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# THE HOLY SPIRIT (101)

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## Questions:

- 1) How many names does the Holy Spirit have?
- 2) What is the Holy Spirit?
- 3) How many "Gods" do we believe in?
- 4) What five things was the Spirit sent to do?
- 5) How does the Holy Spirit influence men today?
- 6) When a man cuts down a tree, how does he do it?
- 7) What man tried to curse, but couldn't?
- 8) Why are some people never converted and why are some Christians never very strong?

## INTRODUCTION

### Genesis 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.

Here is the first reference to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is greatly misunderstood today. This study is a very basic presentation of the Spirit's person and work.

## THE NAMES OF THE SPIRIT

There are 52 different names given for the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures:

- 13 peculiar to the OT
- 34 peculiar to the NT
- 5 names are common to both testaments

Some of the more prominent names given in the Bible include:

- Holy Spirit
- Holy Ghost (KJV)
- Spirit of God
- Spirit of Christ
- Spirit of the Lord
- Spirit of Jesus
- Spirit of Truth
- Spirit of Grace
- Spirit of Glory
- The Comforter

These different names are used to describe the different functions which the Holy Spirit performs.

## **THE PERSON OF THE SPIRIT**

**Q:** What is the Holy Spirit – a person or a thing?

Young preacher: "I don't know; I never got that deep into it." If he didn't know, perhaps others don't know.

The Holy Spirit is a person:

- Not an inanimate object
- Not an impersonal force, or power
- Not a "thing"

### **1) The Holy Spirit is a Person.**

**The Holy Spirit performs actions which only a person can do:**

**John 16:13**

<sup>13</sup> "However, when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has **come**, He will **guide** you into all truth; for He will not **speak** on His own authority, but whatever He **hears** He will **speak**; and He will **tell** you things to come.

"He"  
Comes  
Guides  
Speaks  
Hears  
Tells things

**The Holy Spirit has KNOWLEDGE like a person:**

**1 Corinthians 2:11**

<sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one **knows** the things of God except the Spirit of God.

**The Holy Spirit has VOLITION (power to make decisions):**

**1 Corinthians 12:11**

<sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He **wills**.

**He has the power to LOVE:**

**Romans 15:30**

<sup>30</sup> Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the **love** of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

## He can be GRIEVED:

### **Ephesians 4:30**

<sup>30</sup> And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God ...

## He can be LIED TO:

### **Acts 5:3**

<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** ...

Not only is the Holy Spirit a person, but:

## **2) The Holy Spirit is a *DIVINE* Person.**

He is said to have the same attributes which God Himself has.

- He is "**eternal**" like God (Heb 9:14).
- He is **omniscient** ("all knowing") like God (1 Cor 2:11).
- He is **omnipresent** ("everywhere present") like God:

### **Psalms 139:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> **Where can I go from Your Spirit?**

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning,

And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me,

And Your right hand shall hold me.

Again:

### **John 14:16**

<sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever —

ἄλλός – "another of the same kind"

ἕτερός - "another of a different kind"

Jn 14:16 uses ἄλλός.

- Jesus was divine (Jn 1:1).
- The Holy Spirit is "another of the same kind" of person Jesus was (Jn 14:16)
- Therefore, the Spirit is a divine person.

## **SUMMARY**

The Holy Spirit is truly a divine person and member of the Godhead.

### **Matthew 28:19**

<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

### **2 Corinthians 13:14**

<sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

These three divine beings make up the **one God** of the Bible.

**NOTE:** Some accuse us of believing in 3 gods. NO. We believe in one God which is composed of three Beings.

**ILL:** When a man and woman marry, they are called "one flesh" (Mt 19:6). Even though they are "one flesh," they remain two separate persons.

The **husband has more authority** than the wife (Eph 5:23).

Just because the husband has more authority than the wife, **he is not "more human" than the wife.** They are equally human.

Likewise:

- The Father has more authority than the Son (1 Cor 11:3).
- The Son has more authority than the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16).
- But the Father is not "more divine" than either the Son or the Spirit. They are equally divine.

<b>One God</b>	<b>One Flesh</b>
Father Son Holy Spirit	Husband Wife

## **"DISPENSATIONS" OF THE GODHEAD**

Each member of the Godhead had a time in history when He was dominant in interacting with men:

### **1) GOD THE FATHER**

His "dispensation" was from the creation until Jesus came to the earth. He was the predominate member of the Godhead.

**NOTE:** Jesus and the Holy Spirit were both busy doing things during this time, but the Father was the predominate One.

During this time God dealt with men thru angels and other agents:

### **Hebrews 1:1**

<sup>1</sup> **God**, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

## **2) JESUS THE SON**

His "dispensation" began with His birth of Mary and ended with His resurrection and ascension.

### **Hebrews 1:2**

<sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by **His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

This was a much shorter time than the Father's dispensation, but was every bit as significant!

## **3) THE HOLY SPIRIT**

His "dispensation" began after Jesus ascended back into heaven.

### **John 16:7**

<sup>7</sup> "Nevertheless 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 depart, I will send Him to you.

**NOTE:** God the Father and Jesus the Son are still doing things. They are still active, but the Spirit is the predominate member of the Godhead dealing with men today.

## **"FUNCTIONS" OF THE GODHEAD**

Each member of the Godhead had a distinct function in man's salvation:

### **1) FATHER - *devised the plan of saving man.***

**ARGUMENT:** "I don't want to be saved by a "plan." I want to be saved by the MAN."

**R:** Listen ... no one is going to be saved by accident. If anyone is ever saved, it will be because it was planned.

Being saved by the "Man" involves the "plan" of God.

## **2) SON - enacted the plan.**

## **3) SPIRIT - revealed the plan.**

The plan would have done no good if the Spirit had not revealed how the plan worked.

### **THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT**

This brings up our next point: What work was the Holy Spirit sent to do? (5 things)

## **1) He was to REVEAL the word of God.**

### **John 14:26**

<sup>26</sup> "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

The apostles needed this.

**ILL:** I walk into a store and forget why I'm there.



### **John 16:13**

<sup>13</sup> "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide you** into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

## **2) He was to CONFIRM the word of God.**

The message of the gospel was a new message that needed to be confirmed / verified.

### **Hebrews 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be **spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us** by those who heard Him,

<sup>4</sup> **God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit,** according to His own will?

The miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to confirm the word.

### **Mark 16:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

<sup>18</sup> "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

<sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

<sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and **confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen.

## **3) The Spirit would MAGNIFY JESUS.**

### **John 15:26**

<sup>26</sup> "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**

### **John 16:14**

<sup>14</sup> "**He will glorify Me,** for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

#### 4) **The Spirit would CONVICT the world.**

##### **John 16:8**

<sup>8</sup> "And when He has come, He will **convict the world** of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

#### 5) **The Spirit would CONVERT men to Christ.**

##### **John 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and **the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

##### **Titus 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us**, through the washing of regeneration and **renewing of the Holy Spirit**,

### **THE MODE AND MEDIUM**

**Q: How would the Spirit accomplish these last three items?**

The question is not **IF** the Spirit is active, but **HOW** does He accomplish His work?

- HOW will He **magnify** Christ?
- HOW will He **convict** the world?
- HOW will He **convert** men?

Some people read passages about the Spirit helping us and guiding us, and doing all kinds of things for us as if I didn't believe it. I admit all of this. I agree with every passage that is read.

The question is: **How does He do this work?**

- Would He do these things **miraculously** – **without any instrument** – by **directly** touching a sinner's heart?

- OR, would He use **an instrument** – **indirectly** thru an intermediate agent?

**Many** opt for the first choice. They say that the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven and directly touches the hearts of men and produces within them a changed heart.

**The Bible** teaches the Spirit accomplishes His work thru an instrument – ***the written word*** which He revealed, inspired, and confirmed true!

- He **glorifies Christ**
- **Convicts men of sin**
- And **converts men** thru the agency of His written word.

**ILL:** *Man chops down tree with ax.* The ax is the instrument used by the man to affect the tree.

Would anyone say the man did not really cut down the tree because he used an instrument?

### **Ephesians 6:17**

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Here the Spirit is said to have a sword – the word of God! The written word is the instrument used by the Spirit.

## **DIRECT Vs. INDIRECT**

**READ CAREFULLY:** *Anytime the Holy Spirit influences a man* He does so by the instrumentality of the written word. He never works directly upon saint, or sinner, to convert or to sanctify, but always thru the instrument of the word.

**NOTE:** If the Spirit were operating *upon the hearts of men* directly and miraculously everyone would be converted and everyone would be equally spiritual!

The direct power of the Holy Spirit cannot be resisted by man!

**ILL:** Balaam thought he could resist the miraculous powers of the Spirit, but every time he attempted to curse Israel, he ended up blessing them (Num 24:1-2).

By contrast, the influence of the Spirit's **word** can be resisted and ignored (Acts 7:51-52).

- Men can refuse to listen to the word.
- Men can refuse to obey the word.

Since the Spirit influences men by means of His written word:

- It is understandable why **some men are not converted!** Because they reject and ignore the written word!
- It is understandable why **some Christians are not spiritual!** Because they reject and ignore the written word!

## **THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD**

Now, to drive home the point that the Spirit operates ***upon the hearts of men*** only by means of His instrument (the word) let us notice:

**NOTE:** Every influence exerted by the Holy Spirit ***upon the hearts of men*** is always said to be done by the written word!

**Q:** What might the Spirit do for men and how does He do it?

### **1) Convert → thru the word**

#### **Psalms 19:7**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, **converting** the soul;  
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

## 2) Enlighten

### **Psalms 19:8**

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening** the eyes;

## 3) Give life

### **Psalms 119:50**

<sup>50</sup> This is my comfort in my affliction,  
For Your word has **given me life**.

## 4) Lead

### **Psalms 119:105**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a **lamp to my feet**  
And a **light to my path**.

## 5) Give understanding

### **Psalms 119:130**

<sup>130</sup> The entrance of Your words gives light;  
It gives **understanding** to the simple.

## 6) Make spiritual

### **John 6:63**

<sup>63</sup> "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit**, and they are life.

## 7) Cleanse

### **John 15:3**

<sup>3</sup> "You are already **clean** because of the word which I have spoken to you.

## 8) Sanctify

### **John 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

## 9) **Strengthen**

### **Acts 20:32**

<sup>32</sup> "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to **build you up** and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

## 10) **Make free from sin**

### **Romans 6:17-18** (KJV)

<sup>17</sup> But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart **that form of doctrine** which was delivered you.

<sup>18</sup> Being then **made free from sin**, ye became the servants of righteousness.

## 11) **Give faith**

### **Romans 10:17**

<sup>17</sup> So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

## 12) **Fill**

### **Ephesians 5:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit**,

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

### **Colossians 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> **Let the word of Christ dwell in you** richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

### 13) Produce fruit

#### **Colossians 1:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before **in the word** of the truth of the gospel,

<sup>6</sup> which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and **is bringing forth fruit**, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

### 14) Work

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively **works in you** who believe.

### 15) Comfort

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:18**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.

### 16) Wisdom

#### **2 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to **make you wise** for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

### 17) Beget

#### **James 1:18** (KJV)

<sup>18</sup> Of his own will **begat he us** with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

## 18) Save

### **James 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to **save your souls**.

## 19) Purify

### **1 Peter 1:22**

<sup>22</sup> Since you have **purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

## 20) New birth

### **1 Peter 1:23**

<sup>23</sup> having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

## 21) Growth

### **1 Peter 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may **grow** thereby,

## 22) All things for life and godliness

### **2 Peter 1:3** (KJV)

<sup>3</sup> According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

## 23) Divine nature

### **2 Peter 1:4** (KJV)

<sup>4</sup> Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.



## 24) Bear witness

### **Hebrews 10:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> But the Holy Spirit also **witnesses to us**; for after He had said before,

<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

<sup>17</sup> then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Every influence exerted by the Holy Spirit *upon the hearts of men* is always said to be done by the written word!

### **"MAKES INTERCESSION"**

**ARGUMENT:** The Spirit "*makes intercessions*" for us in heaven (Rom 8:26) and the word doesn't do this.

**R:** If you will read the passage closely, this is something the Spirit does *for us*, not *to us*.

### **Romans 8:26**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

This is an influence of the Spirit upon the Father, not an influence of the Spirit upon man!

The point still remains: Every influence exerted by the Spirit *upon the hearts of men* is always said to be done by the written word!

## CONCLUSION

Today the word of God is being assaulted from every side.

- On one hand, there are non-religious people who say the word of God is simply an old collection of fables and fairy tales.
- On the other hand, there are religious people who reject the word saying, "It's just a book – ink and paper."

When men reject the word of God they are at the same time rejecting their only source of hope!

The Spirit operates upon the hearts of all men only and exclusively thru His written word.

**NOTE:** It is not a question of *IF* the Spirit works in our lives, but *HOW* does He do it?

If you want the Spirit to be operative within your life:

### **1) You must "give attention to reading"**

#### **1 Timothy 4:13**

<sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

### **2) You must "do" what the word instructs**

#### **James 1:22**

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.