

# DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Introduction

### Lesson 1

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The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is interesting and practical for every Christian. Since the church began, people's understanding of the Holy Spirit, His person, and work has ebbed and flowed. Through the church age the doctrines related to the Holy Spirit have been neglected and distorted. Today many Christians aren't sure what to believe about the Holy Spirit, and often guess at what might be true. Liberal Christianity has denied the Holy Spirit and His works, while Charismatic groups have often emphasized, distorted, and obsessed on certain Holy Spirit doctrines.

In order for the Church to function properly, Christians to live victoriously, and God to be glorified abundantly, the Holy Spirit's person and works must be understood accurately. As we delve into the doctrines of the Holy Spirit we will see just how vast, practical, and important they are to our lives today. In this series we will survey many of the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, and see how they apply to our lives.

## I. THE HOLY SPIRIT DEFINED

- A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*: "The Spirit is the transcendent, omnipresent spiritual and localizable presence of God's personality and power; living in and divinely empowering all of God's true people in diverse and incomplete ways that foreshadow their complete, future renewal at the end of the age."<sup>1</sup>
- B. *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, "The active presence of God in human life constituting the third person of the Trinity."<sup>2</sup>
- C. *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, "The Third Person of the Triune Godhead."<sup>3</sup>
- D. *Wikipedia*, "In Christianity, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. In mainstream (Trinitarian) Christian beliefs He is the third person of the Trinity. As part of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is equal with God the Father and with God the Son. The Christian theology of the Holy Spirit was the last piece of Trinitarian theology to be fully developed. There is also greater diversity in Christian theology of the Spirit (pneumatology) than there is in the theology of the Son (Christology) or of the Father."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walter A. Elwell, Gen. Ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pg. 348.

<sup>2</sup> *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1981, pg. 542.

<sup>3</sup> *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, pg. 358.

<sup>4</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy\\_Spirit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit)

## II. THE NEED FOR STUDYING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. George Smeaton said, “Wherever Christianity has become a living power, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has uniformly been regarded, equally with the atonement and justification by faith, as the article of a standing or falling church. The distinctive feature of Christianity, as it addresses itself to man’s experience, is the work of the Spirit, which not only elevates it far above all philosophical speculation, but also above every other form of religion.”<sup>5</sup>
- B. Samuel Chadwick said, “The gift of the Spirit is the crowning mercy of God in Christ Jesus. It was for this all the rest was. The Incarnation and Crucifixion, the Resurrection and Ascension were all preparatory to Pentecost. Without the gift of the Holy Spirit all the rest would be useless. The great thing in Christianity is the gift of the Spirit. The essential, vital, central element in the life of the soul and the work of the church is the Person of the Spirit.”<sup>6</sup>
- C. A. W. Pink has said, “In the great majority of cases, professing Christians are too puffed up by a sense of what *they* suppose they are doing *for* God, to earnestly study what God has promised to do for and in His people. They are so occupied with their fleshly efforts to “win souls for Christ” that they feel not their own deep need of the Spirit’s anointing.”<sup>7</sup>
- D. E. W. Bullinger says, “Few subjects are of greater importance, or fraught with weightier consequences to our theology, than this: which bears directly upon the Holy Spirit, and upon His operations in connection with the Church of God as a whole, and with the individual experience of the child of God. And yet there are few subjects which have received less attention and study; and few about which there are greater differences of opinion among Christians.”<sup>8</sup>
- E. Charles Ryrie has written, “An understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is basic to Christian living. But one cannot fully comprehend the work of a person without also knowing something about that person. Likewise it is necessary to know something about the person of the Holy Spirit in order to fully appreciate His work. It may seem dull to the reader to pursue the study of the Spirit’s personality and deity; but who He *is* is foundational to what He *does*, and a knowledge of both His person and work is basic to Christian devotion and living.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> George Smeaton, *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pg. 1.

<sup>6</sup> Samuel Chadwick, *Joyful News*, as quoted by A. W. Pink in, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 7.

<sup>7</sup> A. W. Pink, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 8.

<sup>8</sup> E. W. Bullinger, *Word Studies on the Holy Spirit*, pg. 2.

<sup>9</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 10.

- F. Herber Lockyer said, “Although we have more volumes than ever before expounding the graces and gifts of the Spirit, I fear that such enlightenment is sadly neglected by the vast majority of Christians. A recital of the Creed there may be — “I believe in the Holy Ghost” — But where He is unknown, or where the essentials of our faith are tampered with, His presence cannot be realized.”<sup>10</sup>
- G. Charles Spurgeon said, “No man ever learns anything aright, unless he is taught of the Spirit. No man can know Jesus Christ unless he is taught of God. There is no doctrine of the Bible which can be safely, thoroughly, and truly learned, except by the agency of the one authoritative Teacher. Ah! Tell me not of systems of divinity; tell me not of schemes of theology; tell me not of infallible commentators, or most learned and most arrogant doctors, but tell me of the Great Teacher, who shall instruct us, the sons of God, and shall make us wise to understand all things. He is *the* Teacher; it matters not what this or that man says; I rest on no man’s boasting authority, nor will you. Ye are not to be carried away with the craftiness of men, nor sleight of words, this is the authoritative oracle, the Holy Ghost resting in the hearts of His children.”<sup>11</sup>

### III. TWO GENERAL FIELDS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are two general categories concerning the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The first is *the person of the Holy Spirit* which seeks to determine from the Scriptures the identity and nature of the Holy Spirit. The second general category is *the work of the Holy Spirit* which seeks to discover from the Scriptures what the Holy Spirit has done, is doing, and will do. These two categories are the two primary cabinets where all the individual doctrines relating to the Holy Spirit can be filed. Below we have put each subcategory in question format. It is the goal of this study to address all of these questions. Some will only be dealt with superficially and others more extensively.

#### A. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Is the Holy Spirit a person?
2. Is the Holy Spirit God?
3. What names are given to the Holy Spirit?
4. What figurative symbols are used of the Holy Spirit?
5. How does the Holy Spirit differ from the other members of the Trinity?

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<sup>10</sup> Hebert Lockyer, *All About the Holy Spirit*, pgs. 12-13.

<sup>11</sup> Charles H. Spurgeon, *Understanding the Holy Spirit*, pgs. 173-174.

## **B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. How did the Holy Spirit function in creation?
2. How did the Holy Spirit function in the lives of Old Testament saints?
  - a. Were Old Testament saints saved by the Holy Spirit?
  - b. Were the Old Testament saints sanctified by the Holy Spirit?
  - c. Were the Old Testament saints empowered and enabled for spiritual service by the Holy Spirit?
3. How did the Holy Spirit function in the life of Christ?
  - a. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's conception and birth?
  - b. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's baptism?
  - c. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's ministry?
    - (1) What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's prophetic ministry?
    - (2) What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's preaching?
    - (3) What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's miracles?
  - d. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's suffering?
  - e. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's death?
  - f. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's resurrection?
  - g. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's glorification and exaltation?
4. How does the Holy Spirit relate to unbelievers?
  - a. How does the Holy Spirit restrain evil in the lives of unbelievers?
  - b. How does the Holy Spirit convict unbelievers?
  - c. How does the Holy Spirit warn unbelievers?
  - d. How does the Holy Spirit judge unbelievers?
  - e. How does the Holy Spirit harden unbelievers?

- f. What about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?
- g. What was the Holy Spirit's role in performing signs and wonders?
- 5. How does the Holy Spirit function in relation to the Word of God?
  - a. What was the Holy Spirit's role in giving revelation from God?
  - b. What is the Holy Spirit's work of inspiration?
  - c. What is the Holy Spirit's work of illumination?
  - d. What is the Holy Spirit's part in relation to salvation and the Word of God?
- 6. How does the Holy Spirit function in relation to salvation and New Testament believers?
  - a. How does the Holy Spirit relate to:
    - (1) Efficacious grace?
    - (2) Calling the elect?
    - (3) Converting the elect?
    - (4) Regenerating the elect?
- 7. What is Spirit baptism?
  - a. What was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?
  - b. Does the Spirit come into our lives in stages or all at once?
  - c. How does the Holy Spirit indwell the believer?
  - d. What is the "anointing" of the Holy Spirit?
  - e. What part does the Holy Spirit play in eternal security?
  - f. What is the dichotomy between the flesh and the Spirit?
  - g. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
  - h. What does it mean to have the fulness of the Holy Spirit?
  - i. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?

- j. How does sin affect the Spirit-filled life or walking in the Spirit?
  - (1) How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?
  - (2) How do we quench the Holy Spirit?
  - (3) What is the fruit of the Spirit?
- k. How do you know you are Spirit-filled and walking in the Spirit?
- l. How does the Spirit give spiritual gifts and can we seek the ones we want?
- m. What are the sign gifts of:
  - (1) Tongues?
  - (2) Healing/casting out demons?
  - (3) Performing of miracles?
- n. What part does the Spirit play in:
  - (1) Worship?
  - (2) Prayer?
  - (3) Who we pray to?
- o. What was the Holy Spirit doing in Acts chs. 8 and 19 and is this the norm for all times?
- p. What is the Holy Spirit's part in sanctification?
  - (1) Initial sanctification?
  - (2) Progressive sanctification?
  - (3) Ultimate sanctification?
- q. What part does the Spirit play in the corporate unity of the Church?
- r. How does the Holy Spirit:
  - (1) Teach us?
  - (2) Guide us?

- (3) Assure us?
  - (4) Help us pray?
  - (5) Empower us?
8. How does the Holy Spirit function in relation to end time events?
- a. How does the Spirit help us determine false teaching?
  - b. How does the Holy Spirit work in and through the tribulation saints?
  - c. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the millennium?
  - d. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the eternal state?

#### IV. **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOME OF THE SOURCES CONSULTED FOR THIS STUDY**

- A. ***A Body of Divinity***, Thomas Watson
- B. ***A Body of Practical Divinity***, John Gill
- C. ***All About the Holy Spirit***, Herbert Lockyer
- D. ***Christian Theology***, Millard J. Erickson
- E. ***Calvin's Commentaries***, John Calvin
- F. ***Doctrine of the Holy Spirit***, George Smeaton
- G. ***God the Holy Spirit***, D. Martin Lloyd Jones
- H. ***Holy Spirit***, Billy Graham
- I. ***Institutes of Elenctic Theology***, Francis Turretin
- J. ***Institutes of the Christian Religion***, John Calvin
- K. ***Sermons of Charles Spurgeon***
- L. ***Systematic Theology***, Louis Berkhof
- M. ***Systematic Theology***, R. L. Dabney
- N. ***Systematic Theology***, Wayne Grudem
- O. ***The Holy Spirit***, Arthur W. Pink
- P. ***The Holy Spirit***, Charles C. Ryrie
- Q. ***The Holy Spirit: A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit***, John F. Walvoord
- R. ***The Mystery of the Holy Spirit***, R. C. Sproul
- S. ***The Westminster Pulpit***, G. Campbell Morgan
- T. ***The Work of the Holy Spirit***, Abraham Kuyper
- U. ***The Works of Thomas Manton***
- V. ***The Works of John Flavel***
- W. ***Understanding the Holy Spirit***, G. Campbell Morgan & Charles H. Spurgeon
- X. ***Word Studies on the Holy Spirit***, E. W. Bullinger