

MILILANI COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES
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February 2004

LESSON 7: THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part 1): HIS PERSON AND WORK

Memorize I Corinthians 3:16: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (NIV)

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity (read: Matthew 28:19). He is equal in every way with God the Father and God the Son. He vitally affects our lives as Christians. In fact, His presence or absence in a person's life makes the difference between life and death spiritually. The very moment you trusted Christ as your Savior, that moment the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, came to live in your life. In other words, God Himself came to live in you! (Read I Cor. 6:19-20) It is the Holy Spirit who is responsible for our birth into the family of God (John 3:1-8). Men are spiritually dead until they are born of the Spirit.

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. The Holy Spirit is a PERSON, not a force or influence

Because the Holy Spirit assumed no bodily form we tend to conceive of Him as an intangible, impersonal force or influence emanating from God. But He is a real Divine Person who can be known, loved and worshipped, not an ethereal influence or intangible power.

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a person (never "it") in the Upper Room Discourse (John 14-16). According to Greek grammar, a neuter noun should be followed by a neuter pronoun. But contrary to these grammatical rules, whenever Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit, the neuter word "Spirit" is followed by a masculine pronoun. See: John 15:26; John 16:7-8; John 16:13-14.

State what each passage below reveals about the Holy Spirit that would distinguish Him from a force or influence.

John 14:26

John 16:13

Romans 8:16

Romans 8:14

Genesis 6:3

Acts 8:29

Acts 13:2

Acts 5:3

Acts 7:51

Ephesians 4:30

Matthew 12:31

B. The Holy Spirit is GOD

1. The Holy Spirit is called God – Acts 5:3,4

Acts 5:1-4 tells the story of how Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit.

What is the Holy Spirit called in this passage? _____

2. The Holy Spirit possesses divine attributes

He is _____ – Hebrews 9:14

He is _____ – Luke 1:35

He is _____ – Psalm 139:7

3. The work of God is ascribed to Him – Genesis 1:2

4. The Holy Spirit is associated on an equal basis with the Father and the Son

Matthew 28:19

II Corinthians 13:14

The unity of God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is so great that Paul can declare with equal truth:

- I Corinthians 6:19 - "*...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit*"
- I Corinthians 3:16 - "*...you are a temple of God*"
- Colossians 1:27 - "*...Christ in you, the hope of glory.*"

The attitude men have toward one member of the Trinity determines their attitude toward the other

- If we reject Christ we are resisting the Holy Spirit
- If we accept Christ we receive the Holy Spirit
- If we yield to Christ we are used by the Holy Spirit

5. Passages in the New Testament attribute directly to the Holy Spirit words or acts that in the Old Testament were attributed to Yahweh

Exodus 17:2-7 – “why do you test the LORD?” Hebrews 3:7-9 – “The Holy Spirit says, they tested me..”

Isaiah 6:8-10 - “The LORD said...”; Acts 28:25-27 – “The Holy Spirit said...”

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:15-17

“If we think of the Holy Spirit, as so many do, as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, “How can I get more of the Holy Spirit.” But if we think of Him in the biblical way as a divine person, our thought will rather be “How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?”

“The conception of the Holy Spirit as a divine influence or power that we are somehow to get hold of and use leads to self-exaltation and self-sufficiency. One who so thinks of the Holy Spirit and at the same time imagines that he has received the Holy Spirit almost inevitably will be full of spiritual pride and strut about as if he belonged to some superior order of Christians. One frequently hears such persons say, “I am a Holy Ghost man,” or “I am a Holy Ghost woman.”

“But if we once grasp the thought that the Holy Spirit is a divine person of infinite majesty, glory, holiness, and power, who in marvelous condescension has come into our hearts to make His abode there and take possession of our lives and make use of them, it will put us in the dust and keep us in the dust. I can think of no thought more humbling or more overwhelming than the thought that a Person of divine majesty and glory dwells in my heart and is ready to use even me!”

R. A. Torrey in The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, p. 10.

II. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. His Part in Creation

Isaiah 40:12-14

Genesis 1:2

B. His Part in Revelation

II Peter 1:21 (see also II Samuel 23:2; Micah 3:8)

Matthew 22:43

Acts 1:16

Acts 4:25

C. His Relation to Man in the Old Testament

Since the Day of Pentecost, all believers are permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 4:30). But in the Old Testament times not all believers were indwelt by the Holy Spirit and there was no guarantee of the permanent presence of the Holy Spirit. There was selective (though not necessarily permanent) indwelling.

- Samson - Judges 13:25; 16:20
- Saul - I Samuel 10:10; 16:14
- David - Psalm 51:11 (See Ephesians 4:30)

III. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

A. In the Virgin Birth of Christ - Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:20

B. In the Life of Christ

1. Christ was anointed by the Spirit - Luke 4:18
2. Christ was filled and led by the Spirit - Luke 4:1
3. Christ was empowered by the Spirit to do miracles - Mt. 12:28

IV. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SALVATION

A. CONVICTING - John 16:5-11

"The convicting work of the Spirit is the placing of the truth of the gospel in a clear light before the unsaved person so he acknowledges it as truth whether or not he receives Christ as personal Savior." (Charles Ryrie)

1. He convicts the world of sin...."because they believe not on *me*"
2. He convicts the world of righteousness...
3. He convicts the world of judgment....

The order of the Spirit's work of conviction is a logical one. Man needs first to see his state of sin, then he needs to have proof of the righteousness of the Savior who can save him from that sin, and finally he needs to be reminded that if he refuses to receive the Savior he will face certain judgment and condemnation.

B. REGENERATING – John 3; Titus 3:5

1. Definition: The act of God whereby He implants a new nature within the believer. It is God's recreative act.
2. Need: Dead in sins
3. Nature: An instantaneous act
 - Man is passive
 - A sovereign work of the Holy Spirit – John 3:8
4. Purpose: To create a **new nature**, a new capacity that can share with God.
5. Result: A new man, a new creation – Ephesians 4:23,24
 - Partakers of the divine nature – II Peter 1:4
 - Quickened to new life – Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13
6. Relation to faith: "We repent and believe because we have been regenerated" (John Murray Redemption Accomplished and Applied, 106).

C. INDWELLING – John 14:16-17; I Corinthians 6:19

1. Definition: Personal dwelling of God the Holy Spirit within the believer. It begins at the time of faith and continues forever.
2. Nature: Not experienced, but the basis of all experience.
 - Eternal – not repeated – Romans 5:5
 - not repealed – John 14:16
3. Extent: All Christians – Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 2:12; 3:16
4. Purpose: **New presence** – the "paraclete" – John 14:16
5. Result: Guarantee of future blessing – II Cor. 1:22
 - Holiness of life – I Cor. 6:19-20
 - Fellowship with the Helper – John 14:16; 15:26,27

D. BAPTIZING – I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3-4

1. Definition: Act of God the Holy Spirit whereby He places us into Christ and thus into His body, the Church
2. Nature: Not repeated, not experienced – Rom. 6:4,10
 - Identifying – in Christ
 - United – organic union

3. Extent: All Christians – I Cor. 12:13

Note: There are no exhortations in the NT for believers to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit because it occurs at conversion. It is not a post-conversion experience as some have taught (see Wayne Grudem Systematic Theology, Chapter 39 "Baptism in and Filling With the Holy Spirit" for a complete discussion of this important doctrine. See also John Stott, Baptism and Fullness: The Work of the Holy Spirit Today)

4. Purpose: **New position** – in Christ
5. Result: Union with Christ – Romans 6:4-5

United to the body of Christ – I Cor. 12:13

New responsibilities – Eph. 4:16

E. SEALING – Ephesians 4:30

1. Definition: The presence of the Holy Spirit as a sign of a valid applied redemption
2. Nature: Presence of the Person of the Holy Spirit
3. Extent: All Christians – II Cor. 1:22
4. Purpose: **New destiny** – Eph. 4:30
5. Result: Sign of valid purchase

Ownership

Security

Assurance

The Holy Spirit is the "earnest" (guarantee) of our inheritance.

If businessmen make a transaction, they want some guarantee. Suppose for example you were buying a house. You would have to make a down-payment before you could buy the house. This down-payment or guarantee that the rest of the money would be paid is called the "earnest." The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that the Lord will do all for us that He has promised.

How does this make you personally feel about your salvation?