

Christ Presbyterian Church

Foundations Class

Lesson 8

"I believe in the Holy Spirit... in the forgiveness of sin"

Pneumatology: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Q. What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

A. First, He, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.

Second, He has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, He makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.

Heidelberg Catechism # 53

I. The Divinity of the Holy Spirit:

A. Old Testament

1. In connection with Creation.

Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4

2. In connection with God's sovereignty in nature and history (Providence).

PSM. 104:29, 30; 139:7; ISAIAH 34:16

3. In connection with God's revealed truth and will.

NUMBERS 24:2; 2 SAMUEL 23:2; 2 CHRONICLES 12:18; NEHEMIAH 9:30; JOB 32:8;
ISAIAH 61:1-4; EZEKIEL 2:2, 11:24; MICAH 3:8; ZECHARIAH 7:12; NEHEMIAH 9:20;
PSALMS 143:10; etc.

4. In connection with God's power to elicit personal responses to God in the form of repentance, faith and holiness.

PSM. 51:10-12; ISAIAH 11:2, 44:3; EZEKIEL 1:19; 36:25ff; JOEL 2:28; ZEPHANIAH 12:10

5. In connection with God's power to raise up and exercise His rule and leadership as mediated through human authorities and leaders.

JOSEPH, GENESIS 41:38; MOSES, NUMBERS 11:17; SEVENTY ELDERS, NUMBERS 11:16-29; JOSHUA, DEUTERONOMY 34:9; JUDGES/DELIVERERS, JUDGES 3:10 (OTHNIEL), JUDGES 6:34 (GIDEON), JUDGES 11:29 (JEPHTHAH); SAUL, 1 SAMUEL 10:10, 11:6, 19:20-23; DAVID, 1 SAMUEL 16:13; ELIJAH AND ELISHA, 2 KINGS 2:9-15.

B. New Testament

1. His individuality within the unity of the tri-person Godhead

a. *Singular* name of God by which all people are to be baptized is told in the *tri-person* name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt.28:19)

b. Benedictions in the tri-person name of God (e.g., 2 Cor.13:14; John in Rev. 1:4-5)

c. Series of "triadic" passages link Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together in the inseparable unity of a single plan of grace. (1 Cor. 12:4-6; Ephesians 1:3-13; 2:18; 3:14-19; 4:4-6; 2 Thes. 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:2)

2. He is the Divine Comforter of whom Christ Promised after Himself. The Holy Spirit is therefore both Personal and Divine.

a. Christ promised the Holy Spirit as "another" comforter in succession to Himself. (John 14:16-18)

b. Christ promised to continue His ministry to his disciples by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) so that the Holy Spirit is said "to teach," "bear witness," "convince," "give speech," "speak," "to forbid," "intercede for," "help," "desire" and more. (John 14:26, 15:26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:4; 8:29; 13:2; 16:6-7; Romans 8:14-16, 26-27; Galatians 4:6; 5:17-18)

The Holy Spirit is no mere powerful creature, like an angel; He, with the Father and Son, is God Almighty. He is also a "person" of the trinity, and we must therefore think of the Holy Spirit in personal terms (i.e., "He" not "it").

II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Redemption Accomplished: The *objective* work of God unto our salvation

A. The Ministry of Word

2 Peter 1:20-21, *First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

B. The Ministry of Incarnation and Resurrection of God the Son

1. Conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 1:20)
2. Anointed by the Holy Spirit for appointed offices of prophet, priest and King. (Luke 4:1; Hebrews 9:14)
3. Resurrected by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:11)

C. The Ministry of the Ascended Lord as mediated through Church Government

Matthew 18:17, 18,20, *...tell it to the church... Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven...for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.* (Note Mt. 16:13-20)

(See also Ephesians 4:7-13 and 1 Cor. 12:4-11)

Redemption Applied: The *subjective* work of God in us through the Holy Spirit unto our salvation

D. The Ministry of Effectual Calling

WSC #29 Q. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

WSC #31 Q. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

E. The Ministry of Regeneration

John 3:3ff, *No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above... no one can enter the kingdom of god without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit...*

Titus 3:5, *...he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Note that the behavioral side of regeneration is Repentance and Faith:

Repentance: Act of turning from sin and darkness.(Rom.3:20; 2 Cor. 7:9-10)

Faith: Act of turning to God in trust and obedience (Rom. 1:17; 3:22ff; Eph.2:8)

F. The Ministry of Sanctification

1 John 3:24, *All who obey his commandments abide in Him, and He abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.*

G. The Ministry of Perseverance

Ephesians 1:13, *In him, you also when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy spirit, the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people to the praise of his glory.*

The Holy Spirit is intimately involved in salvation, in both the work of Christ and its effectual application to the individual believer.