

Getting To Know The Holy Spirit



A Survey Of His Character, His Work, And His Influence

Sunday Morning Class, Fall 2012

Booklet By Jeremy Jones

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING OUR STUDY

If God is one (**Deut. 6.4**) then how can there be a Father, Son, and Spirit?

Is the Spirit a person or merely a force or tool of God?

Is the Holy Spirit in the O.T. the same as the Spirit in the N.T.? Is there a difference between God's Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Holy Spirit? If so, how can we tell?

What role if any did the Spirit have in creation?

How did inspiration work? Did the Holy Spirit give men every word to write and say or did He just give guidance and "course correction?"

Do people have gifts of the Holy Spirit today? Do people today speak in tongues?

Is there a difference between "gifts of the Holy Spirit" and the "gift of the Holy Spirit?"

What does it mean that God gave us the Spirit as a pledge/down payment?

Why did Jesus have to leave for the Holy Spirit to come? (**John 14-17**)

Should we worship/pray to/ sing to the Holy Spirit?

What is the "baptism of the Holy Spirit?" Do we need to be baptized by the Holy Spirit to be saved?

Can we serve God without the indwelling/empowerment of the Spirit? Can we have faith without His power in our lives?

What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to insult the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to lie to the Holy Spirit? Is it possible to commit these sins today?

What role will the Spirit have in judging the righteous and the wicked?

GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit In The O.T. (Genesis-Song of Solomon)

1. What does the Bible tell us about the Holy Spirit in creation? (**Gen. 1.1-2**) Where one other place does the word translated as “hovered; moving over” appear?” What might these things foreshadow about the Spirit’s role in the N.T.? Would He be included in the “Us” of **Gen. 1:26, 3.22, and 11.7**? Do some research about the Hebrew word “Elohim” (most often translated God) and it’s meaning.
2. What is the Hebrew word translated as Spirit? What other meanings does it have in different contexts? What do the other meanings suggest about the work of the spirit? Where else are these terms used in the creation account in the first few chapters of **Genesis**?
3. What was the Holy Spirit’s role in the construction of the tabernacle? (**Ex. 31.1-11, 35.30-36.1**) What was the purpose of the tabernacle? What might this foreshadow about the Spirit’s role in the N.T.?
4. What happened to the seventy elders of Israel (and 2 others) when the Spirit who was on Moses rested on them? How did Joshua react? What was Moses’ reply? (**Num. 11.24-30**) Can you think of any N.T. parallels to this occasion?

5. The Holy Spirit was already in Joshua by the end of **Numbers**. Why then did Moses lay his hands on him? (**Num. 27.15-23**)

6. What did the Holy Spirit do for Israel in the wilderness wanderings? (**Neh. 9.20**) How did the Holy Spirit do this work?

7. How did the Holy Spirit work in the lives of the Judges of Israel? (**Jud. 3.10, 6.34, 11.29, 13.25, 14.6, 14.19, 15.14, etc.**)

8. What part did the Holy Spirit play in showing Saul and Israel that he was the God-appointed king of Israel? (**1 Sam. 10.1-13**) Do any N.T. parallels come to mind?

9. How did the Holy Spirit work in Saul to defeat the Ammonites? (**1 Sam. 11.1-11**) Does this seem unusual to you? If so, why?

10. What happened when David was anointed king? What happened to Saul? (**1 Sam. 16.13-14**) After sinning with Bathsheba against God, what was David's great concern? (**Psa. 51.11**)

11. After the Holy Spirit had already departed from Saul, why did He come again upon Saul and also his messengers? What was the sign that the Holy Spirit had come upon them? (**1 Sam. 19.18-24**)

12. What did the Holy Spirit cause David, Jahaziel, Azariah, and Zechariah to do? (**2 Sam. 23.1-7; 2 Chron. 15.1-7, 20.14-17, 24.20-22**)

13. What did men understand that the Holy Spirit could do to people? (**1 Kgs. 18.12; 2 Kgs. 2.16**)

11. In Malachi's day, who was it that had not divorced their wives? (**Mal. 2.13-17**) What does this suggest about the relation between the work of the Spirit and morality?

12. Who was predicted to help Israel's coming Messiah (chosen one, i.e. King) to accomplish His work? (**Isa. 11.1-2; 42.1; 61.1-4**)

13. From the past two lessons, what does the O.T. teach about the character, personality, work, and power of the Holy Spirit?

SUMMARY: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Holy Spirit was active in the world since creation
 - Hovered as a mother bird
 - Breathed life into man
- Holy Spirit was the source of blessings (Israel in wilderness, after captivity, etc)
 - Food, water, protection, comfort, Law
- Holy Spirit prompted men to go, act, speak, sometimes leading or carrying them (literally or in a vision)
 - Judges- Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson
 - Kings- Saul, David
 - Prophets- Elijah, Ezekiel
- Holy Spirit equipped men to accomplish God's work
 - Building- (Tabernacle, Temple)
 - Strength- (Samson, Saul)
 - Leadership- (Saul, David, the Messiah)
 -
- Holy Spirit gave men signs to prove authority and/or approval (70 elders, Saul)
- Holy Spirit revealed God's Word (gave the law, spoke through representatives)
- Holy Spirit (through His Word) influenced men to obey God (i.e. renewal after captivity, kept men faithful to marriage vows) though many times Israel grieved Him through their stubbornness and rebellion.

GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit In The Life Of Jesus (Matthew- John)

1. When was John the Baptist filled with the Spirit? Which Old Testament figure was John compared to? What was the work these 2 men were tasked with that made the Spirit essential? **(Luke 1.13-17)**
2. What did Elizabeth and Zacharias do when filled with the Holy Spirit? **(Luke 1.39-45, 67-79)**
3. Mary was a virgin, so how was Jesus conceived? **(Matt. 1.18-25; Luke 1.26-35)**
4. What had the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon? Why did he go to the Temple? What did he do and say when he saw Jesus? **(Luke 2.25-35)** What does the ministry of people like Simeon and prophetess Anna **(Lk. 2.36-38)** show about the work of the Holy Spirit between Testaments?

5. When and How did the Holy Spirit come upon Jesus? (**Matt. 3.13-17; Mark 1.9-11; Luke 3.21-22; John 1.29-34**) Where is this animal first mentioned in Scripture? What role did this animal take in Israel's worship? What might be the significance of the Holy Spirit taking this form?

6. What argument did John make for why Jesus would be much greater than he was? (**Matt. 3.11-12; Mark 1.7-8, Luke 3.15-17; John 1.29-34**) What does the word "baptize" mean in Greek?

7. What prophecies were fulfilled when the Spirit came on Jesus? (**Matt. 12.18; Luke 4.1-19**)

8. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness after John baptized Him? (**Matt. 4.1; Mark 1.12-13; Luke 4.1-2**)

9. With what power did Jesus return to Galilee to begin His teaching? (**Luke 4.14**)

10. Why did John the Baptist argue that Jesus spoke the words of God? (**John 3.34**)
11. How did Jesus cast out demons? (**Matt. 12.28**)
12. Use the context of Jesus' statement to define "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit" and to explain why this sin will not be forgiven. (**Matt. 12.22-32; Mark 3.22-30**)
13. How did Jesus say David spoke? (**Matt. 22.43; Mark 12.36**)
14. What did Jesus promise His Apostles that the Holy Spirit would do for them after He left? (**Mt 10.19-20; Mk 13.11; Lk 12.12; Jn 14.16-17, 26, 15.26-27; 16.5-15**)

15. What happened when Jesus breathed on His Apostles? **(John 20.19-23)**
What is the Greek word for “breathe?” What was the synonym for this term in Hebrew (think lesson 1). What does this event remind you of in the Old Testament?
16. How did Jesus say that men would be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
(John 3.1-8)
17. What promise did Jesus make to all believers about the Spirit? **(Luke 11.13; John 7.37-39)**
18. What part did the Spirit play in the command to baptize those whom the Apostles made disciples of Jesus? **(Matt. 28.19)**

6. Discuss the significance of the Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius and his family in the same way that He fell on the Apostles at Pentecost. **(10.44-48, 11.15-18, 15.7-9)**

7. Jesus “baptized” the Apostles and Cornelius’s family gathering with the Holy Spirit. How did others receive Him? **(8.14-20, 19.1-7)** How many “baptisms” are part of the lives of Christians today? **(Eph. 4.1-6)**

8. Read **Acts 2.38; 5.32; 8.20; 10.45; 11.17; 15.8** concerning the “gift of the Holy Spirit.” What does this expression mean? Does it mean the same thing in every context? Use the rest of the N.T. as needed to define the “gift of the Holy Spirit.”

9. Read **Acts 2.4; 4.3, 31; 6.3, 5; 7.55; 9.17; 11.24; 13.9-12; 13.52** concerning “being filled with the Holy Spirit.” What does this expression mean? Does it mean the same thing in every context? Use the rest of the N.T. as needed to help define being “filled with the Spirit.”

10. Comment on the Holy Spirit's work in the revelation of the will of God. **(Acts 1.2; 11.28; 15.28; 20.23; 21.4, 11)**

11. Comment on the Holy Spirit's work in directing and taking men where He wanted them to go. **(Acts 8.29, 39; 10.19-20; 11.12; 16.6-7; 13.2-4)**

12. How do men's evil actions affect the Holy Spirit? **(5.3-9; 7.51)**

13. How did the Holy Spirit help the church after the conversion of Saul, helping it to grow? **9.31**

14. How did the Holy Spirit make men overseers? Does He still make men overseers today? **20.28**

GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT
Lesson 5: The Holy Spirit In The N.T. Letters (Romans-Revelation)

1. What part does the Holy Spirit play in the Christian's salvation?
 - a. **Hebrews 9.14-**
 - b. **Romans 1.4-**
 - c. **Titus 3.5-**
 - d. **2 Thessalonians 2.13; 1 Peter 1.2-**
 - e. **1 Corinthians 6.11-**
 - f. **1 Corinthians 12.13-**
 - g. **Ephesians 2.18-**
 - h. **Ephesians 1.13; Galatians 4.6; Romans 8.15-17-**

2. What gift does God give the Christian (**Rom. 5.5; Gal. 3.1-5; 1 Thess. 4.8; Acts 2.38, 5.32**) and how does this gift assure the Christian of Heaven? (**Rom. 8.23; 2 Cor. 1.22, 5.1-5; Eph. 1.14**)

3. The Christian's relationship to the Holy Spirit is to be very close. List the ways that this close relationship is described in the N.T.
 - a. **Romans 8.4-**
 - b. **Romans 8.9; 1 Corinthians 3.16-17, 6.19-20; 2 Timothy 1.14-**
 - c. **Romans 8.14-**
 - d. **Ephesians 5.18-**
 - e. **2 Corinthians 13.14-**
 - f. **Hebrews 6.4-**
 - g. **1 Peter 4.14-**
 - h. **2 Corinthians 6.6-**

4. How does the Christian serve Christ by the Spirit rather than the letter or the flesh? **(Rom. 2.29, 7.6; 2 Cor. 3.1-6; Phil. 3.2-3)**

5. How does one live who carries out the desires of the flesh? Describe the characteristics of one who “walks by the Spirit.” **(Gal. 5.16-26; see also Eph. 6.10-17; Col. 1.8; Rom. 14.17, 15.13; 1 Thess. 1.6)**

6. Whose image is the Spirit trying to transform us into? How does He do this? **(2 Cor. 3.17-18; Eph. 3.14-17)**

7. Notice these work of the Holy Spirit in the 1st century. Does the Holy Spirit continue these works today? Why or why not?
 - a. **1 Peter 1.12; 1 Corinthians 2.9-13; Ephesians 3.5-**

 - b. **Romans 15.18-19; 1 Cor. 2.1-5; 1 Thess. 1.5; Heb. 2.3-4; 1 Jn. 5.5-9-**

 - c. **1 Cor 12-14 (notice especially 12.4-12, 27-31; 13.8-13; and 14.5, 12, 26)**

The Greatest Influence In My Life

It was through Him that I came to know and appreciate the love of God (**Rom. 5.5**). The knowledge that He gave me regarding God's love changed my life completely. He has helped to make me into a new man (**Tit. 3:5**). He is helping me become more like the Lord (**2 Cor. 3.18**). It is because of His influence and teaching that the fruit of Godliness is seen in my life (**Gal. 5.22-23**). Instead of letting the flesh control me, I let Him lead me (**Rom. 8.13-14**). He shows me the right way to live, reproves me when I am wrong, and warns me of the judgment (**Jn. 16.8**).

He gives me confidence to stand before God. Though I am sinful, with His help I have been made holy (**1 Pet. 1.2**). He identifies me as one who belongs to God (**Eph. 4:30**). He tells me that I am God's child (**Rom. 8.16; Gal. 4.6**) and He assures me that Jesus is living in me (**1 Jn. 3.24**).

He provides strength for me to face Satan's challenging temptations and trials (**Eph. 3.16**). Through His daily guidance I live a life full of peace and joy (**Rom. 14.17**). He powerfully builds up my hope of Heaven (**Rom. 15.13**). In fact, all I've mentioned so far that He has done for me is my guarantee of Heaven (**Eph. 1.14**).

His influence on me is so complete that you might say He lives in me (**Rom. 8.9-11**). He so affects every aspect of my life that you could say that I am filled with Him (**Eph. 5.18**).

I don't want to disappoint Him by living contrary to the wisdom He has given to me. This would give him grief and sorrow (**Eph. 4:30**). I know that if I willfully ignore the directions He has given after all He has done for me would be a great insult (**Heb. 10.26-29**).

Who is the greatest influence in my life?

The Holy Spirit is!

How does he teach, cleanse, guide, and empower me?

Through His letters!

He tells us in human language what is on the mind of God. This includes what He has prepared for those that love Him and all the blessings He has freely given (**1 Cor. 2.9-13**). When one becomes a Christian they become proof that the doctrine preached by the Apostles and Prophets (inspired by the Spirit) is authoritative and powerful. Paul describes the Corinthian brethren as commendation letters that His work was from God when he wrote, "**You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts**" (**2 Cor. 3.2-3**). The Holy Spirit produces true conversion! The Gospel must come "In power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction" and be accepted "not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God" which continues to perform its work in our lives even today (**1 Thess. 1.5-10; 2.13**).