注意。你問自己：「我怎麼從來沒有想過和他交往？」同樣，聖靈啟發我們，使我們想到神。祂照亮我們的視野，讓我們能夠看到祂的作為。祂開啟我們的耳朵，讓我們聽見祂的呼召。親愛的朋友：你是否想過今天為什麼要來教會？可能是朋友邀請你，你決定參加我們的聚會。但最終，是神把這份渴望放在你心裡。祂希望你認識祂並接受祂。不要錯過這個得救的機會。許多父母帶孩子來教會。他們從年幼就開始學習聖經，這是神給他們的祝福。但就像你一樣，孩子必須下定決心接受耶穌。只是去教會並不能拯救任何人，就像經常去麥當勞吃飯並不能讓你成為股東一樣！你必須趁著孩子還願意聽道的時候，幫助他們決定接受耶穌。

2. 聖靈指控我們 The Holy Spirit Indicts Us

聖靈啟發我們，引導我們追求真理。其次，祂也因我們的罪指控我們。祂幫助我們了解罪的嚴重性，而且明白到福音是唯一的解決方法。耶穌在約翰福音 16:8 中描述聖靈在我們裡面的工作：「**他既來了，就要叫世人為罪、為義、為審判，自己責備自己。**」聖靈根據神公義的標準指控我們。結果是每個人都不及格。我們注定要接受神的審判。聖靈挑起我們的罪惡感，藉此來指控我們。我們會因為做錯事感到難過。我們看到所冒犯的人，也會感到不好意思。這些感覺從何而來？在各種生物之中，只有人類是照著神的形像被創造的。祂在我們裡面安置了良心，幫助我們分辨是非。此外，聖靈在我們裡面放了一個重擔，使我們尋找辦法來除去自己的罪。當然，有些人會壓制聖靈的聲音，藉口說沒有人是完美的，反正每個人都會做同樣的壞事。只有那些順服聖靈呼召的人才能得救。於是，我們馬上就從罪人變成了聖徒。保羅在以弗所書 2:4-5 告訴我們：**4 然而，神既有豐富的憐憫，因他愛我們的大愛，5 當我們死在過犯中的時候，便叫我們與基督一同活過來。（你們得救是本乎恩。）**我們的重點是第 5 節。在我們接受耶穌的那一刻，神就使我們活過來。當我們還在罪中迷失、沉醉於享樂、不知道神的審判的時候，耶穌已經為我們死在十字架上。但是祂三天後復活了。所有信耶穌的人也獲得新生命。聖經形容這些人為已經重生了。我們因信靠神的恩典而得救。這份信心並非來自我們，而是來自神。因此沒有人能誇口說，我們是自己選擇信耶穌的。死在罪惡中的人，沒有能力選擇耶穌。是聖靈喚醒我們，賜給我們力量，回應神的呼召而得救。每個基督徒，不

論年齡，都經歷過同樣的過程。我記得我以前的教會有一位年長的白人姐妹，我們叫她米爾海姆太太 (Mrs. Millheim)。她為孩子們做了很多美好的事。她就像是幫助我們兒童事工的娜丁 (Nadine) 一樣！有一次聚會結束時，米爾海姆太太遞給我一張紙，上面寫著一些願意接受耶穌的孩子的名字。我至今仍然保留著那張紙。我的大兒子也在其中，當時他只有五歲。米爾海姆太太告訴我，年齡不是問題。在她多年的兒童服侍中，她觀察到真正得救的人會在生命中有一些明顯的改變。這正是聖經所說的！我們的老我與耶穌一同死在十字架上。我們的新生命在基督復活時誕生。除非我們謙卑地接受耶穌的指控，否則我們不會回應祂的呼召。耶穌曾經說過，只有病人才會去看醫生。當我去看醫生時，我不是要聽到好話，而是期望聽到真話。如果醫生說：「你的一些指標很高，而且我從你的掃描中看到了陰影。不過別擔心，因為你是個好人，而且你還在社區做義工。」這些好話對我沒有什麼幫助。我希望他坦白地告訴我病情有多嚴重，以及如何治療。同樣，除非我們承認自己是罪人，否則我們不會意識到福音的偉大。罪不是性格的缺陷，它比壞習慣更嚴重。罪是故意背叛神。聖靈指控我們，就像一位誠實的醫生一樣。祂對我們的靈性狀況做出正確的診斷。祂也提供唯一有效的治療方法。只有耶穌的寶血才能洗淨我們的罪。

3. 聖靈內住我們 The Holy Spirit Indwells Us

聖靈啟發我們認識真理。祂指控我們的罪。第三，祂也住在我們裡面。保羅在以弗所書 1:13-14 告訴我們聖靈什麼時候以及為何進入我們的生命：**13 你們既聽見真理的道，就是那叫你們得救的福音，也信了基督，既然信他，就受了所應許的聖靈為印記。14 這聖靈是我們得基業的憑據，直等到神之民被贖，使他的榮耀得著稱讚。**聖靈在我們得救的那一刻就住在我們裡面。保羅用「受印記」這個字來形容聖靈如何住在我們裡面。在上下文中，這個詞語有保存和蓋印兩重含義。你可能在電影裡看過國王寫信的場景。他把內容寫在一張紙上，摺起來，用蠟封住開口，然後蓋上印章。當人們看到印記時，就知道那是國王的信件。當我們接受聖靈的印記時，就像神在我們心上簽名，象徵著擁有權。從那時起，我們就屬於神了。這不僅是擁有權的印記，也是保證的印記。一旦聖靈住在我們裡面，祂就永不離開。這便給我們安全感，使我們知道一旦得救，就永遠得救。無論我們以後犯了多嚴重的罪，我們都不會失去救恩。不僅如此，聖靈的同在也確保了我們到達天堂後會得到基業。神會根據信徒今生的忠心給他們不同的獎賞。當聖靈住在我們裡面時，我們是能夠感受到的。保羅在羅馬書 8:16 說：**聖靈與我們的心同證我們是神的兒女。**如果我們屬於神，聖靈就會與我們的心靈產生共鳴。我們可以感受到祂的同在。這就像生病時吃藥一樣。假設你得了流感，你知道所有症狀：發燒、頭痛、身體疼痛、流鼻水、喉嚨痛和咳嗽。你沒有體力和心情去做任何事。但吃了藥之後，你感覺那些不

舒服逐漸消失。你恢復了健康，因為藥物在你體內發揮作用。同樣，當聖靈住在我們裡面時，我們也能感受到不一樣。祂會改變我們，使我們更像耶穌。讓我再舉一個例子。想想你談戀愛的時候。那個人會徹底改變你。你會吃以前討厭的食物，享受以前不感興趣的活動，或是在工作上更有動力。愛情的力量會讓你不惜一切代價取悅對方。如果你們不幸分手了呢？你可能會打回原形。榴槤聞起來像臭襪子，歌劇聽起來像人們在尖叫，你會對工作失去興趣。相比之下，聖靈會持續不斷地改變我們。我們對神的愛會不斷增長。這強調了救恩是關乎與神建立永恆的關係。如果聖靈住在你裡面，你應該會看到一些明顯的改變。你會恨惡那些曾經使你覺得很爽的罪。你愛好真理，遠離虛假。你能夠控制自己的脾氣，因為你變得更有耐性。你在困境中感到平安。你會稱讚別人的好行為，而不是挑他們的毛病。你主動參與教會服侍，不需要別人邀請。所有這些改變都是顯而易見。你的家人和朋友都能察覺你變得更友善，因為你成為一個敬虔的人。你逐漸擁有神的性情。無論有沒有人看著你，你都是表裡一致的。

結論 CONCLUSION

聖靈帶領我們走出黑暗，帶領我們靠近光明，也帶領我們進入神的家。祂啟發我們認識真理，祂指控我們的罪，祂也住在我們的新生命裡。聖靈使我們從裡面到外面煥然一新。派崔克·哈迪森 (Patrick Hardison) 也有類似的經歷。他曾是密西西比州的志願消防員。2001 年，一棟燒著的建築物的屋頂壓在他身上，使他受了重傷。他的頭部、頸部和上身嚴重燒傷。他接受了 70 多次手術和治療。這場意外完全改變了他的生活。尤其是派崔克必須忍受他那張畸形的臉。陌生人會盯著他看，問他發生了什麼事。小孩子看到他的樣子也會被嚇到哭。羞恥和情緒上的創傷令人難以承受。十四年過去了，直到有一天，一個朋友聽到了紐約市愛德華多·羅德里格斯醫生 (Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez) 的故事。他是一位臉部移植外科醫生。他同意幫助派崔克。他找了 100 名醫生和專家，組成一個團隊。他們花了 26 個小時為派崔克做手術，手術非常成功。派崔克自事故發生以來第一次咬東西時沒有痛楚，他也能夠完全閉上眼睛，並清晰地說話。他一度以為自己的人生已經完蛋。他想像自己必須戴著帽子和墨鏡參加女兒們的婚禮。他知道自己不僅獲得一張新的臉，他也得到新的生命。他寫了一本書來回憶這段經歷。派崔克希望用他的故事來鼓勵其他人，特別是那些遭遇同樣意外的士兵和消防員。與派崔克不同，我們不需要換臉皮。但是聖靈賜給我們迫切需要的東西。當我們成為基督徒時，祂賜給我們一顆新心。祂恢復我們作為神兒女的名份。祂會繼續幫助我們行事為人像神的兒女。