

The Basics of the Holy Spirit

I. Introduction

- A. Only Christ can live the Christian life. He lives in us through His Spirit.
- B. Even Jesus needed the presence of the Holy Spirit during His days on earth.
- C. Isaiah saw the coming of Christ and the anointing of the Holy Spirit on His life and through His ministry.

Isaiah 11:2-3 The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon that king. The Spirit will give him wisdom and understanding, guidance and power. The Spirit will teach him to know and respect the Lord. ³ This king will be glad to obey the Lord. He will not judge by the way things look or decide by what he hears.

- D. Jesus lived and ministered with an anointing of the Holy Spirit that was unlimited.
- E. Jesus promised this same anointing to His disciples.

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, whoever believes in me will do the same things that I do. Those who believe will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Luke 24:49 I will send you what my Father has promised, but you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven.

- F. We need to know something about Him so we can live and move in this Spirit anointing.
- G. We'll look at eight characteristics of the Holy Spirit and a believer.

II. The Reality of the Holy Spirit

- A. The Holy Spirit is God. Often described as part of the Godhead.
- B. He is 100% divine. He has divine characteristics given to Him.

- 1. He is eternal.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He offered himself through the eternal Spirit as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will make our consciences pure from useless acts so we may serve the living God.

- 2. He is omnipresent (always present).

Psalms 139:7-10 Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there. ⁹ If I rise with the sun in the east and settle in the west beyond the sea, ¹⁰ even there you would guide me. With your right hand you would hold me.

- 3. He is omnipotent (all powerful).

Luke 1:35 The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.”

4. He is omniscient (all knowing).

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 But God has shown us these things through the Spirit. The Spirit searches out all things, even the deep secrets of God. ¹¹ Who knows the thoughts that another person has? Only a person’s spirit that lives within him knows his thoughts. It is the same with God. No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

C. God’s Word describes divine works the Holy Spirit did. It also says the Holy Spirit was part of:

1. Creation.

Genesis 1:2 The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God’s Spirit was moving over the water.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God created me, and the breath of the Almighty gave me life.

2. The new birth.

John 3:5-8 But Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born from water and the Spirit, you cannot enter God’s kingdom. ⁶ Human life comes from human parents, but spiritual life comes from the Spirit. ⁷ Don’t be surprised when I tell you, ‘You must all be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wants to and you hear the sound of it, but you don’t know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit.”

3. Resurrection.

Romans 8:11 God raised Jesus from the dead, and if God’s Spirit is living in you, he will also give life to your bodies that die. God is the One who raised Christ from the dead, and he will give life through his Spirit that lives in you.

D. He demonstrates the characteristics of personality.

1. He has a mind.

Romans 8:27 God can see what is in people’s hearts. And he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants.

2. He has a will.

1 Corinthians 12:11 One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things, and the Spirit decides what to give each person.

3. He has feelings.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not make the Holy Spirit sad. The Spirit is God's proof that you belong to him. God gave you the Spirit to show that God will make you free when the final day comes.

E. Along with these evidences of personality:

1. He reveals.

2 Peter 1:21 No prophecy ever came from what a person wanted to say, but people led by the Holy Spirit spoke words from God.

2. He teaches.

John 14:26 But the Helper will teach you everything and will cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name.

3. He witnesses.

Galatians 4:6 Since you are God's children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and the Spirit cries out, "Father."

4. He intercedes.

Romans 8:26 Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.

5. He speaks.

Revelation 2:7 Every person who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To those who win the victory I will give the right to eat the fruit from the tree of life, which is in the garden of God.

6. He commands.

Acts 16:6-7 Paul and those with him went through the areas of Phrygia and Galatia since the Holy Spirit did not let them preach the Good News in Asia. ⁷ When they came near the country of Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not let them.

7. He testifies.

John 15:26 I will send you the Helper from the Father; he is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me,

8. He may be grieved.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not make the Holy Spirit sad. The Spirit is God's proof that you belong to him. God gave you the Spirit to show that God will make you free when the final day comes.

9. He may be lied to.

Acts 5:3 Peter said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your thoughts to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep for yourself part of the money you received for the land?"

10. He may be blasphemed (cursed).

Matthew 12:31-32 So I tell you, people can be forgiven for every sin and everything they say against God. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, now or in the future.

F. Names given to the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible

1. He is most frequently called the Holy Spirit.
2. The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)
3. The Helper or Comforter or Advocate (John 14:16)
4. The Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)
5. The Spirit of God's Grace (Hebrews 10:29)
6. The Spirit that brings life (Romans 8:2)
7. The Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15)
8. These names reveal some of His offices and functions for the believer.

G. There are also names and titles given to Him that refer to His position, such as:

1. God's Spirit (Matthew 3:16)
2. The Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians 4:30)
3. The Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17)
4. The Spirit of your Father (Matthew 10:20)
5. The Spirit of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:19)
6. The Spirit of his Son (Galatians 4:6)
7. The eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)
8. The Spirit of freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17)
9. The good Spirit (Nehemiah 9:20)
10. His Spirit (1 John 4:13)

H. There are twenty-five other titles given to the Holy Spirit that more specifically refer to His CHARACTER and WORK. He is called the Spirit of:

1. Adoption (Romans 8:15), Fire (Isaiah 4:4), Guidance (Isaiah 11:2), Respect of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2),
2. Glorious (1 Peter 4:14), Grace (Hebrews 10:29), Holiness (Romans 1:4), Knowledge (Isaiah 11:2),
3. Life (Romans 8:2), Love (2 Timothy 1:7), Power (Isaiah 11:2), Promise (Ephesians 1:13), Prophecy (Revelation 19:10),

4. Revelation (Ephesians 1:17), Kindness and Mercy (Zechariah 12:10), Truth (John 14:17), Understanding (Isaiah 11:12), and Wisdom (Ephesians 1:17),

5. The Voice of God Almighty (Ezekiel 1:24), the Breath of the Almighty (Job 33:4), the Power of the Most High (Luke 1:35), and an Anointing from the Gift that the Holy One gave you (1 John 2:20), the Spirit of Freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17).

6. These names, titles, and descriptive phrases describe a person separate from, but an connected part of, the Father and the Son.

I. We learn more about the Holy Spirit as a person by observing the various symbols the Bible uses to illustrate His functions.

1. Fire (Matthew 3:11)

2. Wind (John 3:8; Acts 2:2)

3. Seal or Special mark of Ownership (Ephesians 1:13)

4. Dove (Matthew 3:16)

III. The Activity of the Holy Spirit to the World

A. He is involved in the lives of men and women for whom this world was created.

B. John 16:8 is Jesus' description of the work of the Holy Spirit on earth.

John 16:8 When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment.

C. He acts as Christ's prosecuting attorney [to reprove, to convict, or convince].

D. Jesus said it was necessary for the Holy Spirit to convince us of righteousness.

E. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to inform all of us that when He cried from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30), Satan's judgment was complete.

F. Another work of the Holy Spirit to people in general is regeneration.

IV. The Activity of the Holy Spirit to a Believer

A. The Holy Spirit dwells in a believer (John 14:16,17).

1. He is our personal lawyer or representative.

2. He is our personal representative to God (Romans 8:26).

3. He is our personal companion (Acts 17:28).

4. He enables us to please God (Romans 8:8).

B. The Holy Spirit becomes our channel of sanctification.

C. The Holy Spirit comes to empower our ministry. We usually refer to this as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

V. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- A. Because John the Baptist said, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16), this experience of the enabling of the Spirit is usually called "the baptism of the Holy Spirit."
 - 1. It is after salvation.
 - 2. It is not being baptized into Christ. [This is a work of the Holy Spirit].
 - 3. It is Christ baptizing us in the Holy Spirit.
- B. Jesus promised the Spirit would come (Luke 24:49).
- C. The presence of the Spirit in the believer is so strong He speaks—with our bodies and cooperation—a language we have never learned (Acts 2:4).
- D. The main feature of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is power for service.
- E. Five guidelines for being filled with the Spirit.
 - 1. Repent and turn from sin because the baptism of the Holy Spirit belongs to Christians only (Acts 2:38-39).
 - 2. Be obedient to the Word of God (John 14:15-16).
 - 3. Exercise faith in God's promises.
 - 4. Pray for proper conditions for the Spirit's coming.
 - 5. Have hands laid on you (Acts 8:17).

VI. The Activity of the Holy Spirit in a Believer

- A. Long before the Holy Spirit seeks to do a work through a believer, He begins to do a work in you.
- B. The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) is one fruit with nine different manifestations, just as a bunch of grapes has many separate grapes on the stem.
- C. It is easy to see this fruit described as three groups of three.
 - 1. The first three "grapes" ripen toward God—"love, joy, peace."
 - 2. The second cluster of fruit ripens toward our peers—"patience, kindness, and goodness" ripen for the benefit of others.
 - 3. The third cluster is fruit that ripens to us—"Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
- D. All this fruit is the natural outgrowth of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit within the life of the believer.
- E. Grapes are reproduced by grafting, not by seed.

VII. The Activity of the Holy Spirit THROUGH a Believer

- A. First Corinthians 12:8-10 list nine gifts of the Spirit—charismas.

Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between good and evil spirits, speaking in different kinds of languages, interpretation of those languages.

- B. These gifts of the Spirit logically divide themselves into three groups of three gifts, very much as the fruit of the Spirit is viewed as three groups of three.
 - 1. There are the supernatural gifts allowing us to know.

A word of wisdom—a word of knowledge—the discerning of spirits
 - 2. There are also three supernatural gifts allowing us to do.

The gifts of faith—miracles—healing
 - 3. There are the supernatural gifts allowing us to speak.

Tongues—interpretation of tongues—prophecy
- C. These gifts do not operate independently of the believer.
- D. The Bible says, "Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- E. It is proper that we want the operation of these spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31).

VIII. The Continuing Work of the Spirit

- A. While the initial empowering of the Holy Spirit is seen as an experience, the Bible speaks of it as a continuing experience.
 - 1. Paul exhorted the believers, "... be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).
 - 2. The Greek calls for a continuous action. Some versions of the New Testament translate this verse, "Keep being filled with the Spirit."
 - 3. Our human capacity or volume is so small we need to be filled repeatedly.
 - 4. Our ability to yield to the Spirit grows through use.
- B. The disciples learned the value of being refilled with the Holy Spirit.
- C. After every ministry of the Spirit through us, there is a need for a fresh anointing.
 - 1. Energy spent must be renewed or we will be powerless.
 - 2. It is not that the Holy Spirit has been driven from our lives.
 - 3. It is that we need a renewing or refreshing from Him, just as the body needs the renewing of food and sleep.
- D. Jesus speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit as rivers of living water (John 7:38).
 - 1. This implies a constant intake and outflow.
 - 2. If we do not have an inflow to balance the outflow, we will be drained and dry

3. Some Christians flow only when there is a special rain of God's Spirit.

4. God's desire is that we have a constant source of the Spirit flowing through our lives so that we will never be like dry river beds.

IX. The Rewards of a Spirit-filled Life

A. The Spirit-filled life is an ABUNDANT/FULL life (John 10:10).

B. The Spirit-filled life makes it possible to live a holy life.

C. The Spirit-filled life becomes a life of power (Acts 1:8).

D. The Spirit-filled life is also a life of thanksgiving and praise (Ephesians 5:18-19).

E. The Spirit-filled life is a life of joy and happiness (John 4:14).

F. The Spirit-filled life is a source of joy and peace.

G. There is no higher way to live life here on this earth other than to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.