
Seeking The Holy Spirit

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit – Part 2

Various Passages

As we once again examine the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, consider the words of Beecher:

OPERATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

“What is the doctrine of the Holy Spirit? It is the doctrine of the interworking of the Spirit of God upon the souls of men. I have no philosophy about it. All I say is this: God knows what is the secret way in which mind reaches mind; I do not; you do not. I do not know why words on my tongue wake up thoughts corresponding to those words in you. I do not know why the soul of man, like a complex instrument of wondrous scope, is played upon by my words, so that there are waked up in it notes along the whole scale of being. I do not understand why these things are so; but, unquestionably they are so. I do not know how the mother pours her affection on the child’s heart; but she does. Two stars never shone into each other as two loving souls shine into each other. I know it is so; but I do not know why it is so. I do not know how soul touches soul, how thought touches thought, or how feeling touches feeling; but I know it does.”¹

In the preface to his work on the Holy Spirit, J. I. Packer notes:

“THE HOLY Spirit of God, the Lord, the life giver, who hovered over the waters at creation and spoke in history by the prophets, was poured out on Jesus Christ’s disciples at Pentecost to fulfill the new Paraclete role that Jesus had defined for him. In his character as the second Paraclete, Jesus’ deputy and representative agent in men’s minds and hearts, the Spirit ministers today. Paraclete (parakētos in Greek) means “Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Strengtheners, Supporter.” Jesus, the original Paraclete, continues his ministry to mankind through the work of the second Paraclete. As Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, so in his Spirit; and in every age since Pentecost, wherever the gospel has gone, the Spirit has continued to do on a larger or smaller scale the things that Jesus promised he would do when sent in this new capacity.

It is well that he has! Had he ceased to do these things, the church would long ago have perished, for there would have been no Christians to compose it. The Christians’ life in all its aspects—intellectual and ethical, devotional and relational, upsurging in worship and outgoing in witness—is supernatural; only the Spirit can initiate and sustain it. So apart from him, not only will there be no lively believers and no lively congregations, there will be no believers and no congregations at all. But in fact the church continues to live and grow, for the Spirit’s ministry has not failed, nor ever will, with the passage of time.”²

This truth should be our motive for giving the Holy Spirit more attention than we normally do. And so ...

Last week we considered the accounts of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, the words of Christ and at Pentecost. This morning we will look at further information found in the balance of the New Testament and consider His place in our lives.

¹ Beecher, “*Operations of the Spirit*,” *Pearls From Many Seas*, The Master Christian Library, AGES Software, Albany, OR, Version 8.0 © 2000

² Packer, J. I., *Keep in Step With The Spirit*, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1984, p. 9.

As was noted last week, much of what will be covered is based on the work of Alan B. Stringfellow in volume 3 of the Through The Bible In One Year material.³ The study is certainly not intended to be comprehensive, but hopefully will encourage you to do some more study of this topic on your own.

Also as previously stated, there are aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit which are debated by different wings of Christianity. Generally these disagreements are over secondary issues and therefore are not related to issues of salvation. This being the case, it is appropriate to agree to disagree and not to behave as if those who hold views different from our own are either unbelievers or, at best, a sub-class of believers.

I INTRODUCTION

II THE NAMES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

III THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

Introduction: Much of what we find in the New Testament, beyond Acts, regarding the Holy Spirit are names and titles which in turn speak of His powers and functions. We will not be looking at all of them because of time limitations. Again, I hope this survey will encourage you to examine the subject more thoroughly on your own. There are a number of excellent works available by Sproul, J. I. Packer, John Walvoord and Harold Lindsell.

The Names of the Holy Spirit – 1. In relationship to the Father: The most familiar of course, found through out scripture is “The Spirit of God.” This is a triune name of course.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him” (Matthew 3:16).

“The Spirit of the Lord” – *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed” (Luke 4:18).*

“The Spirit of our God” – *“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).*

“The Spirit of the living God” – *“You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3).*

2. The Names of the Holy Spirit – In relationship to the Son: “The Spirit of Christ”

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9).

³Stringfellow, Alan B., “Great Truths of the Bible,” Through The Bible In One Year, Virgil W. Hensley, Inc., Publisher, Tulsa, OK, 1981.

“The Spirit of Jesus Christ” – “... *for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ*” (Philippians 1:19).

“Spirit of Jesus” – “*When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to*” (Acts 16:7).

- 3. Names of the Holy Spirit Expressing His Own Essential Deity:** Scripture make it quite clear the Holy Spirit is God and as we have seen part of the Trinity of God. He is sometimes called the “One Spirit”

“*There is one body and one Spirit*” (Ephesians 4:4).

“Seven Spirits” (the complete perfect Spirit) – “*John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,*” ... “*To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead*” (Revelation 1:4; 3:1).

“The Lord the Spirit” – “*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit*” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

“The Eternal Spirit” – “*How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God*” (Hebrews 9:14).

- 4. Names of the Holy Spirit Expressing the Gifts Which He Bestows:** “The Spirit of Life”

“... *because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*” ... “*But after the three and a half days the Spirit of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them*” (Romans 8:2; Revelation 11:11).

“The Spirit of Holiness” – “... *and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 1:4).

“The Spirit of Wisdom” – “*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better*” (Ephesians 1:17).

“The Spirit of Faith” – “*It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak*” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Other names and references include: “The Spirit of Truth.” (John 14:17; 16:13); “The Spirit of Grace,” (Hebrews 10:29); “The Spirit of Adoption,” (Romans 8:15); “The Spirit of Power, Love and Sound Mind,” (2 Timothy 1:7).

NECESSITY OF THE SPIRIT.

“What are our souls without His grace? As dead as the branch in which the sap circulates not. What is our Church without Him? As parched and barren as the fields without Heaven’s dew and rain. Where is the hope of the world’s conversion, or of the salvation of dearly loved ones, out of Christ? If the Spirit of God come not to our aid, our eyes may fail with looking for these much-valued blessings.

~ LEWIS⁴

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Church: First as we have noted in passing last week, the church is indwelt by the Holy Spirit as well as the individuals who make up the church. Stringfellow describes this as a *“Spiritual Organism.”*⁵

1. The work is tied to Christ’s promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Through this baptism the Spirit indwells us, creating the universal church or a *“unified spiritual organism.”*⁶ Christ is the head of this unified body.

“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ... “He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.” ... “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way” (Acts 1:5; Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 1:22-23).

2. We become part of this body at the time of salvation when we are baptized and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” ... “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13).

3. As a result of being baptized and sealed we also are able to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, i.e., “Walking in the Spirit,” –

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

“Renewing of the Spirit” – *“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).*

“Leading of the Spirit” – *“...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 8:14).*

“Indwelling of the Spirit” – *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever*

⁴ Lewis, *“Necessity of the Spirit,” Pearls From Many Seas*, The Master Christian Library, AGES Software, Albany, OR, Version 8.0 © 2000

⁵ Ibid., p. 64.

⁶ Ibid.

believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified” (John 7:37-39).

Conclusion: The examination of the Holy Spirit is a much needed topic, especially in more conservative churches where He isn't given sufficient attention. This, I suspect, is because of a fear of being seen as too charismatic.

The Holy Spirit is the one who both unifies the church and empowers it and us. We are not able to adequately carry out our mandate as believers without depending on and being filled by the Holy Spirit. Through Him, we can accomplish all God has called us to do, just as Christ did. Keeping all of this in mind, I would like to conclude with some thoughts of John Walvoord relating to the “Spirit filled life.”

*“ In exhorting the believer to walk by the Spirit, the concept is advanced that the Christian life can be accomplished only by the power of the Holy Spirit. Walking implies progress and direction. Each step is an incipient fall, as the body is supported by one limb and then the other. The verb “walk” in Galatians 5:16 is in the present tense and has the thought of “keep on walking,” or continuously walking by the Holy Spirit. The Greek for “by the Spirit” is the dative, **pneumati**, best translated as “by the Spirit While it is true that the believer is walking in the sphere of the Spirit, the thought is rather that it is by the Spirit’s enablement that the believer is able to accomplish the high standard of the Christian walk. As the life of a Christian unfolds step by step, each foot of progress must be marked by the sustaining power and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Learning to walk by the Spirit is realized when one walks in dependence on and is supported by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. ...*

Walking by the Spirit is only possible as the Christian is first of all yielded to the Spirit of God, and, second, is walking in unhindered fellowship with the Spirit through confession of sin. Walking by the Spirit, however, is a positive moment-by-moment dependence upon the Spirit of God and what the Spirit of God can empower the Christian to do. The walk by the Spirit includes dependence upon the Word of God as providing the necessary standards of life and instruction in holy living. As one walks by the Spirit, he must be guided by the Spirit of God. Many moral issues are not dealt with explicitly in the Scriptures, and the personal direction of an individual life into a proper sphere of service is only possible as the Spirit guides. Walking by the Spirit also implies dependence upon prayer, and spiritual power often is directly related to the prayer life of the believer. Walking by the Spirit is aided by fellowship with other believers who are also seeking the work of the Spirit in their lives. While the Spirit of God directly empowers, He also uses means in effecting in the individual life a perfect will of God.”⁷

*Come as a wisdom to children;
Come as new sight to the blind.
Come, Lord, as strength to my weakness;
Take me: soul, body and mind.*

*Come like a spring in the desert;
Come to the withered of soul.
O let Your sweet healing power
Touch me and make me whole.*

*Come as a rest to the weary;
Come as a balm for the sore.
Come as a dew to my dryness;
Fill me with joy ever more.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, I need You;
Come, sweet Spirit, I pray.
Come in Your strength and Your power;
Come in Your own gentle way.⁸*

⁷ Walvoord, John F., The Holy Spirit at Work Today, Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1973, p. 55-56, 61-62.

⁸ Gaither, Gloria and William J., “Come, Holy Spirit,” The Celebration Hymnal, Word Music, Waco, TX, 1997, #382.

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- I INTRODUCTION**
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A. Introduction:

B. The Names of the Holy Spirit – 1. In relationship to the Father:
(Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:3)

C. The Names of the Holy Spirit – In relationship to the Son:
(Romans 8:9; Philippians 1:19; Acts 16:7)

D. Names of the Holy Spirit Expressing His Own Essential Deity
(Ephesians 4:4; Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 9:14)

E. Names of the Holy Spirit Expressing the Gifts Which He Bestows:
(Romans 8:2; Revelation 11:11; Romans 1:4; Ephesians 1:17; 2 Corinthians 4:13)

F. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Church:

1. The work is tied to Christ's ...

(Acts 1:5; Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 1:22-23)

2. We become part of this body ...

(1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13).

3. Work of the Spirit ...

“Walking in the Spirit,” – *(Galatians 5:16)*

“Renewing of the Spirit” – *(Titus 3:5)*

“Leading of the Spirit” – *(Romans 8:14)*

“Indwelling of the Spirit” – *(John 7:37-39)*

G. Conclusion: