

Lesson. 10

God the Holy Spirit. — Part 1

I. Introduction

What about the personality of the Holy Spirit? This is a strange question, yet it is one most people cannot answer nor comprehend. Perhaps the name has caused great confusion. In our English language, the words “Spirit” or “Ghost” take on the connotation of “an evil spirit who possesses a person” or a ghost in one who haunts a house; an inhabitant of the unseen world who might appear in a bodily likeness” “a demon: etc.

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead. He is God the Holy Spirit, a person. He is the Triune God. The Scripture unfailingly represents God the Father, as a Person (Genesis 3:8-9; Exodus 33:11). The Second Person of the Godhead, the Lord Jesus the Christ, is both God and man. In the account of the ascension (Luke 24:50-53), the Lord Jesus extended his hands to bless the disciples who worshipped Him as God. He was a Person.

But what of the Person of the Holy Spirit? There is no question but that the Bible presents the deity of the Holy Spirit. Jesus confirmed this in a few short statements which we shall study. Jesus referred to “the promise of the Father” (Luke 24:49) in His Upper Room address to His disciples on the night He was betrayed.

II Basic Scriptures

Genesis 1:2; 6:3; Exodus 28:3; 31:3; Numbers 11:17, 25, 29; 27:18; Isiah 11:2; 32:15; 42:1; 61:1; Joel 2:28-29; Zechariah 4:6; 12:10; Matthew 1:18, 20; 3:16; 10:20; 28:20; John 14:16,17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15;

III The Nucleus Of This Truth

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is the ascension gift of Jesus Christ. He could not have descended had Christ not ascended (John 16:7). The Father sent the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit abides in every believer. Prior to Pentecost, He dwelt with the disciples but not in them (John 14:17). In this era of the church — the age —the age when Jesus Christ is calling out for Himself a Body — the Holy Spirit abides in a new temple —You (if you believe). He takes up His abode at the time you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and saviour (1 Corinthians 12:13).

If you, a pupil, a learner, can comprehend this central truth, you can better comprehend the total teaching of the Bible in reference to the Holy Spirit.

IV The Great Truth “God The Holy Spirit” Part 1

1. The Holy Spirit was in the Beginning.
 - a. The Holy Spirit, being a Person, the third Person of the Trinity was active in the creation.

Write in Genesis 1:1-2 _____

The name “God” in verse 1 is a plural noun meaning God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is named in verse 2.

b. The breath of God is the Spirit of God. The Psalmist refers to the creation in Psalm 33:6-9 Underline verse 6

Write in Job 26:13: _____

c. The Holy Spirit was active in the creation of animal life (Psalm 104:24-30):

d. The Holy Spirit was active in the creation of man (Genesis 1:26-27).

Here, the plural words “us” & “our” refer to the Triune God.

Note Genesis 2:7 & Underline. Write in Job 33:4 _____

2 The Holy Spirit Possesses Divine Attributes.

a. He is Omnipotent.

The Holy Spirit is “all-powerful.” He shared in the work of creation.

Refer again to Psalm 33:6 & Genesis 1:2.

b. He is Omnipresent.

The Holy Spirit is “everywhere present.” Read the words of David (Psalm 139:7-10).

Write in verse 7 _____

c. He is Omniscient.

The Holy Spirit is “all knowing.” Underline Job 2:38.

Read (Psalm 139:1-6) and Write in verse 4: _____

3 The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

a. He came upon men. Read Numbers 11:17 and write in verse 25:

Read Numbers 24:2 & 3:10, 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6.

Underline 1 Samuel 10:6 & 10.

b. He was poured out upon men. Look at Proverbs 1:23.

Write in Isaiah 32:15 _____

Underline Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Zechariah 12:10.

c. He rested upon men. Underline Numbers 11:25-26.

Write in Isaiah 11:2: _____

4 Reference to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

a. The Holy Spirit is mentioned some 88 times in the Old Testament.

These are widely spread over the canon, found in 22 of the 39 Old Testament books.

b. In the Pentateuch, we find 14 references, and these are found in only 4 of the books. Leviticus has no references.

c. Two of the prophetic books, Isaiah & Ezekiel, have 15 references in each.

d. The other books, Judges & I Samuel have 7 references each; II Samuel, 1 reference; Psalm has 5. This leaves 24 references in the other 11 books.

e. In these Old Testament references, the Holy Spirit never indwelled individuals. He came upon them and left them as he willed (Judges 14:6; 16:20-21). The Old Testament contains predictions of a future pouring out of the Spirit upon Israel (Ezekiel 37:14; 39:29) and on all flesh (Joel 2:28-29), but remember, this was future and did not occur in the Old Testament era.

B. The Holy Spirit In The New Testament.

1. He was active in the Revelation of the Word of God.

a. The Holy Spirit, in the Old Testament, was active in the Inspiration and transmission of the Word of God. This is verified in the New Testament Scriptures.

Write in II Peter 1:21: _____

Read II Timothy 3:16. Underline Acts 28:25.

b. The New Testament attributes many Old Testament Scriptures directly to the Holy Spirit.

Look Up and Underline Matthew 22:43; Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16; 4:25; Hebrew 3:7; 10:15-16.

2. The Difference Pentecost Made

a. Before our Lord's ascension, He was assembled with His apostles and told them of "the promise of the Father" (Act 1:4-5 & 8).

b. The Lord's own words speak of something entirely new and different.

These are the most important statements concerning the descent of the Holy Spirit.

Underline John 14:26: and write in verse 17; _____

Write in John 14:26 _____

Underline John 15:26.

Write in John 16:7; _____

Underline John 16:12 & write in verse 13: _____

Underline John 16:14.

c. Three things comprise the difference in the work of the Holy Spirit before the Lord's ascension and after His ascension into heaven.

* First, the Holy Spirit entered into a new temple, and that new temple is built on the foundation of Christ out of living stones which are the regenerated believers in Christ (1Peter 2:5). On the day of Pentecost, The Holy Spirit came to dwell in His Bride, the Church of God, the body of Christ.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit took up residence in believers (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).