

A Journey Into the Spirit World
Getting to Know the Holy Spirit
August 31, 2016

In the two previous lessons, we learned about the evil spirit, whom the Bible calls "Satan" and "the devil." Now, we will get to know the Holy Spirit. In the spirit world, we are in a constant battle. Therefore, nothing is more important than knowing the Holy Spirit. Getting to know Him requires answering three basic questions, beginning with...

I. Who is the _____ ?

The Holy Spirit is God's Agent of power. He is the power behind the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2). He is also the power behind the most important event in history. The angel Gabriel tells Mary she is with child, that the Holy Ghost shall come upon her and the power of God shall overshadow her (Luke 1:28-35c). Then, what does Gabriel tell Mary in the last phrase of Luke 1:35?

Luke 1:35 - And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit also empowered Jesus to preach and to perform miracles while He was here on earth (Luke 4:18-19). However, He is much more than God's Agent of power because He is a person, not an "it." He is the third person of the Trinity; therefore, He is God. As already cited in Lesson One, when Ananias sells some land, he tells Peter he is giving all the money to the church, but he is lying. Peter tells Ananias that Satan has filled his heart to lie to the Holy Ghost. Then, Peter tells him the land was his to sell or not sell as he wished, and the money was his to give away as he chose. Therefore, why would he lie? Peter finally tells him he has not lied unto men but unto God (Acts 5:1-4).

This is a clear affirmation of the deity of the Holy Spirit. He is the third person of the Holy Trinity.

In John 10, Jesus tells His disciples, I and my Father are one (10:30). He also tells them concerning the Holy Spirit: "...for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:17c). Then, what does Jesus reveal concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit (14:20)?

John 14:20 - At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

In other words, when the Holy Spirit is in us, so is Jesus. Wherever the Holy Spirit is, Jesus is (Mark 18:20).

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God's Agent of power; He is the third Person of the Trinity; and He is God living in believers. Now, the second question...

II. When Do We _____ the Holy Spirit?

When we accept Christ, an inner, spiritual transformation takes place and we become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). At that instant, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. Then, because of the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we have new attitudes that result in new actions. We are no longer controlled by our sinful natures but by the Holy Spirit. This is true of every believer. Why, according to the last sentence of Romans 8:9?

Romans 8:9 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Because of this fact, the body of every believer is the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 6:19). When we receive Christ as Savior and Lord, He comes to live in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, and our hearts become His home.

Getting to know the Holy Spirit requires knowing the answers to the questions, who is the Holy Spirit, when do we receive the Holy Spirit, and third...

III. What does the Holy Spirit _____?

Jesus' ministry was to accomplish salvation for us. He did this by dying on the cross to pay for our sins and rising again to defeat death, giving us eternal life. When Jesus' earthly ministry ended, the ministry of the Holy Spirit began in our lives. His ministry involves at least four areas.

1. He _____ us

He teaches us things unbelievers cannot understand. Since unbelievers don't have the Holy Spirit living in them, they cannot accept the things of God. It all seems like foolishness to them because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians. 2:14).

However, Jesus said the Holy Spirit will teach His followers all things (John 14:26). This means He will teach us all things we need to know to live for God. How does Jesus express this fact in John 16:13b?

John 16:13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

What is the truth the Holy Spirit will teach us? Jesus tells us in His prayer for His followers in the Garden of Gethsemane. He asks God to sanctify His followers with the truth, which is God's Word (John 17:17).

The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible, not for information but for transformation. As we hear, read, and study God's Word, the Holy Spirit helps us understand it and uses it to sanctify us, making us more like Jesus.

2. He _____ us

Just before Jesus ascends back into heaven, what does He tell His frightened disciples (Acts 1:8a)?

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. He _____ us

When things are not right in our lives, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to bring us to corrective action. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would reprove the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).

Even though in this passage Jesus was referring to unbelievers, the Holy Spirit also convicts Christians when we sin. The word translated reprove (ELENCHO, el-en'-ko) means to rebuke of a wrong to the point of shame. When we sin, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to make us feel so ashamed of what we have done we will confess and forsake it.

The Holy Spirit also convicts us of righteousness. He not only convicts us when we do wrong, but also of the right things we must do. In addition, He convicts unbelievers that they will face judgment (KRISIS, kree' sis), which is the divine tribunal before whom all unbelievers will stand. Believers will not face that judgment. However, the Holy Spirit convicts us of what fact in II Corinthians 5:10a?

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

The word translated judgment seat (BEMA, bay'-ma) refers to the place where believers will be rewarded and rebuked. The Holy Spirit convicts us of what we do wrong, as well as telling us to repent, confess, and receive forgiveness. He also warns us that one day we will stand before Christ to give an account of our lives.

4. He _____ us

The enemy is always trying to lead us into sin, while the Holy Spirit tries to lead us to do God's will. All true believers who do God's will are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14). The Holy Spirit leads us in three ways.

First, the Holy Spirit leads us through Scripture. As we hear, read, and study the Bible, He makes words, phrases, and verses stand out. It is as though they are in bold print, saying we need to apply this to our lives.

Second, the Holy Spirit communicates with us through spiritual impressions. This is almost impossible to explain because you must experience it to understand it. Most often I receive spiritual impressions as I am preaching or teaching. The Holy Spirit also speaks to my spirit when I need to say a word of encouragement to someone or help someone. If you have experienced spiritual impressions, you know what I mean.

Third, the Holy Spirit leads us through inner peace. When we are obedient to His leadership-through obeying God's Word or a spiritual impression-we experience supernatural peace. How is this truth described in Romans 8:6b?

Romans 8:6 - For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The Holy Spirit gives us an awesome inner peace, or tranquility, when we do God's will. When we are not doing God's will, we can also sense a loss of this peace. There are times when we must make a decision and there is no verse in the Bible to tell us what to do. It is then we can make a decision based on the spiritual peace given by the Holy Spirit. That's why we are given what command in Colossians 3:15a?

Colossians 3:15 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

The word translated rule (BRABEU0, brab-yoo'-o) means "to act as an umpire." This means when we have a decision to make, we should let the peace of God, given by the Holy Spirit, make the call. If we have peace about doing something, it's OK. If we sense a loss of peace as we consider it, the Holy Spirit is saying, "Don't do this." But remember, the Holy Spirit never leads us to do anything that contradicts God's Word, which is the truth. How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit in John 14:17 & 15:26?

John 14:17 - Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26 - But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

The Holy Spirit teaches, empowers, convicts, and leads us. He does all this in a way that is totally consistent with God's truth in the Bible.

Getting to know the Holy Spirit requires knowing the answers to the following questions: who is the Holy Spirit, when do we receive the Holy Spirit, and what does the Holy Spirit do.