

## **Biblical Theology**

### **Unit 6: Doctrine of The Holy Spirit – Lesson 1: The Person of the Holy Spirit**

#### **Personhood of the Spirit**

- Though the Holy Spirit is by definition an intangible, immaterial being and represents the power of God, the Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing.
  1. **The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of a person.**
    - **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** - So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
    - **Ephesians 4:30** - do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
    - **1 Corinthians 12:11** - All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
  2. **The Holy Spirit carries out the actions of a person.**
    - **John 14:26** - he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance...
    - **John 15:26** - "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.
    - **Romans 8:14** - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
    - **Romans 8:26** the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings
    - **Acts 13:4** - So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit...
  3. **The Holy Spirit is regularly regarded as a person throughout the Scriptures.**
    - **John 16:13** - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
    - **Acts 5:3** - Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?
    - **Acts 7:51** - You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.
    - **Hebrews 10:29** - and has outraged the Spirit of grace?
    - **Matthew 12:31** - the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

#### **Deity of the Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit is a distinct person of God, possesses 100% of God's attributes and is the one, true, living God. (One person of the Trinity)
  1. **The Scriptures declare the Holy Spirit to be God.**
    - **Acts 5:3-4** - "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to man but to God."
    - **2 Corinthians 3:16-18** - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom... For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
    - **Isaiah 6:8-10** - And I heard the voice of the Lord saying...
      - **Acts 28:25-27** - The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet.
  2. **The Holy Spirit possesses God's incommunicable attributes.**
    - **Hebrews 9:14** - through the eternal Spirit...
    - **1 Corinthians 2:10** - For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
    - **Luke 1:35** - "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you
    - **Zechariah 4:6** - Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.
    - **Psalm 139:7-10** - Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?...

## Identity of the Spirit

The Scriptures are full of descriptive titles, symbols, and attributes that helps us understand and relate to the person of the Holy Spirit.

- The Scriptures identify the Holy Spirit via numerous titles.
  1. ***Spirit of Truth (John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13; 14:26)***
    - Revealer: Repository of revelation of all that can be known and comprehended about God.
  2. ***Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4; 8:11)***
    - Sanctifier: Vehicle God uses to consecrate saved soul in this life and in resurrected life.
  3. ***Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2-4; John 6:63)***
    - Regenerator: The Holy Spirit is righteousness and life that is an alternative to the law.
  4. ***Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5-6)***
    - Consummator: The Holy Spirit is given to us after adoption to certify and allow Father/Child relationship.
  5. ***Spirit of Glory (1 Peter 4:14; Exodus 40:35)***
    - Abider: Where ever the presence of God is, there is his glory.
  6. ***Eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)***
    - All that the Holy Spirit is to us is forever.
- The Scriptures describe the Holy Spirit via numerous symbols.
  - Wind/Breath (Genesis 1:2; John 3:8; Acts 2:2)
    - Ruah (Hb) Pneuma (Gk)
  - Fire (Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; Acts 2:3-4)
  - Water (John 7:37-39; Isaiah 44:2-3)
  - Dove (Luke 3:22; John 1:32)
  - Seal (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; John 6:27)
  - Oil (1 Samuel 16:12-13; Luke 4:18; 1 John 2:20)
- The Holy Spirit's identity can be practically understood and related to through his tie to Christ.
  - ***Acts 16:7*** - *When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.*
  - ***Romans 8:9*** - *You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.*
  - ***Philippians 1:19*** - *Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.*

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important that we understand that the Holy Spirit is a person not a thing? What errant teachings arise out of treating the Holy Spirit as a mere supernatural power?
2. Which titles or symbols of the Holy Spirit impact you the most? Explain?
3. How does observing the Holy Spirit's tie to Christ help us understand and live out a Spirit filled life?