

# Holy Spirit You are welcome here!

If one would look around, they would see that there are issues in many churches today. There are many churches that are embracing secular ideas and practices. There are many churches that do not believe that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. Those churches see it only as a “guide book” that needs to change overtime as the culture changes and “evolves” (like many of the left see the constitution as a living document that requires repeated assault on its core elements). And, while about 75% of Americans say they are Christians, only about 30% of them “practice” their faith (going to church, reading the Bible and praying (but the test for this category was minimal, at best). These statistics come from a Barna Group report on “the state of the church 2016”. What I found interesting was the lack of analysis on what’s going on inside churches today, that is, what they believe or don’t believe.

There are many theories, statistics, plans, programs and books that attempt to figure out what’s wrong and how to fix it. There are even different opinions as to whether or not the Church needs any fixing!

The Bible seems to be the last book that is consulted. Pervasive throughout the Book are many great themes: Grace and Mercy, Sin and Salvation, Israel and the Nations. There is one other thing that is prevalent in the Scriptures: Prayer. And

there is one other Person seen throughout the Scriptures that is often neglected, often misunderstood and often feared: The Holy Spirit.

We are going to spend some time with the Spirit to get to know Him, Love Him, Honor and Worship Him as He deserves as the “third” person of the Godhead. And then later, we are going to spend time learning how to communicate with God the Holy Spirit, God the Son and God the Father.

This is a topical sermon. It is necessarily a broad brush because no one can discuss God, or any Person of the Godhead in any amount of time – it takes a lifetime to just scratch the surface if such a thing was possible. But our Gracious LORD has provided His Words to us, so we are going to be reading a lot of His Words today! Let these Scriptures sink deep into your hearts today. While they are provided to show us the Holy Spirit, they are more than that: they were inspired by very the One who we are learning about today.

**The Holy Spirit is a Person.** Not an essence, not a force, not an influence. None of these “things” can do anything real, anything beneficial and certainly anything God can do.

I love what RA Torrey wrote in his book on the Holy Spirit:

If we think of the Holy Spirit as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, “How can I get more of the Holy Spirit,” but if we think of Him in the Biblical way as a Divine Person, our thought will rather be, “How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?” The conception of the Holy Spirit as a Divine influence or power that we are somehow to get hold of and use, leads to self-exaltation and self-sufficiency.

**The Holy Spirit is a Person.** How do we know? How do we define personhood? Most would agree that a person can think, feel and act in a willful manner. Some might believe that the “force is with me” but that force has no way to think, feel or act. It’s just a deaf and mute idol!

**The Holy Spirit is a Person.** It’s not what He does that makes Him a person. It is Who He is.

So, let’s look at each of the attributes:

1. **intelligence** ([1 Cor 2:7-13](#))

- a. [1 Corinthians 2:7-13 NKJV \(7\)](#) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom*

which God ordained before the ages for our glory, (8) which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (9) But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." (10) But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (11) 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. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (13) These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

## 2. feelings

- a. [Ephesians 4:30 NKJV](#) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- b. [Isaiah 63:10 NKJV](#) But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, *And* He fought against them.

## 3. A will

- a. [1 Corinthians 12:11 NKJV](#) (11) But one and the same

Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one  
b. [Acts 16:6-7 NKJV](#) Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. (7) After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

And how does the Scriptures refer to the Holy Spirit. Just as we are referred to as He or She, the Scriptures also use the personal pronoun “He” when speaking of Him. Chuck Smith, in his book, Living Water, says that the New Testament refers to Him as “He” some 16 times. He explains that the Greek for Spirit is “pneuma” meaning “wind” or “breath” (the Hebrew word “Ruach” also means “Breath” or “Wind”). The word ‘pneuma’ has a neuter gender. However, the word “he” that is used to refer to the Holy Spirit is masculine gender (“echeinós”).

**The Holy Spirit is a Person.** As a Person, people have lied to him, resisted Him and blasphemed Him. Remember that couple that was written about in Acts?

[Acts 5:1-5 NKJV](#) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. (2) And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. (3) But Peter said, "**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart**

**to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? (4)** While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? **Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." (5)** Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

And Stephan, right before he was stoned said:

**Acts 7:51 NKJV** "*You* stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you.

Before I present what the Holy Spirit does, I'd like to take a moment to talk about His deity.

### **The Holy Spirit is God.**

When scholars and theologians studied the Scriptures about God they defined a number of Attributes that only God can possess:

1. Eternal – No beginning, No end
  - a. **Hebrews 9:14 NKJV** how much more shall the blood of Christ, **who through the eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

## 2. Omnipresent

- a. **Psalms 139:7-10 NKJV** **Where can I go from Your Spirit?** Or where can I flee from Your presence? (8) If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. (9) *If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, (10) Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

## 3. Omniscient – knows all things, past, present and future

- a. **1 Corinthians 2:10-11 NKJV** (10) **But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** (11) 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.

## 4. Omnipotent – all Powerful

- a. **Luke 1:34-35 NKJV** Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (35) And the angel answered and said to her, "***The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you***; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.
- b. **Acts 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- c. **Romans 15:13** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- d. **1Corinthians 2:4** And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

And the New Testament clearly teaches that the Persons of the Godhead are *“the same in substance and essence, and equal in power, eternity, and glory”*. (The Holy Spirit: A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit" by John F. Walvoord)

If I might use a weak human analogy: like husband and wife who are equal in personhood , they have different roles in their relationship so do the Persons of the Godhead. And while Scripture teaches that One may be subordinate to another, it in no way implies superiority or inferiority. Even though They are mentioned in a similar fashion: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so that some have conjectured that there is a “ranking”. But there are other Scriptures that have a different order:

**Ephesians 4:4-6 NKJV** *There is* one body and one ***Spirit***, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **(5)** one ***Lord***, one faith, one baptism; **(6)** **one God and Father of all**, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Romans 15:30 NKJV** 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,

The idea of roles is made clear in John

**John 16:13-14 NKJV** 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. (14) He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it to you*.

### **The Holy Spirit is a Person and He is God.**

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Let's first look at the Spirit's work in the Old Testament. Yes, being God and eternal, He was there and active:

In Genesis 1:1-2 we see Him:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water” ([Gen 1:1-2](#)).

In the Book of Job, Elihu tells Job “The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life”. ([Job 33:4](#))

Yes, He was involved in the Creation of the Universe.

He was also involved in the revelation of God's Word:

**Mark 12:36 NKJV** For David himself **said by the Holy Spirit:** 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL." ' Quoting Ps 110:1

**Hebrews 3:7 NKJV** Therefore, **as the Holy Spirit says:** "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, (quoting Ps 2:7+)

## **OT experiences with the Holy Spirit**

While it is rare to see the Holy Spirit indwelling persons in the OT times, it did occur. But, at the same time, it was for a very specific purpose and temporary.

**Exodus 31:3-5 NKJV** And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *manner of* workmanship, (4) to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, (5) in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all *manner of* workmanship.

After Saul was anointed King,

**1 Samuel 10:6 NKJV** Then the Spirit of the LORD will come

upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

**1 Samuel 10:10 NKJV** When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

But after Saul lost favor with God,

**1 Samuel 16:14 NKJV** But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

In the Book of Judges, you can read over and over again how the Spirit of the LORD came upon whomever He chose to rescue repentant Israel from impending disaster.

## **The New Testament Revelations**

Yes, the Holy Spirit was active and working and He is mentioned about 85 times in the OT. This is not a NT revelation, however, in the NT, there is a more complete revelation of God the Holy Spirit. Here we see His work and relationship with God the Son and God the Father more clearly.

We see the Holy Spirit with Mary:

- a. "***The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also,***

that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)

We see Him at work in the Temple when Joseph and Mary came to make the sacrifice on behalf of the newborn child:

**Luke 2:25-32 NKJV** And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **(26) And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (27) So he came by the Spirit into the temple.** And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, **(28)** he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: **(29)** "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; **(30)** For my eyes have seen Your salvation **(31)** Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, **(32)** A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

And when He was starting His ministry of repentance and salvation, we know how He allowed John to baptize Him:

**Matthew 3:16-17 NKJV** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of

God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (17)  
And suddenly a **voice came from heaven**, saying, "This is  
My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Son is baptized, the Spirit descends upon Him and the  
Father is pleased!

The Apostle John records several teachings to the disciples  
concerning the Holy Spirit:

John 14:15-17 NKJV "If you love Me, keep My  
commandments. (16) And I will pray the Father, and He  
will give you **another Helper**, that He may abide with you  
forever— (17) **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot  
receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but  
you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 NKJV 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.**

John 15:26-27 NKJV "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.** (27) And  
**you also will bear witness**, because you have been with  
**Me from the beginning.**

## THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTING THE WORLD OF SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND JUDGMENT

**John 16:8-11 KJV** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (9) Of sin, because they believe not on me; (10) Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; (11) Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Sin –

it is not our job to convince people of their sin in our own way; in methods and plans and programs of men. But, He can and if we allow Him, we can convict the sinner of his sin. When Peter was sent to Joppa to see a centurion named Cornelius:

**Acts 11:13-18 KJV** And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; (14) Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. (15) And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. (16) Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, **John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.** (17) Forasmuch then as God gave them

the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? (18) When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Righteousness –

it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world about Jesus' righteousness, proven after the resurrection and ascension. Who but the Righteous One could do such a thing? And being the Righteous One, the Only One, convicts a man of their own need for salvation.

Judgment –

and it follows that seeing Jesus as the Righteous One, In Heaven, leads the unbeliever to understand their sin and unrighteousness that deserves God's judgment. The ruler of this world is Judged. If you are not Jesus', then you are against Jesus and your ruler and you are judged!

## THE REGENERATING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Titus 3:3-7 NKJV** For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. (4) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, (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, (6) whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This renewing or regeneration was also taught by Jesus when he spoke with Nicodemus.

**John 3:3-8 NKJV** Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (4) Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (5) Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (8) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

**Romans 8:11 NKJV** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

## Torrey sums up the doctrine of the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit

The doctrine of the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit is a glorious doctrine. It sweeps away false hopes. It comes to the one who is trusting in education and culture and says, "Education and culture are not enough. You must be born again." It comes to the one who is trusting in mere external morality, and says, "External morality is not enough, you must be born again." It comes to the one who is trusting in the externalities of religion, in going to church, reading the Bible, saying prayers, being confirmed, being baptized, partaking of the Lord's supper, and says, "The mere externalities of religion are not enough, you must be born again." It comes to the one who is trusting in turning over a new leaf, in outward reform, in quitting his meanness; it says, "Outward reform, quitting your meanness is not enough. You must be born again." But in place of the vague and shallow hopes that it sweeps away, it brings in a new hope, a good hope, a blessed hope, a glorious hope. It says, "You may be born again." It comes to the one who has no desire higher than the desire for things animal or selfish or worldly and says, "You may become a partaker of the Divine nature, and love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates. You may become like Jesus Christ. You may be born again."