

GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1 and Isaiah 63:10

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

September 4, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

The Debt (in theaters now) is adapted from the 2007 Israeli film *Ha-Hov*.

The espionage thriller begins in 1997, as shocking news reaches three retired Israeli Mossad secret agents, one of whom takes his own life. Please do not consider my mentioning of it a recommendation for you to see it. It is the story I am intrigued by.

All three have been venerated for decades by their country because of the mission they undertook back in 1966, when the trio tracked down Nazi war criminal Dr. Deter Vogel in East Berlin. At great risk, and considerable personal cost, the team's mission was accomplished - or so it seemed? Conspired to lie. After 30 years of accolades, the weight of lie they were protecting became unbearable ... THE DEBT they owed was the truth ... longer they kept the secret the more burdensome it became.

No way to live ... CARRYING SECRETS IS A BURDEN NO ONE HAS TO BEAR. Destructive effects, anxiety, guilt, shame, constant lying, and most corrosive is the betrayal of trust that erodes relationship.

Relationships are built on trust. Quickest way to destroy ... is by keeping secrets and telling lies.

Destroy a marriage, a dating relationship, a career, a family, any relationship ... especially rel with God.

Why confession is an essential part of spiritual life and health.

Please open you Bibles to Isaiah. ... 61 & 63. Page 529

On treasure hunt to find HSpirit in the OT.

HS breathes life, restrains evil, gives gifts (build temple in which to dwell), words to speak (not our own, words from God), the author of revelation (so we can see things clearly) and now ...

In Isaiah we hit mother lode ... Holy Spirit shows up 10 times.

The Spirit exposes sin so we can be healed, set free, and released from guilt and shame.

While much of Isaiah (1-39) contain bad news.

In Chap 40 the tone changes ... from rebuke to redemption; Return, repent and renewed.

Isaiah knows what it is like to experience the anointing, filling, the words to speak

Read Isaiah 61:1,2 Isaiah proclaiming the good news ... Messiah, healing, free, expose what's hidden.

Jesus applied words to Himself much to the dismay of those who were listening.

Luke 4:21 (NIV) "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Good news is that our sins, MY sins can be forgiven ... Jesus came to heal, set free, open eyes, reveal truth.

But only when we embrace the truth and expose the sin ...

The first step in getting right with God is confession of sin. Not our first response.

Ill. Consider the 1st family, Adam and Eve ... tendency is to hide it. Simple disobedience. Just one thing that's forbidden, only one rule (where is there self-control?) They blow it and we find them hiding.

They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden so they hid.

Where are you? I heard, I was afraid because naked, so I hid.

Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten?

The woman you put here with me, she gave it to me.

God said to Eve, **what have you done** ... reply, **the serpent deceived me, and I ate.**

Ill. Can't be too hard on them, we give the same lame excuses. Evading responsibility, Not my fault, victim of my circumstances, casting blame, the devil made me do it.

Exposure is scary. We run from it. So embarrassing. Maybe it will just get swept under the rug.

So we run ... we get sideways with God. We create distance.

Ill. Father and son ... the kitchen chair. Relationship wounded until truth comes out.

The first step in getting right with God is confession of sin.

When we don't confess, we grieve the Holy Spirit and create distance between us and God.

Isaiah 63:10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.

They did not welcome the exposure (natural) ... Unwilling to agree with God. First step in making it right. Why GRIEVED? Because all relationships are built on trust, when broken, damages relationship.

Spirit works in the lives of those who do not believe Jesus is who He said He was. EXPOSES SIN.

John 16:8 (NIV) When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

Continues to reveal truth in the lives of all who believe and have received.

1 John 2:20 (NIV) But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

The Spirit exposes the truth. Gives us the eyes to see.

Great at seeing the sin in someone else's life, but when it comes to ourselves we'd rather be blind.

Ill. Personal ... brash & brazen. Arrogant know it all. Insecure and defensive. BUSTED. All that and more. Angry, fearful, wallow self-pity, ingratitude, fear. You say ... *"yes, I've seen all that in you."*

But the exercise today is not to identify the sin of someone else. It is to confess your own.

Not about helping someone else get right with God, about each of us making sure we are right with God.

The first step in getting right with God is confession of sin.

When we don't confess, we grieve the Holy Spirit and create distance between us and God.

Confession exposes sin so the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from it. Not just generally; NAME IT.

Please turn to Ephesians 4:30-5:11 (NIV) page 829. Paul names them. **Read ...**

How do we get cleansed? By acknowledging. Confessing. Agreeing with God. Name sin to Him.

Unconfessed sin grieves the Holy Spirit and puts us sideways with God. Hiding running.

The first step in getting right with God is confession of sin.

When we don't confess, we grieve the Holy Spirit and create distance between us and God.

Confession exposes sin so the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from it.

Today is the day to get right with God ... by confessing sin, by naming it.

If you're hiding something from God, want to make it right, restore fellowship and trust ... GET RIGHT?

Here is what I'd like to ask you to do ... ask the Spirit to reveal to you what you need to confess.

Anger, selfishness, bitterness, gossip, backstabbing, grumbling, complaining, ingratitude, laziness (sloth, one of 7 deadly) ... not to mention, lust, adultery, lying, stealing (cheating others out of a living wage.).

Then confess it. Bring it to God as you prepare your heart to receive the bread and the cup.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

If there is something between you and God that you are hiding (He knows all about it) but you still must confess it to release the healing power, to be set free and break the stronghold. 30 years, come clean. Instead of delivering it to you, you will need to get up and get it. Stations. But only after you have asked the Spirit to reveal, then confessed.