

LESSON SEVEN: THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. We believe in the Personality and the Deity of the Holy Spirit. By personality we mean He is not some mysterious force or influence; the Holy Spirit is a Person.
- B. By deity we mean that He is the third Person of the triune Godhead. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that all three members of the Godhead are coequal and all are equally God.
- C. The Holy Spirit does things only a Person can do. *He has intellect, will, and emotion.

- 1. He has intellect - He knows:

I Corinthians 2:10-11 - "But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 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. The Holy Spirit wills:

I Corinthians 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."

- 3. The Holy Spirit has emotion - He loves:

Romans 15:30 - "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;"

- 4. The Holy Spirit speaks:

I Timothy 4:1 - "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

- 5. The Holy Spirit authored the WORD:

II 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."

- 6. The Holy Spirit reproves-convicts (John 16:8); He teaches (John 14:26); He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30); He can be quenched (I Thessalonians 5:19); under the Kingdom Program, He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31).

- 7. The things that make up the work of the Holy Spirit are: conviction, regeneration, baptism, indwelling, sealing, enlightenment, empowerment, and intercession.

- 8. There's no doubt He is God:

Acts 5:3-4 - "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? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."

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?"

9. Note the Godhead:

II Corinthians 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 second epistle to the Corinthians was written from Philippi, a city of Macedonia, by Titus and Lucas."

I Peter 1:2 - "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

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:"

D. The Holy Spirit's Work:

1. Conviction - This is the Spirit's working through the Word of God upon the hearts of the unsaved, unbelieving people that brings conviction of their sin and their need of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:17 - " So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

II Timothy 3:16 - "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

*It is by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ.

2. Regeneration - Titus 3:5 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

The word regeneration here means "born again" and is the washing of rebirth.

- a. At the moment one believes the gospel, they experience a rebirth which is a spiritual birth by the impartation of spiritual life.
- b. Physical birth places one into the family of Adam-sinners; and spiritual birth places the forgiven sinner into Christ.

Romans 8:2 - "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

*This means that all who believe in Him receive spiritual life as an eternal possession.

3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit - Baptism today is by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ.
 - a. I 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."
 - b. This means our placement into Christ is the operation of the Spirit at which time he took up permanent residence in us! Ephesians 1:13 - "In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"
 - c. The Holy Spirit's ministry in this dispensation is "unique" in that it is forming the Body Church consisting of whosoever will. He is dispensing all spiritual blessings within the inner-man of the believer.

Ephesians 3:16 - "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"

4. The Spirit's Sealing and Indwelling:

- a. As the Spirit baptizes the believer into Christ's Body, simultaneously He seals and indwells the believer.

II Corinthians 1:21-22 - "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

Ephesians 1:13 - "In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"

- b. The word "seal" means a royal assurance or divine guarantee. This seal is guaranteed to take us to glory because of the result of God's completed work of salvation. God sets us apart unto Himself, through death, and raise us up in Christ. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection -since the Spirit has put us in Christ- becomes ours!

Colossians 2:10-12 - "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

- c. Now, as a believer, the Savior dwells in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 - "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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

II Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Ephesians 3:17 - "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"

- (1) Once God performs this action, He places His eternal seal upon the believer that signifies His ownership, and His power guarantees that we are forever His!
- (2) This Spirit-sealing gives us eternal security because the only way this seal can be broken is for a greater power than God to break it. That's impossible!

*The Holy Spirit Himself is the seal!

- (3) The Holy Spirit also is the "the earnest" which means His down payment or His pledge. This is His intention to fulfill His agreement with us.

II Corinthians 1:22 - "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

His pledge-seal is His oath to believers that He promises to keep us safe, secure, all the way to Jesus' coming for us! To make sure of this, He's taken up permanent residence in those who believe the gospel.

Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30 - "In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (4:30) "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

- d. The Holy Spirit's indwelling of the believer can never be broken. It's the result of one's belief in the gospel, in a one-time action that results in permanent sealing.

5. The Spirit's Enlightenment:

- a. Enlightenment scripturally means the Spirit sheds light and understanding of the Scriptures He authored. The indwelling Holy Spirit illuminates the believer's mind to see truth clearly, then with his heart to believe what God has revealed to him is truth.
- b. This aspect of the Spirit's work is vital to believers so that we can grow, be grounded, mature, and have the ability to search the Scriptures to see if those things taught are truth.

I Corinthians 2:4-5, 10-13 - " And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 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. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 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."

Romans 10:17 - "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Ephesians 1:17-18 - "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints;"

Acts 17:11 - "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Ephesians 4:14 - "That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

Colossians 1:9-10 - "For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

I Timothy 2:4 - "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

Note:

- (1) You'll never ever know or understand God, His purpose and power for your life unless you study the Word.
- (2) The reason many don't study is that they remain carnal, indifferent, other interests, unwillingness, and just choose not to receive the Word, thus grieving the Holy Spirit (if they are even saved) from enlightening them!

6. The Spirit's Empowerment:

- a. We have learned, that living within us is the very power that raised up Christ from the dead!

This is not power we have to pray down or work up. It's not power that only a few ever have, but power in the Person of the Holy Spirit Who lives in every believer.

- b. We appropriate it by faith. We must accept this power by faith and then step out in obedience to experience this power working.

Ephesians 1:19-20 - "And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,"

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."

- c. The Spirit of God within us gives us life, and power to have the ability to live in victory now.

*All that's needed from the believer is the step of faith to choose to obey the truths and principles of God's Word; then God will supply all the necessary power. This is walking in the Spirit.

7. The Spirit's Intercession:

- a. Very simply, because of our flesh and finiteness, our prayers are subject to needing much help! Often we don't know what we truly need or what our request should be. The Holy Spirit aids us with our prayers.

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."

- b. Always remember, the Spirit works in us to bring us to the place in our prayers, that whatever will make us like Christ, we want our prayer's answer to accomplish that!

*The highest expression of faith-trust is to give God our requests and then to trust His answer, His will, His plan of His work in us. The Spirit's working in us helps us to be totally dependent upon God's will for our life.

Romans 8:27-29 - "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. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Philippians 2:13 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."

Note: Whatever God's will is to our request, God does promise us peace!

Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

8. The Spirit Being Blasphemed:

- a. One final thought is the subject of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. For many this has caused great fear that they have or could commit this sin.
- b. Following are a few brief comments about this unpardonable sin. It's found in Matthew 12:21-24, 28, 31-32 - "And in his name shall the Gentiles trust. Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 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. 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."

Answer:* This is a Kingdom-Israel-Messiah period of time which means:

- (1) Christ has to be present performing miracles proving Messiah and the Kingdom were at hand.
- (2) The sin is attributing the Holy Spirit's power to Satan. No other sin will fit; this particular sin is the only one in the context it will allow.
- (3) No believer today can commit this sin because today believers are in Christ and all their sins, past-present-and future, are forgiven.
- (4) This sin could only be committed by an unbeliever in the age our Lord walked this earth or in the coming Kingdom which Jesus called "in the world to come."
- (5) No believer today needs to fear of committing this sin. The Holy Spirit is not revealing the Jewish Prophetic Kingdom with miraculous miracles.