

Core Class: Biblical Doctrines: THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The Holy Spirit is a personal being just as God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal "it" or simply an influence, He is the third person of the Trinity. A major point of confusion about the Holy Spirit concerns the differences between **His activity in the Old Testament, and His work in the New Testament and in the lives of Christians today.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT

🌍 THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

- He has intelligence (1 Corinthians 2:10-11). "these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."
- He has emotions (Ephesians 4:30). "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
- He knows the will and mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:11).

🌍 THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTS IN PERSONAL WAYS.

- He teaches us (John 14:26). "But the Advocate (Paraclete/Helper), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."
- He commands (Acts 8:29). "The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." -- Mission
- He intercedes for us in prayer (Romans 8:26). "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

🌍 THE GRAMMAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PERSONAL.

- The Greek word for Spirit (pneuma) is neuter in gender, yet the Bible uses masculine pronouns ("He," "Him") to refer to the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13-14) (John 15:26) and (John 16:7-8)

🌍 THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES. (Only God has them.)

- Self-existence (Romans 8:2) "because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."
- Omnipresence (Psalms 139:7) "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?"

🌍 THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS INCOMMUNICABLE WORKS. (Only God can do them.)

- Creation (Genesis 1:2) "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."
- Resurrection (Romans 8:11) "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^{al} his Spirit who lives in you."

🌍 THE HOLY SPIRIT IS EQUATED WITH DEITY.

- A lie to Spirit equals a lie to God (Acts 5:3-4) "Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ... You have not lied just to human beings but to God."
- "The Lord is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^{al} the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

THE HOLY SPIRIT: ACTIVITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

✚ HE TOOK PART IN CREATION

- **Genesis 1:2.** “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”
- **Job 33:4.** “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”
- **Psalms 104:30.** “When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.”

✚ HE GUIDED AND PROTECTED ISRAEL

- **Isaiah 63:10-14.** “Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. Then his people recalled^[a] the days of old, the days of Moses and his people—where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses’ right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name.”

✚ HE SPOKE THROUGH PROPHETS TO PRODUCE SCRIPTURE

- **1 Peter 1:11.** “trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.”
- **2 Peter 1:20-21.** “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

✚ HE SELECTIVELY AND CONDITIONALLY INDWELT CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Holy Spirit’s indwelling was specifically related to enabling someone to do a particular task.

- **Joseph** - Genesis 41:38. “So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”
- **Joshua** - Numbers 27:18. “So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership,^[a] and lay your hand on him.”
- **Saul** - 1 Sam. 10:9-10. “As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying.”
- **David** - 1 Samuel 16:13. “So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

✚ HE COULD ALSO CEASE TO INDWELL A PERSON BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE.

- The Spirit left Saul (1 Samuel 16:14). “Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.”
- When David sinned, he pleaded for the Spirit to not be taken from him (Psalms 51:11). “Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”

THE HOLY SPIRIT: WORK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE CHURCH & CHRISTIAN LIFE

✚ THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS THE EMPOWERING AGENT IN CHRIST’S EARTHLY LIFE.

- He was the Agent of Christ’s virgin birth (Luke 1:35) “The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”
- He empowered Christ’s ministry (Matthew 12:28) “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

(Luke 4:1 & 18) "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness," "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,"

- He was the Agent of Christ's resurrection (Romans 1:4). "and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 8:11). "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."

🌍 **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CENTRAL IN SALVATION.**

- He directs and enables evangelistic efforts - (Phillip- Acts 8:26 & 29). Great Commission - (Acts 1:8). "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- He convicts the people of sin (John 16:7-15).
- He regenerates the person. He cleanses the person from sin and gives them the new nature (Titus 3:5). "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,"
- He performs this spiritual "New Birth" the person enters "the kingdom of God" - Eternal life (John 3:3-7 & 16). "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
- He seals the person. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the "seal" or guarantee that a person is saved and will remain saved (Ephesians 1:13). "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,"
- He places the person into the body of Christ. It is the Spirit's work of uniting us with Christ spiritually identifying us with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5) It is the Spirit's work of incorporating us into the universal church the "body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

🌍 **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CENTRAL IN SANCTIFICATION.**

- He indwells believers. (Rom. 5:5 & 8:9) "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (1 Cor. 3:16 & 6:19), "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" unlike the Old Testament where the Spirit only indwelt some.
- He indwells believers permanently (John 14:16), "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—" unlike the Old Testament where the Spirit could depart.

🌍 **THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INDWELLING IS FOUNDATIONAL TO HIS OTHER MINISTRIES IN BELIEVER'S LIVES.**

- He teaches and illuminates Scripture - (John 16:13).
- He aids in prayer - (Romans 8:26).
- He assures us of our salvation - (Rom.8:16).
- He enables us to grow - (Ephesians 5:18).

🌍 **THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS BELIEVERS.**

- This controlling/empowering ministry of Spirit is the filling of the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18).
- The filling of the Spirit describes the crucial work of God enabling the believer to live a transformed life. The only way we grow spiritually is by the empowering work of God (Acts 13:52) "And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."
- It is specifically the ministry of the Holy Spirit that gives a Christian the capability of change and growth in righteousness (Romans 8:13) (Galatians 5:22-25). "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

🌈 **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CENTRAL TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND CONTROL.**

- We are either controlled by our self-centered flesh or by the Holy Spirit who indwells us (Romans 8:4-11) (Gal. 5:16-17). “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”
- We are told to “Walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16).
- He is the one who enables us to produce Godly fruit (Gal. 5:22- 23).

🌈 **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE GIVER OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO BELIEVERS.** (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

But it is also accurate to say that they are “Christ’s gifts” to the church (Ephesians 4:7-10).

- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
 1. Spiritual gifts accomplish spiritual ministry that God desires.
 2. Spiritual gifts equip others to minister, and to edify and build up the church (Ephesians 4:12).
 3. Spiritual gifts glorify God (1 Peter 4:11).

“If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”