

BTC - SEPTEMBER 18, 1988

(JOHN 3:1-8)
(EXODUS 14:13-22)

"AS THE WIND BLOWS"

TONIGHT WE ARE GOING TO STUDY AND LEARN ABOUT GOD'S SPIRIT, WHICH IS CALLED "THE HOLY SPIRIT."

WE CANNOT SEE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH OUR EYES. WE KNOW ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT BY WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT HIM.

IN ROMANS 5:5 THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO US WHEN WE ARE SAVED TO PUT GOD'S LOVE IN OUR HEARTS (READ VERSE).

THE BIBLE TEACHES US MANY THINGS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE LEARN THAT GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT IS -

- (1) ETERNAL (HEBREWS 9:14)
- (2) EVERYWHERE (PSALM 139:7-10)
- (3) ALL-KNOWING (I CORIN. 2:10)(JOHN 16:13)
- (4) ALL-POWERFUL (LUKE 1:35)

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS VERY IMPORTANT WORK THAT HE DOES.

- (1) IN CREATION, GOD'S SPIRIT MOVED AND WORKED TO CREATE THINGS (GENESIS 1:1-2)
- (2) GOD'S SPIRIT WORKS TO GET MEN READY TO DO SPECIAL WORK FOR GOD. (IN OLD TESTAMENT, HOLY SPIRIT GOT MANY MEN READY TO SERVE -

JOSHUA & DANIEL ARE TWO (NUMBERS 27:18;
DANIEL 4:8; 6:3).

(3) ALSO, THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY NEED TO BE SAVED. (WHEN A PERSON THAT IS NOT SAVED HEARS PREACHING OR HEARS SOMEONE EXPLAIN ABOUT BEING SAVED, THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES THEIR HEART READY TO UNDERSTAND.) (PROVERBS 1:23)

(4) THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS SAVED PEOPLE UNDERSTAND RIGHT THINGS AND WRONG THINGS. (JOHN 16:8)

(5) THE HOLY SPIRIT STAYS IN THE HEART OF A SAVED PERSON FOREVER (JOHN 16:14)

(6) THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ^{CHURCH} PEOPLE IN THE WAYS THEY SHOULD SERVE GOD (EPHESIANS 3:14-21;).

(7) INSPIRED WRITING OF THE BIBLE (II TIMOTHY 3:16)
(II PETER 1:21)

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT A TIME WHEN JESUS WAS TEACHING A MAN NAMED NICODEMUS ABOUT BEING SAVED AND ABOUT GOD'S SPIRIT.

NICODEMUS WAS A PHARISEE (A MAN WHO STUDIED THE LAWS OF GOD AND THOUGHT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO JUST OBEY THE LAWS.) PHARISEES WERE ALWAYS GOING AROUND OBEYING LAWS BUT THEY DID NOT REPENT OF THEIR SINS AND TRUST IN JESUS AS SAVIOUR.

PHARISEES ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT THEMSELVES AND HOW GOOD THEY WERE. THE PHARISEES LIKED TO LOOK & ACT IMPORTANT.

ONE NIGHT NICODEMUS CAME TO SEE JESUS. NICODEMUS CAME TO SEE JESUS AT NIGHT BECAUSE NICODEMUS DIDN'T WANT THE OTHER PHARISEES TO KNOW HE TALKED TO JESUS.

(SHOW BIG PICTURE OF NICODEMUS)

JESUS IS GOD'S SON AND THE ONLY ONE WE CAN TRUST TO BE SAVED, BUT NICODEMUS AND THE OTHER PHARISEES THOUGHT JESUS WAS JUST A GOOD TEACHER WHO COULD DO MIRACLES.

JESUS BEGAN TO EXPLAIN TO NICODEMUS ABOUT BEING SAVED. JESUS SAID A PERSON NEEDS TO BE "BORN AGAIN" — JESUS USED THOSE WORDS TO MEAN BEING SAVED, BUT NICODEMUS THOUGHT HE MEANT GETTING BACK IN YOUR MOTHER'S STOMACH AND BEING BORN LIKE THAT AGAIN.

JESUS EXPLAINED MORE TO NICODEMUS AND HELPED HIM UNDERSTAND ABOUT BEING SAVED. THEN NICODEMUS WAS SAVED. (JOHN 19:39) ONE OF THE THINGS THAT NICODEMUS LEARNED IS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LIKE THE WIND (POWERFUL BUT CAN'T BE SEEN) (JOHN 3:8).

NOW WE WILL REMEMBER ANOTHER BIBLE STORY THAT TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S SPIRIT....

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE PEOPLE OF JOSEPH'S FAMILY WENT TO EGYPT TO LIVE DURING THE BIG FAMINE — AND THEN AFTER JOSEPH DIED AND EGYPT HAD A NEW KING THAT HAD NOT KNOWN JOSEPH, THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT MADE THE ISRAELITES SLAVES AND TREATED THEM TERRIBLY.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WANTED TO GO BACK HOME AND BE FREE AGAIN. THE NEW KING WOULD NOT LET THEM GO, BUT FINALLY GOD PUNISHED THE EGYPTIANS TILL PHARAOH TOLD THEM TO LEAVE.

GOD WAS LEADING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ON THEIR WAY OUT OF EGYPT AND ON THEIR LONG JOURNEY TOWARD HOME. GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT WAS IN A BIG CLOUD DURING THE DAY AND IN A BIG PILLAR OF FIRE AT NIGHT SO THEY COULD TELL WHICH WAY TO GO.

THE EGYPTIANS WERE CHASING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE VERY AFRAID. THEN MOSES TOLD THEM THAT GOD WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM AND THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO WORRY.

GOD TOLD MOSES TO HOLD HIS ROD OVER THE RED SEA AND THE WATER ~~WILL~~ ^{WOULD} DIVIDE BACK ON EACH SIDE AND MAKE A ROAD FOR

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE TRAPPED BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS & THE RED SEA.

THEM TO WALK ACROSS.

THE LORD GOD SENT THE BIG CLOUD BEHIND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL - THE CLOUD LOOKED VERY DARK TO THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT, BUT IT GAVE LIGHT TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

THEN MOSES HELD THE ROD OVER THE SEA AND GOD PUSHED THE WATER BACK. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WALKED ACROSS ON DRY LAND, ^{EVERYONE OF THE ISRAELITES GOT ACROSS SAFELY} BUT GOD SENT THE WATER CRASHING DOWN ON TOP OF THE EGYPTIANS. THEY ALL DROWNED - EVERY ONE OF THEM!