

## DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 1

God the Holy Spirit is a Person (Jn 14:16, 17, 26) who convicts people of sin (Jn 16:8), regenerates those who receive Christ as Savior (John 3:5-8), baptizes them into the church (1 Cor 12:13) the body of Christ, indwells them permanently (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19), seals them unto the day of redemption (Eph 1:13, 4:30) and fills those yielded to Him (Eph. 5:18). To those who live in submission to the Spirit, He leads, gives assurance, and prays for them (Rom 8:14, 16, 26). He grants spiritual gifts to each believer to equip for ministry and to edify the church (Eph 4:11, 12), and not for personal gratification (1 Cor 14:12).

### Outline:

- A. The Personality of the Holy Spirit
- B. The Work of the Holy Spirit
- C. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- D. Offences Against the Holy Spirit

## A. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### 1 The Holy Spirit is a Person, as God the Father and God the Son are Persons.

- a) Westminster Confession of Faith Ch.2, para 3: *"In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son."*
- b) It is necessary to discuss this subject because, compared with the other two persons of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit seems impersonal. The acts of the Holy Spirit appear so secret and mystical, and so much is said of His influence, grace, power and gifts, that we are prone to think of Him as an impersonal force, power, a manifestation or influence of the divine nature, or an agent rather than a Person.

### 2 The Holy Spirit is a Person:

- a. ***He possesses intellect: knowledge*** (1 Cor 2:10-11 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ... the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.); ***has a mind*** (Rom 8:27 “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*”); ***teaches*** (1 Cor 2:13 “... the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”);
- b. ***He feels grieved when we sin*** (Eph 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God).
- c. ***He prays on our behalf*** (Rom 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”).
- d. ***Jesus regarded the Holy Spirit as a Person.*** Jesus calls him “the Comforter” [*parakletos* i.e. “one called to the side of another”], “he” [personal pronoun] and “another Comforter” [another Person of the same essence like Christ.] Jn 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things”; Jn 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”

### 3 The Holy Spirit Eternally Proceeds from the Father.

- a. ***The Holy Spirit is eternal.*** (Heb 9:14 “ Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself”)
- b. ***The Holy Spirit is sent by both the Father and the Son*** (God the Son, Jesus, told his disciples in Jn 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:”).

### 4. The Holy Spirit is God.

- a. ***The Holy Spirit is God and of the same essence with the Father and the Son*** (Acts 5:3-4 “Acts 5:3 “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost [*pneuma* i.e. spirit/breath], and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?...thou hast not lied unto

men, but unto God.” To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God Himself (Acts 5:3-4). To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to blaspheme against God (Mk 3:28-30).

b. ***His divine attributes:*** He is

- *Omniscient* (1 Cor 2:11-12 “11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”);
- *Omnipresent* (Ps 139:7-8 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there.*”)
- *Omnipotent*. Ps 104:30 “Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created...”, Job 33:4 “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.”.

c. ***His divine works:***

- *Creation of the world* (Gen 1:2 “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.”);
- *Author of Holy Scriptures* (2 Pet 1:21 “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”, 2 Tim 3:16 “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God [theo pneustos]”);
- *Incarnation of Christ* (Lk 1:35 “And the angel answered and said unto her [Mary], 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.”)

d. ***His divine names:***

- *the third person of the Holy Trinity* (Mt 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”, 2 Cor 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost ...”);
- *the Spirit of God* (1 Cor 3:16 “Know ye not that ... the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”);
- *the Spirit of His Son* (Gal 4:6 “God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts...”);
- *the Spirit of your Father* (Mt 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.);
- *the Spirit of Christ* (Rom 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);
- *the Holy Spirit* (Lk 11:13); *the Comforter* (Jn 14:16,17); *the Spirit of Grace* (Heb 10:29); *Spirit of Truth* (Jn 14:17, 15:26, etc); *Spirit of Life* (Rom 8:2); *Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge* (Isa 11:2); *Spirit of Promise* (Eph 1:13); *Spirit of Glory* (1 Pet 4:14);

## B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit ministers to the believer through the work of regeneration, indwelling, sealing, infilling, empowerment, guidance, anointing, and interpreting Scriptures.

### 1 Regeneration

a. ***Born of the Spirit.*** Jn 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” “It is the Spirit that quickeneth [makes alive]” (Jn 6:63) a believer who was previously dead in sins (Eph 2:1, 5).

b. ***Renewing by the Holy Spirit.***

- Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
- John Calvin: “God hath saved us by his mercy, the symbol and pledge of which he gave in baptism, by admitting us into his Church, and ingrafting us into the body of his Son. ... Paul, while he speaks directly about the Holy Spirit, at the same time alludes to baptism. *It is therefore the Spirit of God who regenerates us, and makes us new creatures;* but because his grace is invisible and hidden, a visible symbol of it is beheld in baptism.”
- “I will sprinkle on you clean waters, even my Spirit.” (Ezekiel 36:25, 27.)

c. **Conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment:** *Jesus says in John 16:7-8* “the Comforter ... I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 *Of sin, because they believe not on me;* 10 *Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;* 11 *Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”*

d. **What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

This is a one-time event for the Christian at conversion when he receives the Holy Spirit and is placed (baptized) into the body of Christ:

- **At Conversion the Believer is Baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

- 1 Cor 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” This is a particularly important verse as it is the only occasion when the term baptism is used in connection with the Holy Spirit. This verse shows clearly that the baptism of the Spirit occurs at conversion. Every believer has been *baptized* into (which means *placed into*) the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. It is at conversion that we have been made to drink of the same Holy Spirit, which means that the Holy Spirit is within each believer: John 7:37-39 “In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” When we come to Christ for salvation and drink of Him, we automatically drink of the Holy Spirit and He dwells within us from that moment. Therefore, 1 Cor 12:13 proves that all believers, at conversion, are simultaneously baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
- Eph 1:13-14. “In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” These verses again provides yet another solid proof that the baptism of the Holy Spirit always occurs at conversion.
- Rom 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.”

- **The Believer Receives the Spirit of Adoption into God’s Family.**

- Rom. 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
- Conversion involves our being adopted into the family of God. It is the Holy Spirit who brings this about and who teaches us to say, Abba Father, as a child of God.
- The natural sense of all these passages is that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs as part of the conversion of the believer. It is not a subsequent experience after conversion. The idea that Christians need a second blessing or a further baptism of the Spirit after conversion has been promoted by the charismatic movement but is not supported by Scriptures.

## 2 **Indwelling.**

- a. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” 1 Cor 3:16
- John Calvin: “He confers upon them distinguished honour in speaking thus, but it is in order that they may be made the more reprehensible; for, as God has set them apart as a *temple* to himself, he has at the same time appointed them to be guardians of his *temple*. It is sacrilege, then, if they give themselves up to the service of men. He speaks of all of them collectively as being one *temple of God*; for every believer is a *living stone*, (1 Peter 2:5 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house ...”) for the rearing up of the spiritual building of God.”
- b. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 1 Cor 6:19.
- John Calvin: “There is an emphasis implied in the term *temple*; for as the Spirit of God

cannot take up his abode in a place that is profane, we do not give him a habitation otherwise than by consecrating ourselves to him as *temples*. It is a great honor that God confers upon us when he *desires to dwell* in us. (Psalm 132:14.) Hence we ought so much the more to fear, lest he should depart from us, offended by our sacrilegious actings. *And ye are not your own*. Here we have a *second* argument - that we are not at our own disposal, that we should live according to our own pleasure. He proves this from the fact that the Lord has purchased us for himself, by paying the price of our redemption.”

### **3 Sealing with Assurance of Salvation.**

#### ***a. This sealing stands for ownership, adoption and likeness.***

- Eph 1:13-14 “In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory”
- The sealing of the Spirit refers to the receiving of authenticating signs by which the new convert may be certain that the Spirit has given him new life, and placed him on the road to heaven. The idea of sealing also includes security (“earnest” means deposit, guarantee, security or downpayment). This occurs as a pledge or deposit to assure us that our salvation will be carried through to Heaven by the Lord. God gives this guarantee to every recipient of grace. He does not give it to some, or even to many, but to all.
- “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph 4:30). Paul does not say that only some were sealed, nor even most of them, but all of them were sealed when they were brought into the Christian life.

#### ***b. The Spirit bears witness to this great truth:***

- Gal 4:6 “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”;
- Rom 8:14-16 “14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”
- It has to do with the heart and the conscience – satisfying both as to the settlement of the sin and sonship question.