

Introduction:

- When I was growing up I used to watch a cartoon called Casper the Friendly Ghost. Then I graduated to another cartoon Space Ghost. Then I began reading a book of Ghost stories. As a teenager we used to go to this place called Lantern Road. It was a hang out of sorts. But the story was at certain times in the nights you would see the ghost of dead farmer who walked in the field with his lantern. People are fascinated by ghosts until you talk about the Holy Ghost.
- Someone asked me once, "Do you believe in ghosts?" Yes, yes I do.
- Then they asked, "Do you believe that ghosts will hurt you?" No they won't hurt me. I know who I am.
- "But many people who do not know who they are have hurt themselves running away from ghosts."
- Lets talk about the best Spirit of All... The Holy Spirit.
- *"Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.""* (Acts 1:4-5, NLT)

I. Who Is The Holy Spirit?

- A. Lets start with a reverse order of the words: The Holy Spirit.
- B. Spirit - the word spirit conveys to us the sense of intangibility, non-material, bodiless.
 1. The spirit of a person is other than his body and has no substantial existence.
 2. Spirit is not substance, yet it represents the essential reality of human existence operating through soul and body.
 3. Spirit cannot like an object be located, perceived or dissected because it is immaterial.
 4. In the scriptures the spirit is sometimes contrasted with the flesh. Listen to Jesus talking to the disciples after the resurrection:
 - a) *"Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."* (Luke 24:39, NLT)
 - b) The word spirit implies freedom of movement. It is why we call our church Freedom Christian Center..."Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom." 2 Cor 3:17
 - c) Jesus speaks to Nicodemus: *"The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."* (John 3:8, NLT)
 5. Spirit also represents energy and dynamic movement
 - a) In Gen 1:2 the Spirit hovered over the waters and participated in creation.
 - b) In Luke 1:35 the Spirit causes Mary's womb to conceive and bear the Son of God.
 - c) In Mat 12:28 Jesus casts out a demon by the power of the Spirit. Power to cast out.
 - d) In Acts 2:2 the Holy Spirit comes like the sound of hurricane winds.

- e) In Acts 1:8 Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes you will receive power.
- C. Holy - the word holy in the name "The Holy Spirit" mean sacredness. Holy means set apart from the common and the ordinary. "... *for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you,...*" (Hosea 11:9, NLT) Whenever the 'holy' is present, reverence is the proper response! le. Ex 3:5 "Moses take off your shoes for where you are standing is holy ground." Why? He just brought his sheep there yesterday. Holy because God was there.
1. Holiness speaks of utter purity and righteousness. Holiness is the white heart of righteousness!
 - a) *But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil.* (Hab 1:13).
 - b) Acts 5:1-10 Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Holy Spirit and die.
 2. Holy expresses the sense of majesty and glory.
 - a) *"Who is like you among the gods, O Lord—glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?"* (Exodus 15:11, NLT)
 - b) Is 6:3, Isaiah hears angels declaring "holy, holy holy" it is a glorious and scary sight at the same time.
 - c) Peter was impacted by his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration! Mt 17:6 He fell on his face before Jesus, Moses and Elijah.
 3. Holy is the description of the Spirit of God.
- D. "The" Holy Spirit - the is an article that signifies singularity and uniqueness.
1. There are many spirits-
 - a) spirits of men - Romans 8:16 'our (pl) spirit, 1 Cor 2:11 the spirit of man.
 - b) demon spirits - Lk 8:29 refers to a demon as an unclean spirit. Mt 8:16 Jesus cast out demon spirits with a word. rev 16:14 speaks of spirits of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1 speaks of deceiving spirits.
 - c) spirit of angels - *"Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation."* (Hebrews 1:14, NLT)
 2. "The" Holy Spirit - Only one! Very unique because He is the Spirit of God! *"But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."* (1 Corinthians 12:13, NLT)
 - a) *"Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,"* (Luke 4:1, NLT)
 - b) Acts 28:25 The Holy Spirit spoke.
 - c) Mt 28:29 The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.
 - d) Acts 1:8 the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

II. What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

A. He is Orchestrating

1. He is preparing
 - a) He is preparing the heart for the entrance of His Word

- (1) The Word to save
 - (2) The Word to heal
 - (3) The Word to deliver
 - (4) The Word to encourage
2. He is setting up
 - a) People
 - b) Places
 - c) Times
 3. He is arranging

B. He is Restoring

1. He is guiding us into all truth. Jn 16:13
 - a) Peter a man filled with Holy Spirit proclaimed the Gospel
 - b) Steven and man full of the Spirit and wisdom preach to the Pharisees
 - c) Those scattered went everywhere preaching. Acts 8:4
 - d) Jn 14:26 The Holy Spirit will teach you all things.
2. Salvation
3. Giving Life - causing to live
4. Healing
 - a) Luke 5:17 Power of the Lord was with him to heal.
 - b) Acts 3:10 Lame beggar healed by Peter
5. Delivering
 - a) Acts 16:17-18 Paul delivers a woman possessed by evil spirits
 - b) Jesus Mark 1:24-26 delivers a man.
6. Sanctification
 - a) 2 These 2:13 sanctification by the Spirit
7. Taking back what has been stolen
 - a) Strengthening Marriages
 - b) Building relationships

C. He is Equipping For Ministry

1. The Reality of God's Presence gave courage.
2. Spiritual Gifts
 - a) Profit of all
3. Fruit of Spirit
 - a) Manifesting the nature of God
4. He gives power for ministry.
 - a) Jesus - Luke 4:1,14 Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit
 - b) Acts 1:8 You shall receive power.
 - c) Saul Acts 9:22 Saul's preaching became more and more powerful