



Pastor Hanke's Blog

June 9, 2019

Spirit of Wonders

Bible Reference: John 14:23-31

Trying to figure out someone's spirit can be one of the world's greatest mysteries. We can feel like we completely know a person and then they do something out of character and we contemplate why. We question their spirit and what is going on inside that we can't see or understand. Though we might try to guess, there are really no answers to these questions unless the person clues us in to what is going on. Unfortunately, however, sometimes that person has no clue either, which makes it even harder.

One of the lessons the Seminary reiterated over and over to us was to know "the book of self," meaning, know what you think and feel about yourself. Jesus tells us in Matthew 22 to "love your neighbor as yourself." Herein lies a potential problem... how can we understand how to love others like we love ourselves if we don't love ourselves? This issue of not loving yourself is more common than one might think, and it is easily glossed over and not recognized as a sin. Why is it a sin to hate myself? The answer is simple—God created you, and He loved you so much that He died and rose again to save you! When we hate ourselves we decide on our own that we are not worth much of anything, but especially not worth saving. That is not our decision to make! Only the Creator Himself can fully understand who we are, only the Redeemer can define our saving value, and only the Spirit, the Sanctifier, can detail the wonders to happen in each of us.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Many of us are often confused by the nature of this holy day and the season that follows. We continue in the book of John talking about the complexity of God, what the Spirit came to do, and the many wonders that will happen in people. All of this can be hard to believe when we see evidence of spirits in people that are not good. This is hard to believe when we know our own spirit and behavior. It is tough to hold onto the promise that God can work wonders in people through His Spirit, but that is the message of Pentecost. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to begin a work and a wonder in us! This weekend we take time to break that down.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will