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**SESSION 2 | The Broad Work  
of the Holy Spirit**

## I. INTRODUCTION

## II. BRIEFLY, *WHO IS THE SPIRIT*

Words are vitally important in how we communicate who God is. The Spirit is a person of the Trinity — the Spirit is not *part* of God or a *form* of God. The Spirit is not an action of God, he says things, he decrees, and he is grieved, he intercedes, he helps. The Spirit is a he, not an it.

John 14:16-17

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,[ f ] to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

The Spirit is God.

Our affection for God should be translated into love for the Father, love for the Son and love for the Spirit.

## III. NAMES FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the biblical context, names are very important as they serve a variety of functions — meaning, purpose or destiny.

- **Author and Inspirer of Scripture:** 2 Peter 1:21 ; 2 Timothy 3:16
- **Helper / Comforter / Counselor / Advocate:** Isaiah 11:2; John 14:16 ; 15:26 ; 16:7
- **Convicter of Sin:** John 16:7-11
- **Seal:** 2 Corinthians 1:22 ; 5:5 ; Ephesians 1:13-14
- **Guide:** John 16:13
- **Indweller of Believers:**
- **Intercessor:** Romans 8:26
- **Revealer / Spirit of Truth:** John 14:17 ; 16:13 ; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

- **Spirit of God / the Lord / Christ:** Matthew 3:16 ; 2 Corinthians 3:17 ; 1 Peter 1:11
- **Spirit of Life:** Romans 8:2
- **Teacher:** John 14:26 ; 1 Corinthians 2:13
- **Witness:** Romans 8:16 ; Hebrews 2:4 ; 10:15

### **III. SIX AREAS**

#### **A. Creation**

##### **The Holy Spirit as the agent for creation giving life and order.**

The work of the Holy Spirit starts in page one of the Bible,

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 6:3

the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

He not only gives life, but he is life himself. We are alive as long as God's Spirit gives us life.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 tells us what happens when this stops, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

#### **B. Regeneration (salvation)\***

***"[The] secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us."***  
**(Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 699)**

John 3:3-5

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 12:3,

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

The work of regeneration does not refer to the temporal moment of change but to the change itself. Regeneration is the process in which the Holy Spirit changed you from a sinner into a saint, even if it looks different from one person's testimony to the other.

The evidence of regeneration is a changed heart.

Titus 3:3-7

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Spirit does not initiate salvation, **He imparts newness of life.**

### **C. Illumination (understanding)**

***The work of the Spirit in imparting this knowledge is called "illumination," or enlightening. It is not a giving of new revelation, but a work within us that enables us to grasp and to love the revelation that is there before us in the biblical text as heard and read, and as explained by teachers and writers. ( J.I. Packer, Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Belief, 154)***

Because of the Spirit in our hearts, we are able to understand truth, especially in spiritual matters, in a way that non-Christians cannot.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Packer continues to write,

"Illumination, which is a lifelong ministry of the Holy Spirit to Christians, starts before conversion with a growing grasp of the truth about Jesus and a growing sense of being measured and exposed by it. This threefold conviction is still God's means of making sin repulsive and Christ adorable in the eyes of persons who previously loved sin and cared nothing for the divine Savior." — conviction through Scripture.

#### D. Sanctification\* (holiness)

***Sanctification is “the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.” ( Westminster Catechism, Q.35)***

The Spirit makes us like Christ.

We are set apart to God. He only sanctifies those who are his. If God is sanctifying you, it is because you are his.

Romans 8:2 8-30

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

His main purpose is for us to be holy like Christ.

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Different to regeneration, sanctification is the work of a lifetime.

“The standard to which God’s work of sanctifying His saints is directed is His own revealed moral law, expounded and modeled by Christ Himself.” (Nathan Bingham)

#### E. Guidance

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Mark 13:11

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

## F. Assurance

When you plead to him for assurance, guidance or help, he is on your side. The Scripture assures you of this.

John 14:15-17

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

## IV. ON THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT ON YOUR BEHALF:

*His being “fills the world,” his power is beyond the world’s capacity to contain it. It is his nature, not his given function to be good, to be righteous and to be in command. He is the subject, not the object, of hallowing, apportioning, participating, filling, sustaining; we share in him and he shares in nothing. He is our inheritance, he is glorified, counted together with Father and Son; he is a dire warning to us. The “finger of God,” he is, like God, a “fire,” ... The Spirit it is who created and creates anew through baptism and resurrection. The Spirit is who knows all things, who teaches all things, who blows where, and as strongly as, he wills, who leads, speaks, sends out, separates, who is vexed and tempted. He reveals, illumines, gives life—or, rather, is absolutely Light and Life. He makes us his temple, he deifies, he makes us complete, and he initiates us in such a way that he both precedes baptism and is wanted after it. All that God actively performs, he performs. Divided in fiery tongues, he distributes graces, makes Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. He is “intelligent, manifold, clear, distinct, irresistible, unpolluted,”—or in other words, he is utterly wise, his operations are multifarious, he clarifies all things distinctly, his authority is absolute and he is free from mutability. He is “all-powerful, overseeing all and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent and pure and most subtle”—meaning, I think, angelic powers as well as prophets and Apostles. ( Gregory of Nazianzus, On God and Christ, 140)*