“The Mystery of the Sovereign Spirit”

*John 3:8*

Sermon Outline

Big Idea—*The new birth is the sovereign, mysterious, and irresistible work of God’s Holy Spirit.*

**Introduction: Think or Cover Your Mouth?**

Key References—John 6:60; 2 Peter 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:7; Job 40:4; 42:2–6; Deuteronomy 29:29; Psalm 119:105

**The Spirit and Regeneration**

*1. The Spirit is sovereign in regeneration.* (Key References—John 1:13; 5:21; 6:63)

*2. The Spirit’s life-giving work is mysterious yet discernable.* (Key References—1 John 3:9–10a; 4:7; 5:1)

*3. The Spirit’s life-giving work is effectual and irresistible.* (Key References—John 6:44, 65; 10:16)

**Responsible and Unable—***How can God be good and just when he holds people responsible for what they cannot do?*

*1. The question exposes a lack in us and not in God.* (Key Reference—Romans 9:20–21)

*2. God did not create our sinful inability.* (Key References—Genesis 1:27; 2:25)

*3. Our inability is moral and not natural.* (Key References—John 3:19; 1 Corinthians 1:23)

*4. Our inability testifies to the depths of our sinfulness, not to any deficiency in God’s goodness.*

*5. Recognizing the impossible depths of our sin ought to reveal the wondrous heights of God’s glorious love and grace at the same time seeing his wrath and judgment against sin ought to show the heights of his goodness and justice.* (Key Reference—Romans 11:33)

*6. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and neither should we.* (Key References—Ezekiel 33:11; John 3:16)

**Conclusion: God’s Praise and Your Peace**

*1. God receives all the praise for your salvation.* (Key Reference—Ephesians 1:6)

*2. You receive greater peace in your salvation.* (Key Reference—Matthew 19:25–26; Psalm 121:5–8)