The Holy Spirit

Today we begin a short series on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday, August 30, 2017
First Assembly of God / Fort Myers, Florida
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SESSION ONE
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Genesis 1:1-3
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [2] And the earth was
without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit
of God moved upon the face of the waters.
[3] And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Matthew 3:16-17
And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo,
the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a
dove, and lighting upon him: [17] And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my
beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John 16:7-15
Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go
not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto
you. [8] 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. [12] I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye
cannot bear them now. [13] Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will
guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall
hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify
me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the
Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it
unto you.

Acts 2:1-4
And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in
one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty
wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto
them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were
all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit
gave them utterance.

These verses - and so many others throughout Scripture, make it clear that the Holy Spirit
is of great importance to you and to me.
THE TRINITY

When we speak of the Holy Spirit, we are referring to the third Member of the Trinity: God, the Father; God, the Son (Jesus, the only begotten Son of God); and the Holy Spirit.

My rabbinical friends claim, therefore, that I worship three Gods, while Scriptures make it plain that we have but one God: Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

Yet we believe in what is known as “the triune God,” or the Trinity. We believe that God exists as a unity of three distinct persons. Each of these is distinct from the other two, yet identical in essence. Each is fully divine. Yet we have not three Gods, only One. Make no mistake about this: we believe strictly in ONE GOD, Monotheism.

God is numerically ONE. Yet within the single divine essence are three individual persons.

- Each of the three persons is completely divine in nature, though each is not the totality of the Godhead.
- Each of the three persons is not the other two.
- Each of the three persons is related to the other two but are distinct from them.

Critics decry this, saying the word “trinity” is not found in the Bible. But, for that matter, the word “Bible” is not found in the Bible either. Other terms which describe God are not found in Scripture, words such as omniscience (all-knowing), omnipresence (present everywhere), yet we know these are attributes of God because of the vast teaching found in the Word. So to say that the Trinity is not true because the word is not found in the Bible is not a pertinent argument.

Confusing? To be sure. But that does not mean it’s untrue.

NOT “IT,” BUT “HIM”

The Holy Spirit is not some nebulous “force,” (as in May the Force be with you); He is a Person.

Personal Pronouns Are Used About Him In Scripture

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.

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Personality Characteristics Of The Holy Spirit

He has three essential elements of personality:

1) He has intellect 1 Cor. 2:11

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

2) He has sensibilities Romans 8:27

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

3) He has will 1 Cor. 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

This verse has to do with the Spirit’s giving spiritual gifts (which we will study in detail) to people. Note: It is the Holy Spirit Who gives these gifts, not traveling evangelists or any other minister for that matter. Years ago, a well-known couple traveled from church to church and appeared on alleged Christian TV claiming it was they who imparted gifts of healing to people. They are now in eternity and have been rightly judged by the Creator.

Note The Personal Acts Performed By Him

1) He works 1 Cor. 12:11

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

2) He searches 1 Cor. 2:10

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
3) He speaks Acts 13:2
As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me
Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
Rev. 2:7
He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him
that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the
paradise of God.

4) He testifies 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:

5) He teaches 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,
whosoever I have said unto you.

6) He reproves (corrects) John 16:8-11
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.

7) He regenerates John 3:5
Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and
of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

8) He prays 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.

9) He guides into truth John 16:13
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for
he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and
he will shew you things to come.

10) He glorifies Christ John 16:14
He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.
11) He calls us to service for the Lord. Acts 13:2
   As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me
   Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

12) He directs us in our work for the Lord. Acts 16:6-7
   Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were
   forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, [7] After they were come to
   Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE WATER BAPTISM OBSERVANCE

Scriptural water baptism is by immersion (symbolizing burial with Christ and subsequent
resurrection to life.) We pastors baptize “in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy
Ghost.”

Matthew 28:19
   Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,
   and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The Holy Spirit is also acknowledged in what we call the Apostles’ benediction:

2 Cor. 13:14
   The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of
   the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A DIVINE PERSON

As such He has areas of His Being that have familiar challenges:

1) He can be tempted. Acts 5:9
   Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the
   Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at
   the door, and shall carry thee out.

   Tempted how? In the above case in Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira lied to God and the
   apostles and dared the Divine Ones to do anything about it.

2) He can be lied to. Acts 5:3
   But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost,
   and to keep back part of the price of the land?
3) The Holy Spirit can be grieved. Ephes. 4:30
And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

How do we grieve the Holy Spirit? Remember: He is a Person. We grieve Him when:

- Living like pagans Ephes. 4:17-19 (The Living Bible)
  Let me say this, then, speaking for the Lord: Live no longer as the unsaved do, for they are blinded and confused. [18] Their closed hearts are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds against him, and they cannot understand his ways. [19] They don't care anymore about right and wrong and have given themselves over to impure ways. They stop at nothing, being driven by their evil minds and reckless lusts.

- Lying Ephes. 4:25
  Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

- Anger Ephes. 4:26-27
  Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil.

We can be angry at Satan and his impact on humanity, etc., but we are not given permission to sin against God or people because of it.

- Cursing Ephes. 4:29
  Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

- Bitterness and unforgiveness Ephes. 4:31-32
  Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: [32] And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Our goal should always be to allow the HOLY SPIRIT to make us more holy, more Christlike. Just as you and I do not like to be grieved or hurt, so the Holy Spirit does not wish it either.

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT
Matthew 12:31-32

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. [32] And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Blasphemy means to insult or demean someone or something or showing contempt. Since only the Holy Spirit can bring anyone to God, showing contempt to Him is a dangerous act!

The most often-asked question I received in my years at Revivaltime was, “What is the unpardonable sin?” It is my opinion that it is dying without Christ. The Bible closes with the promise from God: Rev. 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. As long as the sinner WANTS to be saved, the door is opened. To die without coming to Christ is the ultimate and final act of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (in this pastor’s opinion).

SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCES OF THE DIVINITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit is eternal. Hebrews 9:14
   How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

   The Holy Spirit, being eternal, has always been and always will be.

2. The Holy Spirit, being divine, is omniscient (all-knowing). 1 Cor. 2:10
   But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

   The Holy Spirit is faithful in deterring us from “shallow Christianity.” That is, just a Sunday sort of religion.

   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.
3) The Holy Spirit is omnipotent (all-powerful). Luke 1:35

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

We need that divine power in our lives for everything! And Jesus promised His followers they would have it: Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

There are 26 more chapters in Acts after Pentecost, and the ministry and successes recorded therein could not have been possible without the divine power of the Holy Spirit.

4) The Holy Spirit is creative! Psalm 104:30

Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

Genesis 1:2

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Job 33:4

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

One of the joys of serving the Lord is this God-given creativity. There is no one taking this study, wherever you are, who has any concept of the amazing abilities that reside within you THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.


Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.