

**“Come, Holy Spirit” – Week Four**  
**Spirit of Truth ~ Revelation**

- A. Holy Spirit reveals truth throughout Scripture (e.g., Isaiah 11:1-2, John 4:21-24, 1 Corinthians 2:12-16)
1. the Farewell Discourse – Jesus promises the Spirit of Truth (John 14:15-26 15:26-27, 16:7-14)
  2. the Early Church – the Spirit continues to reveal truth (Ephesians 1:11-14, 3:5-6, 1 John 4:6-8)
- B. Seeking Truth – “faith seeking understanding” St Anselm of Canterbury (ca 1033-1109)
1. what is truth?
    - a. epistemology – study of knowledge, investigation of justified belief
    - b. *truth* – (1) the body of real things, events, facts; (2) being in accord with fact or reality; (3) sincerity in action, character, and utterance (*from merriam-webster.com*)
    - c. ‘all truth is God’s truth’
      - i. St Augustine (354-430; bishop of Hippo), “A person who is a good and true Christian should realize that truth belongs to his Lord, wherever it is found, gathering and acknowledging it even in pagan literature, but rejecting superstitious vanities and deploring and avoiding those who ‘though they knew God did not glorify him as God...’ (Romans 1:21-3)” *On Christian Teaching*
      - ii. “When I say, ‘I believe,’ I am not merely describing an inward feeling or experience: I am affirming what I believe to be true, and therefore what is true for everyone...if I try to keep my belief as a private matter, it is not a belief in the truth” Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*, 22
      - iii. “The river is already flowing, and you are in it whether you are enjoying it or not” Richard Rohr, *The Divine Dance*, 87
  2. Who is truth?
    - a. God, the Ultimate Reality
    - b. Jesus Christ, God incarnate
      - i. reveals God (e.g., Hebrews 1:1-3, John 1:1-18, Colossians 1:15-20, Galatians 4:1-4, Philippians 2:5-11) *therefore*
      - ii. reveals truth (e.g., John 8:31-32, John 14:1-7 John 18:33-38)

c. the Holy Spirit, God present

C. Knowing Truth

1. *revelation* – (1) an act of revealing or communicating divine truth; (2) an act of revealing to view or making known (*from merriam-webster.com*)
  - a. general revelation – the revelation of God available to everyone everywhere: creation (e.g., Psalm 19) – reason – experience
  - b. special revelation – the revelation of God in particular sources: Jesus Christ (e.g., John 1:1-18) – Scripture – tradition
2. The 'Wesleyan Quadrilateral' – “describes the principal factors that John Wesley believed illuminate the core of the Christian faith for the believer” (*umc.org*)
  - a. Scripture – e.g., 2 Timothy 3:14-17, “God-breathed,” Greek, *theopneustos*
  - b. tradition – e.g., Hebrews 12:1-2, the “great cloud of witnesses”
  - c. reason – e.g., Romans 12:1-2, “be transformed [Greek, *metamorphosis*] by the renewing of your minds”
  - d. experience – e.g. Jeremiah 31:31-34,

D. Living Truth – Ephesians 4

E. “Standing Man,” *Bridge of Spies*, directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Tom Hanks and Mark Rylance

**BookofFaith.org:** four-fold method of reading Scripture:  
devotional; historical; literary; Lutheran theological

**Wesleyan Quadrilateral**

“The phrase which has relatively recently come into use to describe the principal factors that John Wesley believed illuminate the core of the Christian faith for the believer. Wesley did not formulate the succinct statement now commonly referred to as the Wesley Quadrilateral. Building on the Anglican theological tradition, Wesley added a fourth emphasis, experience. The resulting four components or "sides" of the quadrilateral are (1) Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience. For United Methodists, Scripture is considered the primary source and standard for Christian doctrine. Tradition is experience and the witness of development and growth of the faith through the past centuries and in many nations and cultures. Experience is the individual's understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of his or her own life. Through reason the individual Christian brings to bear on the Christian faith discerning and cogent thought. These four elements taken together bring the individual Christian to a mature and fulfilling understanding of the Christian faith and the required response of worship and service.”

*Source: A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press. Used by Permission. (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/wesleyan-quadrilateral>)*