**Underrated: The Holy Spirit**

**Introduction:**

* Who here has ever heard the name Bernie Federko? [Not surprised] Federko was a hockey player, who played for my favorite team, the St. Louis Blues. Federko had a pretty successful career. He played in exactly 1,000 games, during which he scored 369 goals and 761 assists, for a total of 1,130 career points. Because of his solid career, Federko was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2002. Federko was one of the best hockey players in the 1980’s and yet many people have never ever heard of him. Why?
* It may be due to another player who played during the 1980’s. Who here has ever heard the name Wayne Gretzky? [A few] Gretzky is the greatest hockey player who ever lived. He played in 1,487 games, during which he scored a National Hockey League record: 894 goals and 1,963 assists, for a total of 2,857 career points. Gretzky still holds over 60 NHL records, won 9 MVP awards, and won 4 Stanley Cup Championships.
* As we see, Gretzky’s incredible accomplishments over shadowed Federko’s still-solid career. The comparison between these two players reminds me of a similar comparison we can make in the Bible. We as Christians and even the average person, have at least a working knowledge of who God is, and who Jesus is. But these two seem to over shadow the Holy Spirit, who Himself plays a very vital role in salvation. The Holy Spirit is vastly underrated. So right now, we will examine ten facts about the Holy Spirit, so that we can get to know Him better.

**Facts about the Holy Spirit**

1. **The Holy Spirit is a He**. He is not an “it,” not something, not just a feeling. When people think of ghosts, of spirits, they tend to call them “its” because they come off as mysterious and uncertain. Unfortunately, the Holy Spirit is many times unfairly put into this category. But He is a He, a real living being. John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” NKJV He is referred to as He [capitalized to show His deity and authority]. He also goes by many names and terms, like Helper [as we just saw in Verse 7], Comforter, Holy Ghost, Spirit of God, Spirit of Truth, etc. There are a total of 52 names. He is real; He is powerful; He is true.
2. **The Holy Spirit is equal to God and Christ**. I John 5:5-8 “Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: The Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.” NKJV Three that testify and are in agreement: The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. They are equal; they are together; they are on the “same page and they never ever can contradict. Remember the God head: Father, Spirit, and Son. Three in one.
3. **The Holy Spirit is eternal**. Genesis 1:1-2 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” NKJV We see that the Holy Spirit was there at the very beginning of Creation and He’s always been around. He is mentioned 88 times in the Old Testament and 264 times in the New Testament. Hebrews 9:13-14 “For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? NKJV “Eternal Spirit” It is clear to see that the Holy Spirit is indeed eternal.
4. **The Holy Spirit is omniscient [all knowing]**. I Corinthians 2:11 “For what man knows the things of a man except the Spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.” NKJV Just like God, the Holy Spirit is all-knowing.
5. **The Holy Spirit is loving**. Romans 15:30 “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,” NKJV

He is indeed a loving being, and He certainly loves us.

1. **The Holy Spirit can experience bad things**. Let us look at three examples.

* He can be grieved. Ephesians 4:25-32 “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving, one another, even a God in Christ forgave you.” NKJV
* He can be insulted. Hebrews 10:26-31 “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” NKJV
* He can be blasphemed. Matthew 12:31-32 “Therefore I say to you every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” NKJV

1. **The Holy Spirit helped guide the apostles and helped to show that the Gospel is legitimate**. John 16:13-15 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.” NKJV Jesus told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would give them guidance. He certainly did! Acts 2:1-4 “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” NKJV This is where it started. The Holy Spirit caused them to speak in other languages. People who saw these uneducated men speaking other languages were astounded and amazed and many knew the Gospel was real and true. The Holy Spirit continued to guide the apostles throughout the New Testament. He intercedes. Romans 16:26-27 “but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith – to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.” NKJV
2. **The Holy Spirit convicts**. John 16:7-11 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of Judgment; of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” NKJV He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He makes people aware of these things, aware of the wrongs and the rights.
3. **The Holy Spirit unites Christians**. ICorinthians 12:12-13 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” NKJV

We all have different and diverse pasts. But wherever we come from, the Holy Spirit unites us into one body, one faith, one church.

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’ ” NKJV We must keep in mind that, unless we are baptized, the Holy Spirit cannot and will not unite us into the church. We have to want it for ourselves. We have to do it!

**10.** **The Holy Spirit abides in those who believe**. I Corinthians 3:16-17 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” NKJV We make up the “temple of God,” the church. The Holy Spirit dwells in each of us and therefore, dwells in all the church! I Corinthians 6:17-20 “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body;, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God to your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” NKJV We need to flee sin and immorality because our bodies are truly the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is indeed in us. If we defile ourselves, then we defile the temple and the Holy Spirit.

**Invitation:**

There is a bonus fact about the Holy Spirit. Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” NKJV **The Holy Spirit is always welcoming**. He wants you to be redeemed from your sins, to be baptized, and cleansed from your iniquities. Does He abide in you right now? If not, please come now.

Zane Berner, Guest Speaker March 13, 2016