

THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. There Is A Great Deal Of Misunderstanding Concerning The Godhead: *The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit.*

1. Many have thought of Christ as having His beginning at the time He was born of Mary, when in reality, He has always been.
 - a. *John 1:1-3, 14.*
 - b. *John 8:56-58.*
 - c. *Colossians 1:16-17.*
2. Likewise, many have thought of the Holy Spirit as having His beginning on the day of Pentecost, whereas He, too, has always been.
 - a. *Genesis 1:2 - Holy Spirit moving on the face of the water.*
 - b. *Genesis 1:26 - "Let us..." i.e. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
 - c. The New Testament begins with the Holy Spirit begetting Jesus (*Matt. 1:20*), and closes with the Spirit and Bride saying come... (*Rev. 22:17*)
3. The Holy Spirit occupies a prominent place in both the Old and New Testaments.

B. The Study Of The Holy Spirit Has Been Neglected.

1. During the eighteenth century, there was an emphasis on the study of God the Father, as to His nature, relation to the universe, power, wisdom, love, mercy, etc.
2. The nineteenth century was a period when more was studied about Christ as Savior, relation between the Father and Son, the incarnation, etc.

3. The twentieth century has seen more interest in the study of the Holy Spirit, but much of the study has been from tradition and opinions of men (subjectivism) rather than from a careful study of what the Bible has to say.

II. AIM.

- A. To Consider Passages From The Word Of God That Will Help Us To Better Understand That The Holy Spirit Is A Member Of The Godhead.
- B. To See What The Word Of God Describes As The Function Of The Holy Spirit In The Lives Of Christians Today.

III. OUTLINE.

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S RELATION TO THE GODHEAD.

1. Paul refers to the Godhead in various places in the New Testament.
 - a. "...the Godhead is not like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." (*Acts 17:29*)
 - b. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." (*Col. 2:9*)
 - c. "...even his eternal power and Godhead; ..." (*Rom. 1:20*)
2. The Holy Spirit is one within the Godhead.
 - a. Jesus, in identifying the comforter as the Holy Spirit, identifies Him as a member of the Godhead. "But when the comforter... whom I will send...from the Father, even the Spirit of truth..." (*John 15:26*)
 - b. The Spirit is identified with the Godhead at the baptism of Jesus, when both Matthew and Mark give the record of Jesus on earth, the Father in heaven and the Spirit descending from heaven to Jesus. (*Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:9-11*)
 - c. The Holy Spirit is linked with the Godhead every time one is baptized into "...the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..." (*Matt. 28:19*)

- d. The Holy Spirit is identified with God when Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit (*Acts 5:3*), and in doing so, he lied to God. (*Acts 5:4*)

3. The nature of the Holy Spirit.

- a. The fact that the Holy Spirit is identified with the Father and Son, suggests the nature of Deity.

- b. Thus in inquiring concerning the Holy Spirit, the question must always be WHO, rather than WHAT, is the Holy Spirit.

- 1) The person of the Holy Spirit is indicated in the promise of Jesus: "... when He, the Spirit...is come..." (*John 16:13*)

- 2) From the above promise, we observe that the Holy Spirit is not a mere intangible force or influence of a kind; not a glorified "IT," but is rather a personal pronoun, masculine gender, singular number.

- c. Some passages of scripture reflect that the Holy Spirit has personality.

- 1) The Holy Spirit performs intelligent actions:

- a) He instructed the minds of the apostles. (*John 14:26*)

- b) He guided the apostles into all truth by speaking. (*John 16:15; 1 Tim. 4:1*)

- c) He hears. (*John 16:13*)

- d) He has a mind and makes intercessions for the saints according to the will of God. (*Rom. 8:26-27*)

- e) He searched the mind of God and revealed that mind to the apostles in words. (*1 Cor. 2:10-13*)

- f) He revealed the mind of God to the apostles, and thus to us through the written word. (*Eph. 3:5*)

- g) He has power of volition or will as

seen in distributing the various gifts "...as he determines."
(1 Cor. 12:11 N.I.V.)

2) Emotional and ethical attributes of the Holy Spirit:

- a) He can be grieved. (*Eph. 4:30*)
- b) He can be lied to. (*Acts 5:3*)
- c) He can be resisted when His message is ignored or resisted. (*Acts 7:51-52*)
- d) He loves. (*Rom. 15:30*)
- e) He can be despised, insulted or outraged. (*Heb. 10:29*)

B. THE WORD OF GOD DESCRIBES THE FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS TODAY.

1. Some things which the Holy Spirit does for Christians today:

- a. He gives us strength and help for Christian living. (*Eph. 3:16*)
- b. He helps us with our prayers. (*Rom. 8:26-27*)
- c. He helps to produce good fruits in our lives. (*Gal. 5:22-23*)
- d. The fact that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, gives us incentives to live pure lives. (*1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 4:30; Gal. 5:16*)
- e. He gives us the guarantee of our inheritance until we possess it. (*Eph. 1:13-14*)

2. How does the Spirit accomplish these things for us today?

- a. Some mistakenly attribute the power of the Holy Spirit to some sort of subjectivism.
 - 1) Some sort of mysterious feeling of well-being, or the opposite of anxiety.
 - 2) Some emotional excitement or hysteria.

- b. We know what the New Testament teaches about the Holy Spirit and can know nothing more. This involves some mystery (in the sense that we do not understand all there is to know about the Spirit), but it also involves faith.

NOTE: We may not understand electricity, nor how it works, but that does not keep us from using it every day.

- 1) The Bible reveals to us that when one believes (puts his trust) in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized into Christ, he receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 2:38; 5:32*)
- 2) This does not mean that we can perform miracles, nor does it mean that we are going to physically feel His presence.
- 3) Our human spirit has inhabited our bodies all of our lives, yet we have never felt it physically, but we see evidences of it in many ways. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. (*John 3:8*)
- 4) It does mean that the Spirit does for us all that is promised by the Word of God.

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. Although There Is Much Misunderstanding About The Holy Spirit Today, There Is Much We Can Know About Him Through The Study Of His Word.
- B. We Must Be Careful To Be Sure That What We Believe And Teach About The Holy Spirit Is That Which Is *Revealed* In His Word, And Not Something Which We Mistakenly Attribute To Him From Our Own Feelings.