

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

John 16:5-15

Introduction:

- 1. We hear much about the Holy Spirit today.**
 - a. Many claim to have been baptized in the Spirit.**
 - b. Some claim they can work miracles by the power of the Spirit.**
 - c. Others believe the Holy Spirit speaks directly to them.**
- 2. John Calvin's followers teach that man is so depraved he cannot believe in Christ unless God sends the Spirit directly into his heart.**
- 3. Jehovah's Witnesses and other false teachers believe the Holy Spirit is a mere influence or force, but not a Person.**
- 4. What does the Bible teach about the Holy Spirit?**
 - a. All that we can know about the Holy Spirit comes from the Bible.**
 - b. All teaching about the Spirit must be measured by the Word of God (Isa. 8:20).**

Discussion:

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. The Holy Spirit is a personal Being as God the Father and Christ the Son are.

- 1. He is referred to by masculine personal pronouns such as "He" and "Him" (Jno. 16:13).**
- 2. He has characteristics of a person.**
 - a. He speaks (1 Tim. 4:1).**
 - b. He testifies or bears witness (Jno. 15:26).**
 - c. He forbids (Acts 16:6, 7).**
 - d. He has a mind (Rom. 8:27).**
 - e. He loves (Rom. 15:30).**
 - f. He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30).**
 - g. He can be resisted (Acts 7:51).**
 - h. He can be blasphemed (Matt. 12:32).**
 - i. He teaches (Jno. 14:26).**
 - j. He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).**

B. The Holy Spirit is possessed of the Divine Nature - God.

- 1. He is eternal (Heb. 9:14).**
- 2. He is omniscient - knows all things (1 Cor. 2:10; Eze. 11:5).**
- 3. He is omnipotent - has all power (Mic. 3:8).**
- 4. He is omnipresent - He is everywhere (Psa. 139:7-10).**
- 5. He was in the beginning with God (Gen. 1:2; Psa. 104:30).**
- 6. He raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 1:4; 8:11).**
- 7. He appears with the other Persons of the Divine Nature:**

- a. At the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16, 17).
- b. In the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19, 20).
- c. In Jesus' promise to His apostles (Jno. 14:16,17).
- f. In Paul's benediction (2 Cor. 13:14).

II. WHAT IS HE CALLED?

- A. He is called "God" (Acts 5:3,4).
- B. He is often called simply "the Spirit" (Acts 16:7; Rom. 8:16, 26).
 - 1. The term "Holy Ghost" in the King James Version gives the wrong impression today and should not be used.
 - 2. The word "spirit" is used in various ways in the Bible.
 - a. It may refer to the spirit of a man (1 Cor. 2:11).
 - b. It may refer to the breath of a man or an animal (Eccl. 3:21).
 - c. It may refer to an attitude (Jno. 4:24; 2 Tim. 1:7).
 - d. It may refer to an evil spirit, a demon (Luke 4:36).
 - e. It may refer to the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).
 - f. The context must decide.
- C. He is called "the Holy Spirit" more often than by any other term (Matt. 12:32; 28:19; Jno. 14:26; Acts 1:5; 2:4, 38; 5:3; 6:3, 5).
- D. He is called "the Spirit of God" (Rom. 8:14; "the Spirit of the Lord" (Acts 5:9; 8:39); and "the Spirit of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:11)."
- E. He is called "the Spirit of truth" (Jno. 14:17).
- F. He is called "the Spirit of holiness" (Rom. 1:4).
- G. He is also called "the Helper" (NKJV) or "the Comforter" (KJV) in Jno. 14:16.
 - 1. The Greek term "Paracletos" is used four times as a name for the Holy Spirit (Jno. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).
 - 2. In this context, it applies to the apostles only, not to mankind in general or even to other disciples.

III. WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

- A. He was active in the Old Testament.
 - 1. He had a part in the creation (Gen. 1:2).
 - 2. He inspired God's spokesmen.
 - a. Noah preached by the Spirit (Gen. 6:3; 1 Pet. 3:18 - 20; 2 Pet. 2:5).
 - b. Moses had the Spirit upon Him (Num. 11:25).
 - c. David spoke by the Holy Spirit (2 Sam. 23:1, 2; Acts 1:16).

3. The prophets spoke under the influence of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20, 21).
 - a. The Spirit of the Lord fell upon Ezekiel (Ezek. 11:5).
 - b. Micah said: "I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord" (Mic. 3:8).

B. He was even more active in the New Testament.

1. Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:34, 35).
2. The Spirit came upon Jesus at His baptism (Luke 3:22).
3. Jesus worked miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:28; Jno. 3:2; 20:30, 31).

C. The apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4 - 8; 2:1-4).

1. They were able to work miracles by the Spirit (Acts 5:12).
2. They spoke by the inspiration of the Spirit (Matt. 10:19, 20; 1 Cor. 2:9-13).
3. They could give miraculous gifts of the Spirit to others through the laying on of their hands (Acts 8:14-25; 19:1-7).

IV. WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY?

A. He washed, justified, and sanctified us when we obeyed the Gospel (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:25, 26; Tit. 3:4 - 7).

B. He dwells in us.

1. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).
2. The Father and the Son also dwell in us (Eph. 3:17; 1 Jno. 4:12).
3. He leads us (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18).
4. He intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26, 27).
5. He will raise us from the dead at the Last Day (Rom. 8:11).

Conclusion:

1. The Spirit washes, justifies, and sanctifies us (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
 - a. We are washed when we are baptized (Eph. 5:26; Acts 22:16).
 - b. We are justified when we obey the Gospel (Rom. 1:16, 17; 6:17).
 - c. We are sanctified (set apart, made holy) when our sins are washed away (1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 18:8).
2. The bride and the Spirit invite sinners to come to Christ (Rev. 22:17).