



The Essentials: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine

Class #5 – The Holy Spirit

I. The Study of the Holy Spirit

- a. Since the Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead, a special study of His person and work is essential to every Christian
 - i. Just like God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit is worthy of our devotion, praise, and worship
 - ii. The Doxology says it best – “*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*”
- b. Therefore, tonight we are going to take the time to study the Holy Spirit and we are going to look at **three things** in our study:

II. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

- a. Let's look at the Personality of the Holy Spirit – “*The Holy Spirit is a Person*”
 - i. The purpose of us taking time to talk about the Personality of the Holy Spirit is to combat the various false-views concerning Him
 - ii. Many religious groups and cults have an improper view of the Holy Spirit – they view Him as an impersonal force, a power, or a essence
 - iii. They think of the Holy Spirit as an “It” or a “Thing” rather than a “He” or a “Him”
 - iv. However, tonight we are going to clearly demonstrate that the Scriptures portray and proclaim Him as a Person – the third Person of the Holy Trinity
 - v. Let's examine *three pieces* of evidence confirming His Personality:
- b. 1st – “Personal Characteristics”
 - i. It is generally accepted that **Personality** can be defined as possessing a mind (intellect), a will, and emotions
 - ii. Therefore, by showing the Holy Spirit has a mind (intellect), a will, and emotions – it will be demonstrated that He is a Person
 - iii. **First**, the Holy Spirit has a Mind (Intellect) – “*Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is...*” Cf. **Romans 8:27**
 - iv. **Second**, the Holy Spirit has a Will – “*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*” Cf. **1 Corinthians 12:11**
 - v. **Third**, the Holy Spirit has Emotions – “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*” Cf. **Ephesians 4:30**
 - vi. In Ephesians 4:30, the context emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is grieved when a believer sins by lying (vs. 25), being angry (vs. 26), by stealing or being lazy (vs. 28), or speaking unkind words (vs. 29)
 - vii. It is a Person who is grieved – a mere force or power cannot be grieved
- c. 2nd – “Personal Acts”
 - i. Throughout the Scriptures, we read of acts or works performed by the Holy Spirit that are only possible for a Person to perform...
 - ii. **First**, the Holy Spirit Speaks – “...*the Holy Spirit said, ‘Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’*” Cf. **Acts 13:2**

- iii. **Revelation 2:7** – “*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*”
- iv. **Second**, the Holy Spirit Intercedes – “*...but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*” Cf. **Romans 8:26**
- v. The same word regarding intercession is used of Christ in His intercessory work Cf. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25
- vi. Just as Christ intercedes on behalf of believers, so the Spirit also intercedes for them (a mere force or power cannot intercede)
- vii. **Third**, the Holy Spirit Testifies – “***But when the Helper comes...He will testify of Me.***” Cf. **John 15:26**
- viii. Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would “*Testify of Me*” – the same word is used of the disciples’ testifying concerning Christ in John 15:27
- ix. As the disciples would bear witness of Christ so also would the Holy Spirit bear witness of Christ
- x. **Fourth**, the Holy Spirit Teaches – “***But the Helper, the Holy Spirit...He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.***” Cf. **John 14:26**
- xi. Just as the Lord Jesus taught the disciples (Matthew 5:2; John 8:2), so the Holy Spirit would teach them
- xii. The Holy Spirit would perform and carry on the same kind of teaching ministry as Christ did
- xiii. **Fifth**, the Holy Spirit Guides – “***However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth.***” Cf. **John 16:13**
- xiv. Jesus declared to His disciples that when the Holy Spirit would come He would guide them into all truth
- xv. The picture is that of a guide or escort leading a traveler into territory unfamiliar to the traveler but familiar to the guide
- d. **3rd – “Personal Interactions with Others”**
 - i. Throughout the Scriptures, we read of personal interactions that the Holy Spirit has with others that would be most inappropriate if He did not possess true personality...
 - ii. **First**, He can be Grieved – “***But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them***” Cf. **Isaiah 63:10**
 - iii. The Holy Spirit is grieved when a believer sins – He understands the consequences of sin to the life of a believer
 - iv. **Second**, He can be Resisted – “***You stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit...***” Cf. **Acts 7:51**
 - v. In his speech against the religious leaders, who ultimately stoned him, Stephen accused them of being “stiff necked...always resisting the Holy Spirit.”
 - vi. The religious leaders stood in a long tradition of rejecting the word of God and resisting the warnings of the Holy Spirit
 - vii. **Third**, He can be Lied To – “***But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...’***” Cf. **Acts 5:3**
 - viii. When Peter confronted Ananias and Sapphira concerning their deceit, he accused them of having lied to the Holy Spirit
 - ix. Ananias and Sapphira were both judged with death for their sin of having lied to the Spirit
 - x. **Fourth**, He can be Obeyed – In **Acts Chapter 10**, the Lord revealed to the apostle Peter that He was including Gentiles into the realm of His salvific blessings

- xi. Thus, the Holy Spirit told Peter to accompany two men to the house of Cornelius where he would share the gospel to the Gentiles
- xii. And we are told that Peter obeyed the command of the Holy Spirit and went to the home of Cornelius in Caesarea
- xiii. **Fifth**, He can be Blasphemed – “*But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation*” Cf. **Mark 3:29**
- xiv. What exactly is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? There are 2-views:
- xv. The *first view* says that it was the rejection of Christ by the Jews and religious leaders of Jesus’ time and cannot be committed anymore – the *second view* says that it is the consistent, blatant rejection of the Holy Spirit’s work of wooing and conviction (an ultimate rejection of Christ)
- e. Therefore, by His Personal characteristics, acts, and interactions with others – we are able to conclude that the Holy Spirit is a Person, and as a Person, you can have a Personal Relationship with Him

III. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- a. Let's look at the Deity of the Holy Spirit – “The Holy Spirit is God”
 - i. The Scriptures clearly declare the Father to be God – “*Grace to you and peace from God our Father...*” Cf. **Romans 1:7**
 - ii. The Scriptures clearly declare the Son to be God – “...*Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*” Cf. **Romans 9:5**
 - iii. But, do they declare the Holy Spirit to be God? Does the Holy Spirit share the same nature as the Father and the Son? The Divine Nature?
 - iv. To answer this question we would simply say, “Yes!” – the Scriptures clearly portray and proclaim the Holy Spirit as God
 - v. Let's examine *three pieces* of evidence confirming His Deity:
- b. 1st – “The Divine Titles of the Holy Spirit”
 - i. Throughout the Scriptures, divine names and titles are often ascribed to the Holy Spirit – Let's look at a few of them:
 - ii. **First**, God – “*But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to men but to God.’*” Cf. **Acts 5:3-4**
 - iii. The apostle Peter refers to the Holy Spirit as God, he equates lying to the Holy Spirit as lying to God
 - iv. **Jeremiah 31:33-34** – “*But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Jehovah: I will put My laws in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*”
 - v. Interestingly, the author of the Hebrews quotes Jeremiah 31:33-34 and attributes the words to the Holy Spirit, “*But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He has said before, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says LORD: I will put My laws in their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,’ then He adds, ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’*” Cf. **Hebrews 10:15-17**
 - vi. **Second**, Lord – “*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty.*” Cf. **2 Corinthians 3:17**
 - vii. The apostle Paul tells us that the “Lord” is the Spirit – the title “Lord” is a title of Deity often used to refer to Jesus Christ
 - viii. Also, if you read Acts 28:25-27, the apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 6:8-10 and attributes the words to the Holy Spirit

- ix. In **Isaiah 6:8-10**, the prophet Isaiah tells us, “*Also, I heard the voice of the Lord, saying...*”
- x. Quoting this section of Scripture, the apostle Paul tells us, “***The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet***” Cf. **Acts 28:25-27**
- c. **2nd** – “The Divine Attributes of the Holy Spirit”
 - i. Throughout the Scriptures, divine attributes are assigned to the Holy Spirit which can only be possessed by God – let’s look at a few of them:
 - ii. **First**, the Holy Spirit is Eternal – “***How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.***” Cf. **Hebrews 9:14**
 - iii. The Holy Spirit is Eternal – He is called the Eternal Spirit – He had no beginning and has no end, but He always existed and will always exist
 - iv. Through the eternal Spirit, Christ offered Himself without spot to God – just as the Holy Spirit had a part in the birth of Christ, He also had a part in the death of Christ
 - v. How are we to offer ourselves as living sacrifices unto God? Through the eternal Spirit...
 - vi. **Second**, the Holy Spirit is Omniscient – “***But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God***” Cf. **2 Corinthians 2:10-11**
 - vii. The Holy Spirit is all knowing – He knows all things – He is the only One who knows the unfathomable and unsearchable things of God
 - viii. **Third**, the Holy Spirit is Omnipresent – “***Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.***” Cf. **Psalm 139:7-10**
 - ix. The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent – He is all-present – everywhere at once
 - x. In Psalm 139, David declares that he cannot flee from the presence of the Holy Spirit
 - xi. **Fourth**, the Holy Spirit is Omnipotent – “***The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life***” Cf. **Job 33:4**
 - xii. The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent – He is all-powerful – there is no limit to His power, but He can do all things in accordance with His nature
 - xiii. Specifically, in Job 33:4 & Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit’s omnipotence is seen in creation – He gave life to creation
 - xiv. **Fifth**, the Holy Spirit is Holy – “***And declared to be the Son of God, with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead***” Cf. **Romans 1:4**
 - xv. The Holy Spirit is Holy – He is the “Holy” Spirit or the Spirit of “Holiness” – completely set apart and separated from creation
- d. **3rd** – “The Divine Works performed by the Holy Spirit”
 - i. Throughout the Scriptures, we are told that the Holy Spirit performs divine works which can only be performed by God – Let’s look at a few of them:
 - ii. **First**, Creation – “***The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.***” Cf. **Genesis 1:2**
 - iii. Several Scripture passages affirm that the Holy Spirit was involved in the work of Creation Cf. see also Psalm 104:24-26; Job 26:13a
 - iv. **Second**, Inspiration of Scripture - “***For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy man of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***” Cf. **2 Peter 1:21**

- v. The Holy Spirit's work in the inspiration of the Scriptures is strong evidence of His Deity for "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God" Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16
- vi. **Third**, Regeneration – "*He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*" Cf. Titus 3:5
- vii. To regenerate means to give life – the Holy Spirit causes and produces the new birth, He is the author and source of spiritual life
- viii. **John 3:3** – "*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*"
- ix. **Fourth**, Intercession – "*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*" Cf. Romans 8:26
- x. In the same way Christ is the intercessor for believers, the Holy Spirit is also the intercessor for believers Cf. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25
- xi. **Fifth**, Helping Saints – "*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth...*" Cf. John 14:16-17a
- xii. The word *Helper* is the Greek word *parakletos* which comes from two words, "along side" and "called," thus meaning, "one called alongside to help"
- xiii. Interestingly, in 1 John 2:1, the same Greek word is used to describe the Lord Jesus (translated – Advocate)
- xiv. The Holy Spirit is "*another Helper of the same kind as Christ*" who comes alongside of believers to help them
- xv. The Holy Spirit's work as the believers *Paraclete* (Helper) demands His Deity since His work is the same as Christ's role as *Paraclete*

IV. **The Three-Fold Relationship with the Holy Spirit**

- a. Let's look at the three-fold relationship the believer has with the Holy Spirit
 - i. The Scriptures describe 3-workings of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer
 - ii. To do this – the Scriptures use three Greek prepositions to describe the believers relationship with the Holy Spirit
 - iii. The Holy Spirit is a Person, and as a Person, the Bible teaches us that we can relate to Him in three ways:
- b. 1st – "He is With us"
 - i. The first relationship believers have with the Holy Spirit is He is *with* them – "*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you*" Cf. John 14:16-17
 - ii. The Lord Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would dwell *with* them – this is the translation of the Greek preposition "*para*"
 - iii. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, who is with us, ready and willing to assist us in our Christian walk
 - iv. What do you need help in? What are you struggling with? What is your battle? Why not allow the Holy Spirit to help you out – He is with you, He is your Paraclete...
 - v. Now, this specific relationship that the believer has with the Holy Spirit is also shared with non-believers (*in a different sense*)
 - vi. The Holy Spirit is with us to help us, but He is also with us to convict us of sin, righteousness, and judgment
 - vii. **John 16:8-11** – "*And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of*

righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

- viii. There is a trial going on in every heart – and the Holy Spirit is the divine prosecutor showing us our great need for a Savior, Jesus Christ
- c. 2nd – “He is In us”
 - i. The second relationship believers have with the Holy Spirit is He is *in* them – “...but you know Him (i.e. the Holy Spirit), for He dwells with you and will be in you.” Cf. **John 14:17b**
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 3:16** – “*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*”
 - iii. The Greek preposition “en” is used to describe this relationship – it carries the idea of “within” or “in”
 - iv. As you respond to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, open your heart to the Savior, submit to the Lord Jesus, & place your faith & trust in Him alone for salvation – the Holy Spirit then takes residency in you
 - v. In other words, you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit – He begins to dwell within you – the Divine life is inside of you
 - vi. Briefly, let me mention a few things concerning this relationship believers share with the Holy Spirit
 - vii. It begins at the moment of salvation (Acts 2:38, 5:32), it is a gift of God to all believers (John 7:37-39; Acts 2:38), it is the remedy for sin (Romans 8:11), it is evidence of our adoption into the family of God (Romans 8:15-16), and it guarantees our final redemption (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - viii. If the Holy Spirit is not dwelling inside of you – you don’t belong to Christ, “...Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” Cf. **Romans 8:9** – “You must be born again”
- d. 3rd – “He can come Upon us”
 - i. The third relationship believers have with the Holy Spirit is He can come *upon* them – “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” Cf. **Acts 1:8**
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is with us, as we place our faith and trust in Christ, He comes to dwell within us, then, He can come upon us
 - iii. This relationship is commonly referred to as the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the filling of the Holy Spirit, or the overflowing of the Holy Spirit (all refer to the same working/relationship)
 - iv. This relationship can take place at the moment of conversion (Acts 10:44) and/or it can take place after conversion (Acts 19:6)
 - v. This relationship with the Holy Spirit is meant to occur more than once – “*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit*” Cf. **Ephesians 5:8** (filled=present tense)
 - vi. The Holy Spirit comes upon the life of the believer for the specific purpose of empowering them to be a witness to Christ – and it would seem to distribute spiritual gifts for the edification of the body of Christ
 - vii. **Acts 4:31** – “*And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*”
 - viii. The only way we can do the work of God is by the power of God, therefore, we desperately need to experience this relationship with the Holy Spirit everyday – “*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*” Cf. **Luke 11:13**