

The Holy Spirit

BS #10, Part 1

Perspective on the Bible study:

This is part 1 of 2. In this lesson you'll cover:

- 1) Who is the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Who has the Holy Spirit?
- 3) When do believers receive the Holy Spirit?
- 4) What does the Holy Spirit do?

Next week you'll walk through the Holy Spirit booklet entitled "Satisfied" which talks about how specifically to walk in the Spirit.

Because of the theological nature of this lesson, work at adding your own testimony/examples to keep it interesting and pertinent. Be excited about God giving us his very presence!

Also, keep it moving and make it concise since there's a lot to cover.

If you get into a big controversy with an individual about something related to the HS, just graciously offer to discuss it later with them in private. Don't let one person hold up the whole group.

EXPLORE

HOOK:

Share your personal "Holy Spirit testimony." Something like: "I remember when I first heard that the Christian life wasn't simply me plugging away, laboring to the best of my ability. But God had given me a resource – His personal presence – His Spirit – to live His life through me. In other words, God was working in me to change me and produce His life in me. Specifically I remember . . ."

For the next couple of weeks we want to look at how the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to live the Christian life. This is important. Most of us know next to nothing about the HS. In fact, let me ask you . . .

Q If someone was to ask you how the Holy Spirit is relevant to your life today, what would you say?

If I asked you if you needed Jesus today, your answer would surely be "yes!" If I asked you if you needed God the Father today, your answer would surely be "yes!" But if I asked you if you needed the Holy Spirit today, your answer might be, "huh?"

So, today we want to cover some of the basics and next week talk about how this works out in our lives.

GOING DEEPER

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

Let's start with the basics.

The Scriptures present God as a Trinity – one essence, 3 persons. If you think too long about it, it will drive you crazy. Nevertheless, the Scriptures are clear that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, yet there is one God.

(If you can borrow a copy of Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem, read Grudem's chapter on the Trinity. Good stuff. At least read 231-241, 248-257. **Draw circle diagram from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology** (with Father, Son, and Spirit in the circle). God isn't part the Son, part the Father, and part the Spirit. Rather, He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.)

Bottom line, the Holy Spirit is God – personal (not Casper the friendly ghost) and Almighty. Several Scriptures point this out (although we clearly know more about God the Son and God the Father than God the Spirit)

For example: **Acts 5:3-5** (lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God)

The person of the Holy Spirit is so important that Jesus commented that it was better for him to go away so that the early believers would actually receive the Spirit (**John 16:5-7**)

2. Who has the Holy Spirit?

In the OT the Spirit primarily came upon individuals who provided leadership for God's people, Israel. But in the OT the prophets talk about God's Spirit coming to dwell with God's people in the future.

The NT presents the arrival of the Spirit as a very significant event; men and women now have the very presence of God.

Read Gal 4: 4-6

Q. Why did God send his son? (notice progression in NIV from "to redeem" so that we might "receive the full rights of sons")

Q And, according to Paul in Gal 4:6-7, what are some of the privileges of "sonship"? (receiving the Spirit, becoming an heir)

So the answer to the question "Who has the Holy Spirit?" is fairly easy: those who are God's. (see **Rom. 8:9-11, 1 Cor. 3:16-17**)

Q Is this a new thought to you – that God has personally given His Spirit to dwell with you?

Q Think about this for a minute – God's presence with you. What do you think are some possible ramifications of this? (living holy lives, having power, having comfort, being taught, never being scared, having resources, etc.)

**You can share a personal story about this

Read 2 Cor 6: 16-18

Q What are some of the ramifications of being the “temple of God” that Paul mentions here?

3. When do believers receive the Holy Spirit?

It’s important to at least consider the question, “When do believers receive the Holy Spirit?” simply for the reason that some have disputed when one receives the Spirit. The Scriptures are actually very clear about this.

ALL believers receive the Spirit when they become Christians.

Read:

Eph 1:13

1 Cor 12:12-13

Gal 4:4-7 (the Spirit is tied to sonship and inheritance. See Romans 8:12-17)

The Spirit is surely active in our lives at the present. In other words, it would be wrong to refer to the Spirit *solely* as a “back then when I first became a child of God.”

Yet when people emphasize “receiving the Spirit” in the present, they put a spin on it that is nowhere in the NT. The Bible teaches that we RECEIVE the Spirit at salvation. The Spirit is tied to sonship and inheritance. The Spirit is the sign that we are His. In our on-going Christian life we may experience more of the Spirit, or even have Spirit-filled type experiences, but we don’t RECEIVE more of the Spirit after salvation. (**Eph 1:13**)

4. What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Spirit does many things in our lives. We’ll just mention a couple of the most pertinent ones here. The bottom line is that God in us is able to do supernatural things – things that we would not be able to do on our own. This is how the Christian life is to be lived – an active dependence on God who is bigger than us.

Shakespeare illustration:

I can’t write like Shakespeare. Never can. Never will. BUT if Shakespeare’s spirit could dwell within me, I bet I could! We can’t live the Christian life by sucking it up on our own strength. But God has given His Spirit to make it possible. Briefly . . .

a. Gal 5:16-26 The Spirit produces Christ-like character in us

Q As you look through this passage, how would you summarize God’s part and our part? We’ll look at this more next week.

b. Acts 1:8, Acts 4:31 The Spirit provides power for evangelism

All throughout Acts, evangelism is tied to the Spirit .

** Tell personal evangelism story

c. **Romans 8: 9-17, 2 Cor 3:1-3 The Spirit helps us live godly lives**

**Tell personal story (loving by faith? God helping you change in an area)

d. **2 Cor 3:4-6 (Rom 8:26) The Spirit makes us adequate when we are inadequate.**

**Tell personal story of when the Spirit made you adequate

Application

Q We know why we need Jesus. We know why we need the Father. So, why do we need the Spirit?

Q From what we've seen thus far, what would be some of the potential effects of trying to live the Christian life without dependence upon the Spirit?

Next week – HOW TO's. How do we walk in the power of the Spirit? Show up. This is life-changing and exciting!