

Combined Fellowship: The Holy Spirit

BPCWA COMBINED FELLOWSHIP (15 Aug 2014)

The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

PURPOSE

To understand more clearly from Scriptures:

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
- II. The Work of the Holy Spirit
- III. The common questions concerning the Holy Spirit
- IV. The impact of the Holy Spirit in my life for God

I The Person of the Holy Spirit

1) Third Person of the Holy Trinity

a) He is a Person, not just a force / influence / power

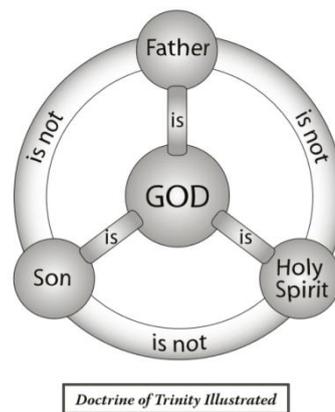
- i) Jehovah Witnesses do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person, so He cannot be God. Their publication, the Watchtower, teaches that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but only a force, just like the "wind or radio beams." ("Overseers in Apocalyptic Times," *The Watchtower*, January 15, 1958, pp. 42-3.)
- ii) Uniting Church of God asserts that "The Holy Spirit, from the evidence found in the Bible, is not a person in a supposed Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the very nature, presence and expression of God's power actively working in His servants." (<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/who-god/holy-spirit-not-person/>)
- iii) Oneness Pentecostalism, like modalist groups, propounds that the Holy Spirit is a *mode* of God, instead of each being a distinct or separate person in the Godhead. They teach rather that the Holy Spirit is another name and appearance for God the Father. From Oneness theology, the Holy Spirit in reality the manifestation of the Father, but operating in a different capacity. The United Pentecostal Church believes that there is no personal distinction between God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- iv) Even some Bible Encyclopedias explains that the "Spirit is never used in the OT to mean that He is a Person who is distinct from the Father and the Son - "the Spirit of God is the divine nature viewed as vital energy" (Paul Jewett, "Holy Spirit," *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, p184.)

b) He is distinct from the Father and the Son

- i) Distinct before time: And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:26-27)

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- ii) And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (Mat 3:16-17)
- iii) Refer to diagram on the Trinity illustrated from Theology for Every Christian A Systematic (Theology in the Reformed and Premillennial Tradition of J Oliver Buswell by Timothy Tow and Jeffrey Khoo © 2007 Far Eastern Bible College, p25)



Doctrine of Trinity Illustrated

- c) Proof that the Holy Spirit is a Person : Described in Scriptures with a personal pronoun with emotion, intelligence, wisdom, speech, and actions *in both the OT and NT*:
 - i) But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them. (Isa 63:10)
 - ii) And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them. (Eze 11:5)
 - iii) The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. (Job 33:4)
 - iv) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (John 14:16)
 - v) Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. (Acts 8:29)
 - vi) As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (Acts 13:2)
 - vii) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30)
 - viii) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; . . . (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)

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2) Holy Spirit is God

a) His Titles proves that He is God

- i) Names of the Holy Spirit : Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, Holy Spirit
- ii) The FATHER is called God in Romans 1:7, the SON, Jesus, is called God in Hebrews 1:8, and the HOLY SPIRIT is called God in Acts 5:3,4:
 - But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:3-4)
- iii) Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. (Matt 12:31)

b) His operations proves that He is God

i) Creation

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (Gen 1:2). He brought form, order, functionality to the universe.

ii) Omnipresence

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (Ps 139:7-8)

iii) Omniscience : All knowing, striving, revealing,

- Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? (Is 40:13-14)

- And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. (Gen 6:3)

- But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.(1Cor 2:10)

c) His Authority : judging and commanding proves that He is God

- When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. (Isa 4:4)

- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; . . . (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29;

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3:6, 13, 22)

QUESTION : So do you pray to the Holy Spirit or to Jesus or to God the Father?

3) Has His own role / function

- a) Ministers in both Old and New Testament as seen in the examples in 1 c.
- b) The Holy Spirit's ministry in man's life can be summarized into 3 operations described in Scriptures
 - i) Coming upon
 - ii) Indwelling
 - iii) Infilling

II The Work of the Holy Spirit (Part 1 for this session)

1) In Mankind, the world

- a) Unbelievers : Some examples that Holy Spirit came upon unbelievers
 - i) Balaam Jude (not saved, Jude 1:11, Rev 2:14)
And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding *in his tents* according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. (Num 24:2)
 - ii) Samson (saved only when He turned to God in repentance in Judges 16)
And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith (Judges 15:14, 15)
 - iii) King Saul (unrepentant murderous heart , sought evil spirit 1 Sam 28, committed suicide without hope 1 Chron 10:4)
- 1Sam 11:6-7 And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly. (7) And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

- And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. (1Sam 10:10)
- And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. (1Sam 19:23)
 - iv) Lesson : Unbelievers are under the control of God the Holy Spirit whether they permit Him or not
 - God is sovereignly in control of all the world and every one of its inhabitants to do His will
 - How does He do it? By the operation of the Holy Spirit

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- so it means the Holy Spirit is SOVEREIGN AND ALL POWERFUL and what man wants or not want to do is irrelevant to Him because He can come upon them with or without their permission
- The Holy Spirit can come upon even unbelievers to control them in what they say and do
- But God's sovereign control of man does not negate man's responsibility. God controls and enables them but they are responsible for their motives and intents of their actions

v) Lesson : Therefore, the doctrine that the Holy Spirit is God, a Person who actively works, is most encouraging to understand because it:

- brings comfort: because it means He is in Sovereign and absolute control and can exert power over even unbelievers
- provides assurance : That means even if they are not aware of Him, don't acknowledge Him, or even think that He exists, they are still under His control when He comes upon them
- teaches and helps us how to pray rightly: find help in God over words and actions of others. God can work in them, whether they know it or not, want to obey Him or not, whether they allow Him to control them or not
- encourages us to lean upon God : to send His Holy Spirit to work because we can do nothing to change or control the intents and plans of man's mind, words, and actions
- helps us to wait patiently upon God : know that He is working behind the scenes in the heart of men

QUESTION: How would you now pray for the government, your boss, your teacher, your friends, your persecutors?

b) Believers : Some examples that the Holy Spirit came upon believers.

- Othniel : And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. (Judges 3:10)
 - Gideon : Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.
 - Others : Judges 11:29, 1Sam 16:13, 1Chron 12:18, 2Chron 15:1, 2Chron 20:14, 2Chron 24:20,
 - Without a doubt, the God the Holy Spirit worked in both believers and unbelievers, in the OT too
- v) Lesson : We must learn that our strength comes from the Holy Spirit to do anything for God
- Do not go bull headed in our own flesh but seek strength from God to send the Holy Spirit
 - you cannot fight God's battles in your own flesh
 - it is a daily, moment by moment need for strength - thank God it is repeatable!