**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

August 28, 2022

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Founding and* *Lead Pastor*

**Into The Mystery**

**The Mystery of the Wild Goose**

John 16:7-11



**From creation to creature, we are drawn into the mystery.** Awe, wonder, curiosity, amazement … **what God has created stops us in our tracks and causes us to soak in the mystery of it all.**

*For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature,* ***have been clearly perceived****, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* Romans 1:20

**In**[***Natural History, Book 10***](https://amzn.to/2Jx6KGm)**,** Pliny the Elder wrote in the first century of the goose’s unique characteristics:

- “Geese keep careful watch; the cackling of geese warned of an attack at the Capitol in Rome. Geese may have the power of wisdom, as shown by the story of a goose who was the companion of the philosopher Lacydes and refused to leave his side. ... Geese come on foot to Rome from Gaul; if one gets tired it is moved to the front, so that it is forced to continue by the press of the geese behind it.”

*The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”* John 3:8

The Holy Spirit has a tendency to **disrupt** and **surprise**.

**Have you been disrupted by the Holy Spirit?**

**Have you ever been surprised by the Holy Spirit?**

In the 1700s, a European philosophical movement known as the **Enlightenment**, or the **Age of Reason**, made its way across the Atlantic Ocean to the American colonies.

**Enlightenment thinkers did not want God’s disruption or surprise,** His Mystery nor His majesty. The enlightenment emphasized a scientific and logical view of the world while downplaying mystery and revelation. For over 300 years, we have advanced, progressed, and developed our way into becoming a people who trust more in our own thinking, knowledge, abilities, and logic than we do in a God we cannot see, touch or logically explain into existence. **We gravitate toward stability, progress, comfort, and certainty.**

The problem is we are too easily **distracted** and **delighted** by this life.

*It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.* ***We are half-hearted creatures****, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.* ***We are far too easily pleased****.* C.S. Lewis

Do you think Jesus is **enough**? Yes or no?

*… 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 go,* ***I will send him to you****. And when he comes,* ***he will convict*** *the world concerning* ***sin*** *and* ***righteousness*** *and* ***judgment****: concerning* ***sin****, because they do not believe in me; concerning* ***righteousness****, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning* ***judgment****, because the ruler of this world is judged.* John 16:7–11

Jesus came to **save** you … the Spirit comes to **sanctify** you.

**Sanctify** is to be set apart, seal the deal, separate you from your sin, and create in you a new heart that leads to a new life that looks more and more like the life that Jesus would live if He were living the life you live … your life.

The Spirit will **convict** you … but never **condemn** you.

Emmanuel (Jesus) was God **with** us.

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall* ***call his name Immanuel****” (which means,* ***God with us****).* Matthew 1:23

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus **in** us.

*Or do you not know that* ***your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you****, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Paul calls the Holy Spirit … “the spirit of Jesus Christ”

*What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of* ***the Spirit of Jesus Christ*** *this will turn out for my deliverance,* Philippians 1:18–19

The Holy Spirit is God’s **presence** **in** and **with** you.

A life filled with the **Holy Spirit** is God’s plan for the ongoing **transformation** of your life.

**Wild Goose Living:**

Living a life of being pursued by the Holy Spirit

**This is no wild goose chase**; an idiom or expression that means … a hopeless pursuit or foolish search after something that is in fact, pointless or unattainable. It is also a frustrating enterprise that usually involves wasting a large amount of time.

**This is recognizing that the wild goose … the Holy Spirit is chasing you.** The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is working; he is not passively sitting and waiting for you to come around … he is pursuing you. And his pursuit of you shows up in many ways.

**Wild Goose Living** is about living my natural life under a **supernatural** leader.

How do you know it is the Spirit … it is not natural!

*But the fruit of the Spirit is* ***love****,* ***joy****,* ***peace****,* ***patience****,* ***kindness****,* ***goodness****,* ***faithfulness****,* ***gentleness****,* ***self-control****; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If* ***we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit****.* Galatians 5:22–25

**Coming to the end of ourselves, where what we do naturally,** God wants to disrupt in order for us to cry out to Him to do something supernaturally.

*You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.* Matthew 5:3 The Message

**Wild Goose Living** is living my life in the Holy Spirit who builds my capacity to know and show **love**.

That love changes how you live. When God’s love is living in us, it looks, feels and sounds like 1 Cor. 13:3-8a in The Message translation says …

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, **I’m bankrupt without love.**

Love never gives up.  
Love cares more for others than for self.  
Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.  
Love doesn’t strut,  
Doesn’t have a swelled head,  
Doesn’t force itself on others,  
Isn’t always “me first,”  
Doesn’t fly off the handle,  
Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others,  
Doesn’t revel when others grovel,  
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,  
Puts up with anything,  
Trusts God always,  
Always looks for the best,  
Never looks back,  
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies.

That is not the natural way we love … that is the way the Holy Spirit leads us and shows us and convicts us to love. Paul writes in Romans 5:5 that the source of that love is the Holy Spirit.

*and hope does not put us to shame, because* ***God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*** *who has been given to us.* Romans 5:5

Love God and love others … it sounds so easy, but it is only happening because there is the Holy Spirit convicting, empowering, leading, changing and transforming my heart and life.

**Wild Goose Living** is about **listening** and **aligning** my life to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

*But* ***you will receive power when the Holy Spirit*** *has come upon you, and* ***you will be my witnesses*** *in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

*But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And* ***you also will bear witness****, because you have been with me from the beginning.* John 15:26–27

There is something about being in the presence of God, being still and listening to the Holy Spirit, that allows us with greater confidence to surrender to the pursuit of the Holy Spirit.

There are many ways we can hear the Holy Spirit and practices that can help us hear more clearly:

* Spending time reading and studying the Bible
* Memorizing scripture
* Seeking wise counsel
* But, I think that one of the best practices is simply being still with the Holy Spirit and practicing **listening prayer.**

**Listening Prayer** – Gail Edmonson, Spiritual Director

(Be Still invitation and sign-up slide with QR)