

**Introduction:**

- In our study of the Holy Spirit we have looked at many things over the last few weeks: Joy in the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit as Encourager, Teacher and Friend. Last week shared a message on "Did you receive the Holy Spirit?" I hope that you are starting to walk with the Third person of the Trinity!
- This evening we are going to look at some things that will help us to know who He, the Spirit of God is. And what He is to us the body of Christ.
  - I have found that people usually do not have any issues relating to God the Father and God the Son, but when it comes to the Holy Spirit we are not so confident.
  - It is almost like...a hesitation...that asks, "Am I doing this right." IE. In Africa, as I have started to begin to understand the tribal system and Chiefdoms. I have noticed that to meet a chief is a big deal! There are certain things that you can and cannot do as you interact with them. Everyone, gets kind of nervous. Why? Because in your mind you are asking am I doing this right? I think that is how many people feel about interacting with the Holy Spirit.
  - Because there has been so little teaching about the Holy Spirit, there are question that the body of Christ has about relating to Him.
- Therefore tonight, we are going to look at "The Holy Spirit." Next we will look at seven titles that He is known by in the Word of God.

**I. What's In A Name?**

- A. The Holy Spirit, is the name/title that refers to the third person of the trinity. Starting with the name of the Spirit of God, known as the Holy Spirit will help us to begin to relate to Him.
- B. Let's break it down but do it in reverse order.
  1. **Spirit** - OT - Hebrew - ruach. NT - Greek - pneuma. Both mean breath or wind.
    - a) Spirit, breath or wind all convey the idea of intangibility or immaterial. Meaning without substance. The body of person has substance. But his spirit has no substance. You cannot locate the spirit. It can't be perceived, weighed or brake it down because it is immaterial. You can locate your body. It can be weighed, perceived, and brake it down into parts.
    - b) In scripture, the spirit is often contrasted to the 'flesh.' *"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)
    - c) Spirit also implies freedom of movement...meaning there are no limitations. 2 Cor 3:17 *"Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom."* With man, he is limited because of his flesh vs. with God there are no limits. Jesus became flesh but ultimately is not limited. *"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36, NLT)
    - d) Thirdly the Spirit represents energy, power, force (dunamis). Gen 1:2 The Spirit hovered over the waters and with force/power moved with creativity! The Holy Spirit cause Mary to become pregnant with the Christ. And in Acts 2 He came with the sound of mighty winds! Acts 1:8 *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."*

- e) He is Spirit-intangible, free to move, and power. These are the major implications of being regarding the Spirit of God.
- 2. **Holy** - OT - qodes. NT - hagios. Holy, it is a word that stresses sacredness and being set apart from all others. Not common. *"For I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst."* (Ho 11:9). ESV
  - a) Where ever 'the holy' is present reverence is the response. Ie. That is why in Ex 3:5 Moses is told to take his shoes off. He was standing on holy ground. It wasn't the ground but the God who stood on the ground that made it holy. It is not us who are holy but the God who is in us that makes us holy!
  - b) Holiness also speaks of purity and righteousness. "Holiness is the white heat of righteousness that is a consuming fire against any trace of evil or corruption." Rodman Williams; Renewal Theology, p 138. Ie. Acts 5:1-10 Ananias and Sapphira.
  - c) Holiness may also be see as the highest majesty and glory of God. Ex 15:11 "majestic in holiness and awesome in glory." Is 6:3 holiness and glory. Holiness, majesty and glory all belong together.
  - d) He is holy, majestic and glorious!
- 3. **The** - now this is a word that many charismatics struggle over. The reason being, it seems to imply that the Holy Spirit is an it. Well, He is not an 'it.' He is a person.
  - a) 'The' is an article that speaks of singularity or uniqueness. There are many spirits - angels, demons, human, etc., but there is only one Holy Spirit...and He is called-The Holy Spirit!
  - b) There are other spirits called holy. Mark 8:38 the holy angels who are ministering spirits (Heb 1:14). Christians have sanctified spirits making them 'holy spirits.' But we will never be-The Holy Spirit!
  - c) There is only one known as The Holy Spirit!

## II. Seven Titles The Holy Spirit Is Known By!

- A. First let's look at a comparison of OT and NT use of Holy Spirit language.
  - 1. In the NT 'the Holy Spirit' and 'the Spirit' are used interchangeably and mean the same person, The Holy Spirit. And frequently the phrase 'the Spirit of God' is used to speak of The Holy Spirit.
    - a) In Romans 8:9, Paul speaks of the the Spirit, the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of Christ.
    - b) In Mt 10:20 Jesus speaks of the 'Spirit of your Father.'
    - c) The most common phrase in the NT is simply, 'the Spirit.'
  - 2. In the OT it is significant to realize that the phrase 'the Holy Spirit' is not used.
    - a) The most common expression in the OT is 'the Spirit of the Lord.'
    - b) We find: your Holy Spirit, his Holy Spirit, My Spirit.
    - c) Like the NT we find, 'the Spirit' and 'the Spirit of God'.
    - d) So The Holy Spirit is exclusive to the NT though the above are found in both and speak of the same person of God: The Holy Spirit.
- B. Seven other titles that describe the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. The Spirit of truth found in the Book of John.
    - a) Jn 14:16-17 "I will give you the Spirit of Truth that the world cant see."

- b) Jn 15:26 "I shall send you, from the Father, the Spirit of truth."
- c) Jn 16:3 "When the Spirit of Truth comes He will guide you into all truth."
- d) This Truth is spiritual truth. Truth that is readily discerned by the born again man.
- 2. The Spirit of Holiness
  - a) *"and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;"* (Romans 1:4, ESV)
  - b) The 'Spirit of holiness' was the most prevalent reality found in Christ, a perfect sinless life of holiness.
  - c) The Spirit of holiness is both the Spirit that makes holy and the Spirit of resurrection. *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* (Romans 8:11, ESV)
- 3. The Spirit of Life
  - a) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit who 'gives life'. It is His work in us. Ro 8:2
  - b) The law of the Spirit of life, Ro 8:4
  - c) *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, ESV)
- 4. The Spirit of Adoption
  - a) We receive the Spirit of adoption (Ro 8:15) and we cry Abba Father!
  - b) Two fold: we are children of God by adoption, and we receive the Spirit following this adoption.
- 5. The Spirit of Grace
  - a) Heb 10:29 The Spirit of grace is the Spirit that has been working salvation in our lives...before, during and after receiving Jesus as Lord.
  - b) He makes available all that Christ has provided for us in salvation.
- 6. The Spirit of Glory
  - a) The Spirit of glory is the Spirit of God that rests upon those who suffer for His names sake. 1 Peter 4:4.
  - b) The Temple was filled with glory in 1 Chron 7:1. To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the glory! Acts 2:4.
- 7. The Eternal Spirit
  - a) *"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."* (Hebrews 9:14, ESV)
  - b) Jesus crucifixion was more than just a temporary event.
  - c) The Holy Spirit is always without beginning or end!

### III. Symbols Used To Speak of The Holy Spirit

- A. Symbols depict various ways that the Holy Spirit operates. Since the Holy Spirit is intangible (having no substance) symbols give us insight into who He is and how He works.
- B. Symbols
  - 1. Wind
    - a) Gen 1:2; John 3:8; Acts 2:1-ff.

- b) Wind depicts a moving force of a divine kind.
- 2. Fire
  - a) Mt 3:11 He will baptize you with Holy Spirit and fire. Acts 2 tongue so fire.
  - b) Fire has to do with cleansing
- 3. Water
  - a) John 7:37-39 out of the heart will flow rivers of living water.
  - b) John 7:14 spring of water welling up into eternal life.
  - c) Ezk 47 the river from God's throne. Everything it touches lives.
- 4. Dove
  - a) Speaks of gentleness and innocence. Jesus' baptism.
- 5. Seal
  - a) A seal put upon those who know Him. Eph 1:13-14; Seal is a mark of ownership.
  - b) Eph 4:30 don't grieve Holy Spirit by who you were sealed.
- 6. Oil
  - a) The oil of God. Anointing - done to David 1 Sam 16:12-13.
  - b) Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me."

**Conclusion:**

- I trust you have gotten to know the Holy Spirit better today. He really is phenomenal!!!