

"You and Your Beliefs"--Pneumatology, part 2

*Review: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

We are devoting two weeks to get to know better the wonderful person of the Holy Spirit. Last week we explored what the Bible says about *who He is*, and this time we'll examine *His works*.

## Last Time: We asked the question...

### I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

#### A. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a "thing" or a "force."

Caution: We shouldn't call the Holy Spirit "It." Why not?

#### B. The Holy Spirit is God.

Key: The Holy Spirit is God. How do we know?

##### *1. His Attributes*

The attributes ascribed generally to God in the Bible also reflect the character of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is...

--Holy (Eph 4:30)

--Eternal (Heb 9:14)

--Omniscient (I Cor 2:10)

--Loving (Rom 15:30)

--Good (Neh 9:20)

##### *2. His Names*

--**Paraclete** (Comforter, Counselor) = one called alongside

Jn 14:16-17 "And I will pray the Father...another Comforter..."

--The **Earnest** of our Inheritance

Eph 1:13-14 "ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit...who is the earnest of our..."

### 3. *Emblems of the Holy Spirit in the Bible*

--**Wind**

Jn 3:8 "The wind blows where it will...so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

--**Dove**

### C. Where is the Holy Spirit?

1. *He is everywhere (Ps 139:7-10).*

2. *He is in His Temple .*

a. The Temple is the Church (I Cor 3:16)

b. The Temple is individual believers (I Cor 6:19-20).

I Cor 6:19-20 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple...?"

Challenge: It's a serious thing what we do with God's Temple . What are some ways we can misuse His temple and thereby dishonor Him?

--overeating?

--abusing it with alcohol or nicotine or caffeine?

*Tonight: New Material: What is the Work of the Holy Spirit?*

## **II. The Work of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the same today as He has always been. However, when we examine the Scriptures we see a

distinction between how He worked *before* Pentecost and *after* Pentecost. This distinction is related to His purpose to exalt the person of Christ. Let's examine the Scriptures to see this...

## **A. Before Pentecost**

Discuss: What are some works we see the Holy Spirit doing in the OT?

1. *In Revelation of God's Word (II Peter 1:19-21; II Samuel 23:2-3)*

2. *In the lives of Old Testament People*

a. Salvation (John 3:3, 5-8)

b. Special Anointing for Service (Jd 3:10; I Sam 16:13;

II Chr 15:1)

3. *Prophecy Concerning Him*

a. In the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-29)

b. In the Gospels (Jn 14:16-18; 16:7-14)

4. *In the Life of Jesus Christ*

a. His Virgin Conception (Mt 1:20)

b. His Ministry (Mt 3:16)

c. His Substitutionary Death (Heb 9:14)

d. His Triumphant Resurrection (Rom 8:11)

## **B. Since Pentecost--His Purpose is to Glorify Christ (Jn 16:14).**

1. *His Work in Revelation (Jn 16:13-15; II Pt 1:19-21)*

2. *His Work in Salvation*

a. Convicts (Jn 16:8)

b. Regenerates--New Birth (Titus 3:5)

c. Baptizes into the Body of Christ (I Cor 12:13)

d. Seals (II Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30)

e. Indwells (I Cor 3:16; 6:19-20)

f. Gives Assurance (Rom 8:14-16)

3. *His Work in Sanctification (Rom 15:16; I Cor 6:11)*

- a. Produces the Fruit of Christlikeness (Gal 5:22-23)
- b. Brings growth in holiness (Eph 3:16-18; II Cor 3:18)
- c. Enables us to worship (Jn 4:23-24; Ph 3:3)

#### 4. *His Work in Service*

- a. Fills us (Eph 5:18; Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3)
- b. Equips us with Spiritual Gifts (Rom 12:6-8; I Cor 12-14)
- c. Directs the spread of the gospel (Acts 8:29; 10:19-20; 16:6-7)
- d. Guides believers (Rom 8:14)
- e. Empowers (I Thes 1:5; Acts 1:8)
- f. Assists in Prayer (Rom 8:26-27; Eph 6:18; Jude 20)

#### Further Questions about the Holy Spirit:

Q: What are the ways we can sin *against* the Holy Spirit?

1. *Blaspheme against (Mt 12:31)*
2. *Resist (Acts 7:51)*
3. *Quench (I Thes 5:19)*

Key: V. Matthews, "To quench the Holy Spirit is to oppose, in attitude or activity, His endeavor to sanctify us and to use us to glorify the Lord Jesus. It's a refusal to cooperate with the ministry of the Holy Spirit in one's own life, and the attempt to belittle His working in the lives of others." (Chr Life syllabus, p 30)

4. *Grieve (Eph 4:30)*

We grieve Him when we refuse to submit to the work of sanctification He desires to perform in our lives. To tolerate known sin is to grieve Him.

5. *Test and Lie to (Acts 5:3, 9)*

Q: What about the Sign Gifts of the Spirit (tongues, prophecy, healing)?

A: Used for a specific purpose, prior to the completion of the Canon

Heb 2:3-4 "...God bearing them witness with...gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Challenge: Our task is to cooperate with the Spirit in the areas we've studied.

Gal 5:16 "Walk in the Spirit..."

Gal 5:25 "...keep in step with the Spirit..."

**Application: Discuss the following two questions...**

1. Respond to the statement, "I want to go to a church where I can feel the Spirit."

What is often meant by this statement? What is the person looking for? Is there validity in his desire? Is there danger?

2. How should it affect us knowing the truth about the Holy Spirit we've seen from God's Word in this study?

Challenge: Cooperating with the Holy Spirit is vital for successful Christian living? Gal 5:25 says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (NIV "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.")

Are you keeping in step with the Spirit? That raises the question, *how do we do it?* A soldier who keeps in step follows his commander. Obedience is vital.

Problem: Dr. Victor Matthews suggests there are 2 basic sins against the Spirit.

1. **The Sin of Passivity**

2. **The Sin of Pretense**--pretend that things are OK when they are not

Application: Here's the problem (acc to Matthews). Why are so many Christians characterized by mediocrity? It boils down to a refusal to cooperate with the ministry of the Holy Spirit. There's a lack of obedience. The bottom line is this. Cooperating with the Holy Spirit is not high on our priority list. It doesn't mean very much to us. We're passive.

If we could cut away the religious cloak from our lives, do you know what we'd discover in many of our lives? The Christian life is not really important to us. We're willing to sacrifice for things that are really important.

Eg--Go to school full time, and work full time to get an Education

Eg--Burn the candle at both ends to get a business started

We may claim we would die for Jesus, but we won't live for Him! Many of us try to do the least, the minimum we can do to get by in the Christian life.

That grieves the Holy Spirit. He desires to transform our lives. He has a great and gracious work He aims to accomplish in us, to the honor of Jesus Christ.

Q: Is it a priority in your (my) life to cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

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[\[1\]](#) These unedited notes were prepared for use in a Wednesday evening, discussion-oriented Bible study at Wheelersburg Baptist Church in Wheelersburg , Ohio . Although the notes are in draft form, I trust the seed thoughts contained will be used by our gracious God for your edification. –Pastor Brad Brandt