

Series Title – What I Believe
Lesson Number 5

I Believe in the Holy Spirit (2)

Read: Acts 2:1–47; John 14:16–26

Text: John 14:17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Theme: The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead, who indwells every believer, and gives guidance and power when we walk in step with Him.

Introduction:

We have been discussing a little statement of faith that goes like this:

"I believe in the inspiration of the Bible, and in the deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son, in Whom we have salvation from sin by grace through faith. I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and gives guidance and power as we surrender to the Lordship of Christ. I believe that God has given to the church the responsibility to evangelize the world through the preaching of the gospel and personal soul winning. I will seek to live today so as to be ready to meet Him at His coming."

So far we've talked about several key components of what we believe:

- We believe in the inspiration of the Bible.
- We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit of God.

That last one was where we left off a few weeks back, and where we will pick up today.

I. Some FACTS about the person called "the Holy Spirit."

A. Definition – Who is the Holy Spirit?

QUOTE – Some notes from Easton's Bible Dictionary:

The third Person of the adorable Trinity.

1. His personality is proved
 - a. from the fact that the attributes of personality, as intelligence and volition, are ascribed to him # Joh 14:17,26 # Joh 15:26 1Co 2:10,11 12:11 He reproves, helps, glorifies, intercedes # Joh 16:7–13 Ro 8:26
 - b. He executes the offices peculiar only to a person. The very nature of these offices involves personal distinction # Lu 12:12 Ac 5:32 15:28 16:6 28:25 1Co 2:13 Heb 2:4 3:7 #2Pe 1:21
2. His divinity is established
 - a. From the fact that the names of God are ascribed to him # Ex 17:7 Ps 95:7 comp. # Heb 3:7–11
 - b. Divine attributes are also ascribed to him
 1. omnipresence # Ps 139:7 Eph 2:17,18 1Co 12:13
 2. omniscience #1Co 2:10,11
 3. omnipotence # Lu 1:35 Ro 8:11

- 4. eternity # Heb 9:14
- c. Creation is ascribed to him # Ge 1:2 Job 26:13 Ps 104:30 and the working of miracles # Mt 12:28 1Co 12:9-11
- d. Worship is required and ascribed to him # Isa 6:3 Ac 28:25 # Ro 9:1 Re 1:4 Mt 28:19

B. What is the BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit

QUESTION – Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit something that you need in order to be complete as a believer?

QUESTION – Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit a second blessing? In other words, is it something extra that you need to seek after salvation?

QUESTION – What do you need to do in order to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a HISTORICAL EVENT that took place at Pentecost. **QUOTE** (notes taken from lecture by Dr. Harry Carr – instructor at Midwestern Baptist College) "The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a subject which is totally misunderstood by a vast number of Christians today. It is an altogether different thing than the filling of the Spirit?, in that the Baptism is historic. It refers to the constitution of the Church at Pentecost. There are 7 (possibly 8) verses in the Bible referring to this event. Five are prophetic, one is historic, and two are didactic, or teaching passages. All point to Acts 2:1-3, which is the historic account of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Ghost descended at Pentecost, ushering in the Church age, he baptized all believers into the body of Christ."
2. John the Baptist mentioned it as being future:
Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost**, and [with] fire:
3. Jesus mentioned it as being in the very near future:
Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; **but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**
4. It occurred on Pentecost.
Acts 2:1-3 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."
5. Since then it is mentioned as being in the past, and as being an event which each individual takes part in through salvation.
1 Corinthians 12:13 For **by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and **have been** all made to drink into one Spirit.
6. NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE ARE WE COMMANDED TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (because it is automatic for the Christian.)

C. What is the FILLING of the Holy Spirit

QUESTION – Is this the same as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION – Is this something that every Christian should seek? In other words, is it something extra that we should pray for every day?

1. In our Bibles, this word filling simply means CONTROL.
2. Notice an example to demonstrate:

Acts 19:29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

3. And so, the filling of the Holy Spirit means to be totally controlled by, influenced by, under the sway of, the Holy Spirit. It is something we must seek daily.
4. We are commanded to be filled:
Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

D. What is the **INDWELLING** of the Holy Spirit

QUESTION – Is this the same as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or the filling of the Holy Spirit?

QUESTION – Is this something that every Christian should seek? In other words, is it something extra that we should pray for every day?

1. It is something every Christian already has:

John 14:17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

1 Corinthians 3:16 ¶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not **that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you,** which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2 Timothy 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee **keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.**

2. You don't need to pray for it, for you received the Holy Spirit when you got saved (or else you are not saved!)

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

- E. What is different about how the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament vs. how He works in the New Testament?

Numbers 24:2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding [in his tents] according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

1 Samuel 10:10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

2 Chronicles 15:1 ¶ And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

Judges 11:29 ¶ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over [unto] the children of Ammon.

Judges 14:19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Luke 2:25 ¶ And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: **and the Holy Ghost was upon him.**

II. Facts about our RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit.

1. What does He do for us?

1. He always points to Jesus Christ.
John 15:26 ¶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:**
2. He is our teacher.
Luke 12:12 For **the Holy Ghost shall teach you** in the same hour what ye ought to say.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but **which the Holy Ghost teacheth**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
3. He convicts of sin.
John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
4. COMFORTER / PARACLETE
John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that **he may abide with you for ever;**

John 15:26 ¶ But when the **Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

QUOTE (Jamiesson, Faucett, Brown) "he shall give you another Comforter—a word used only by John; in his Gospel with reference to the Holy Spirit, in his First Epistle (#1Jo 2:1), with reference to Christ Himself. Its proper sense is an "advocate," "patron," "helper." In this sense it is plainly meant of Christ (#1Jo 2:1), and in this sense it comprehends all the comfort as well as aid of the Spirit's work. The Spirit is here promised as One who would supply Christ's own place in His absence."

QUOTE (some thoughts from Strong's Greek Dictionary) "one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate," "in the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant"

5. He is the power of resurrection.
Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
6. He prays for us.
Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
7. He inspired the human authors of the Bible.
2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.
8. He invites you to Christ.
Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
9. He produces fruit in the life of every believer.
Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
10. He gives gifts to every believer.
READ 1 Cor. 12:1–11

2. What can we do to Him?

1. Blaspheme the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy [against] the [Holy] Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

QUESTION – What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Ghost?

ANSWER – Some say it means to "ascribe the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan." They get this from a very direct reading of Mark 3:22–30

ANSWER – I believe it is simpler than that, though. I believe from my studies that it is simply the complete rejection of what the Holy Spirit is screaming at you to accept – salvation through Jesus Christ. When you ignore the Holy Spirit in this manner, you blaspheme Him, and doom yourself to hell.

QUESTION – Can a Christian do this? Can a Christian commit the unforgiveable sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER – No. By definition, a Christian is one who has already accepted Christ, so how can he / she be guilty of NOT accepting Him?

2. Quench Him.
1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

ILLUS – Yesterday Beth and I worked on burning some brush in the back part of our property. This verse pictures the Holy Spirit as a fire, and warns us that we can treat the Holy Spirit like we would treat a fire. We can quench it? extinguish it? put it out, so to speak.

QUESTION – What are some ways we put out a fire? How might these methods of quenching a fire apply to our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER – Covering a fire with dirt is what I think is meant here. We can so fill our lives with dirt and filth that the influence of the Holy Spirit is diminished in our lives to the point of being extinguished.

3. Grieve Him.
Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

QUESTION – What does it mean to "grieve" the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER – (from Strong's) to make sorrowful 2) to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow 3) to grieve, offend

QUOTE – (From Barnes Notes) "the meaning here is, "do not pursue such a course as is fitted, in its own nature, to pain the benevolent heart of a holy being. Do not act towards the Holy Spirit in a manner which would produce pain in the bosom of a friend who loves you."

QUESTION – How might we grieve the Holy Spirit?

4. Walk in Him.
Galatians 5:16 [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

ILLUS – One Bible translation translates this passage "keep in step with the Spirit." This is a good picture of what our relationship ought to be with Him. Patterning our every step? our every thought? our every action? our every word? after what He is leading us to do. Picture a small child, following in daddy's footsteps, and you have a picture of "keeping in step with the Spirit" and "walking in the Spirit."

Conclusion:

I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and gives guidance and power as we surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

May God help us to be ever thankful for the presence of the Comforter, the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, His Holy Ghost, in our lives.

And may we seek ever to be filled with, controlled by, and walking in step with that wonderful Holy Spirit.

Please direct questions, comments, and submissions to William E. Johnson
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