

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD THE SPIRIT

CHAPTER 3

We now come to a very important part of our study, the Doctrine of God the Spirit. He is usually referred to as the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost. Sometimes He is referred to as the Third Person of the Trinity. We will not be able to go into a thorough study of this subject, but we will endeavor by the Grace of God to search the Word of God and see what the Bible teaches concerning this important doctrine.

Let me say in the very beginning, perhaps the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit is one of the most misunderstood doctrines in the entire Word of God. Many who think they know this doctrine so often misuse and abuse the truths concerning the Spirit of God.

THE PROPER RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

To properly understand the Holy Spirit, we must first find out WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS, and WHAT HE IS NOT. Let me begin by saying the Holy Spirit is not an *it*. The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is not a figment of some religious fanatic's imagination. He is not some fantasy, and He is not just a figure of speech. He is a real living person. Also, He is not a substitute for God, and He is not a servant of God, and He is not some second class God. HE IS GOD.

A careful study of the Word of God will reveal the teaching of the Trinity. The Trinity does not mean there are three Gods. It means there is one God who has chosen to manifest himself in three separate and distinct personalities. We know these three personalities as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

The Lord Jesus Christ is as much God as God the Father is God. The Holy Spirit is just as much God as God the Father and God the Son. I trust this is not confusing, but I must say again; there is only one true and living God, and He has manifested Himself in three personalities, whom we know as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. In Matthew 3:13-17, an excellent manifestation of the Trinity can be seen when the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized. Here we see God the Son coming out of the water, God the Spirit is descending like a dove and lighting upon Him, and God the Father saying from heaven, "***This is my beloved Son.***" Also, we must understand that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are CO-EQUAL, CO-ETERNAL, and CO-EXISTENT. Some would have us believe that there was only God the Father in the Old Testament, and there was only God the Son in the time of the Gospels, and since Pentecost, there is only God the Holy Spirit, but this is not true. We learned in our study of the Lord Jesus Christ that Christ was in the beginning with God, and that Christ was God. We learned that all things were created by Him and for Him.

The Holy Spirit is first mentioned in the Word of God in Genesis 1:2, where the Bible says, "***...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.***" The Holy Spirit was present and active in the creation. So then, we must conclude that the Proper Recognition of the Holy Ghost is this: He is a Person. He is God. He is *co-equal*, *co-eternal*, and *co-existent* with God

the Father, and God the Son. May God help us to learn this truth; to recognize the Holy Spirit in the proper manner, and to give to Him the same respect that we give to God the Father and God the Son.

THE PRIMARY ROLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit was given three major roles in the Word of God. (1) He was given the responsibility of overseeing the Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) He was given the responsibility of overseeing the Bible, the Word of God, and (3) He was given the responsibility of overseeing a Bride for the Lord Jesus Christ. A study of the Scriptures will reveal that the Holy Spirit completed the job of overseeing a birth and brought forth a perfect baby. He completed the job of overseeing the book and brought forth a perfect Bible. He will complete the job of overseeing the bride and bring forth a perfect bride, Ephesians 5:25-27.

In this chapter we will only study the work of the Holy Spirit and his role as He oversees the Bride for the Lord Jesus Christ. We will study (1) His Inviting Ministry to the Sinner, (2) His Indwelling Ministry to the Saints, and (3) His Infilling Ministry for the Servants.

I. HIS INVITING MINISTRY TO THE SINNER

The phrase “the Inviting Ministry of the Holy Spirit” refers to the work of the Holy Spirit as He seeks out the sinner with the Word of God and invites him to come to the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. Man, because of his depraved nature, will not come to the Lord on his own. The Holy Spirit must seek him out. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God, situations, and circumstances to get man’s attention to draw him to Christ.

A great type of the Inviting Ministry of the Holy Spirit can be found in Genesis 24. Here we find Abraham is a type of God the Father, Isaac is a type of God the Son, and the unnamed servant is a type of the Holy Ghost. Abraham sends the Servant to the land of Mesopotamia, the land from whence they had come, to take a bride for Isaac.

When the servant arrives in the land, he stops by a well and prays for God to send the right woman for Isaac in verse 11. Soon a young lady named Rebekah comes, and the servant starts a conversation with her. As he talks with Rebekah, he tells her of the greatness of Abraham in Vs 35. Then he tells her about Abraham’s son Isaac to whom Abraham has given all these things in Vs 36. By the time he finishes sharing the greatness of Isaac with Rebekah, she is ready to say yes to the proposal, to come with him, and to marry Isaac. This is a great picture of how the Holy Ghost manifests the greatness of God to the lost sinner and how He has given all things to His Son, the Lord Jesus. By the time the Holy Spirit finishes telling the story of God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus to the lost sinner; the sinner, too, is willing to say yes to the invitation of the Gospel. He is willing to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and to be saved by the Grace of God.

Jesus spoke concerning the Holy Spirit in John 16:8, ***“When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin...”*** The precious Holy Spirit begins His ministry by reproving the sinner of his sins. He causes him to look at himself and see how wicked he really is. He will use the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. He also uses the personal witness of a Christian to speak to the heart of the sinner. Sometimes, He even uses sickness or other situations of life to get the sinner’s attention. This reproving work of the Holy Spirit is known as conviction. No sinner will ever come to God to be saved until the Holy Spirit reveals to him his lost and undone condition before God.

When the sinner takes a good look at himself under the scrutiny of the Word of God he will not like what he sees. As the sinner recognizes his need of salvation, the Holy Spirit will begin to draw him to the Lord Jesus Christ, John 6:44. The Holy Spirit will continue to show the sinner his need of salvation. He will draw the sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ by producing a desire in the sinner’s heart to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ with true repentance and faith to be saved. When the sinner does this, the Holy Spirit will birth him into the family of God. This is Salvation.

II. HIS INDWELLING MINISTRY TO THE SAVED

The next role of the Holy Spirit is His Indwelling Ministry. This simply means, after a person is birthed into the family of God by the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the body of that new Christian; John 14:16-18, Ephesians 1:13, and I Corinthians 6:19-20. The Holy Spirit then plays a vital role in helping that Christian live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit actually plays the role of a mother to the child of God. Let me very briefly mention some of the motherhood ministries of the Holy Spirit in the life of the child of God.

1. He has a ministry of *Consolation*.
John 14:16-18
2. He has a ministry of *Education*.
John 14:26, John 16:13-14
3. He has a ministry of *Glorification*.
John 16:13-14
4. He has a ministry of *Administration*.
John 16:14-15
5. He has a ministry of *Liberation*.
Romans 8:2; II Cor 3:17
6. He has a ministry of *Identification*.
Romans 8:9, Romans 8:14-16
7. He has a ministry of *Supplication*.
Romans 8:26
8. He has a ministry of *Preservation*.
Ephesians 4:30; I John 4:4

I could write a complete book on these eight thoughts about the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, but I am sure, as you read these passages, the Holy Spirit will reveal to you some of the truths taught in these verses.

Before we leave this portion of our study, it is important that we realize that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is true only of the New Testament Christians. In the era of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon some of them for some special service but he did not continually indwell all believers in the Old Testament times as he does today.

III. HIS INFILLING MINISTRY FOR SERVICE

If you will study the Word of God seriously you will find that the Holy Spirit comes UNTO a sinner with His inviting ministry. He comes INTO a saint with His indwelling ministry. He comes UPON the servants of God with His Infilling ministry to give them power for service.

Since there is so much confusion among Christians today about the Spirit-filled life, I must take some time to deal with this important work of the Holy Spirit. There is no where in the Scripture that we are told to seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We are told in First Corinthians 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.”*** The moment that a person is born again, he is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. It is not something you seek for; it is a part of the salvation experience.

In Ephesians 5:18, Christians are commanded, *to be filled with the Spirit of God.* Notice, ***“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”*** This command is given to every child of God. There is a great difference between being baptized by the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit. If you will study the literal meaning the two words, *baptized* and *filled*, you will understand the difference. To be baptized means that one is put into something, but being filled means that something is being put into an individual. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit he will have the power of God upon his life. To be filled with the Holy Spirit literally means the Christian has yielded complete control of his life to the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit means there must be a continuous inflow, a continuous overflow, and a continuous outflow of the Spirit of God in a person’s life. When this happens, the Holy Spirit will use that person in God’s service for the glory of God.

There is much talk now about the evidence of the Spirit-filled life. Contrary to the false teaching of many of the different groups today, there is not one verse in the entire Bible that teaches a person will speak in an unknown tongue when he is filled with the Holy Ghost. Again, I repeat, not one single verse in the entire Bible teaches this. When the power of the Holy Ghost comes upon a person he will bear witness unto the resurrected Lord, Acts 1:8.

There is only one baptism of the Holy Ghost, but a person may be filled with the Spirit of God many times. In the following Scriptures I want us to notice two things. The same people are being filled again and again with the Holy Spirit and every time, without exception, they bore witness of the resurrected Lord. Notice in Acts 2:4; on the day of Pentecost, ***“They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*** This was not some kind of jibber-jabber, or unknown tongue, which no one understood, but rather, they were speaking in the different languages of the people to whom they were speaking. The word language in Acts 2:6 and the word tongue in Acts 2:8 come from the same Greek word. What were they saying? Notice Acts 2:11, ***“...We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”*** A careful study of the rest of Acts 2 will reveal they were speaking of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again, in Acts 4:8-12, we have the account of Peter being filled with the Holy Ghost as he stood before the ruler and elders of Israel, and again, we find him giving witness of the resurrected Lord. The same thing happens again in Acts 4:31. Peter was in this crowd and again we find, **“...They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and, they spake the word of God with boldness.”** We are told in Verse 33, **“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection.”** A thorough study of the above passages, and of the entire Bible will easily bring one to the following conclusion. There is only one baptism of the Spirit and it takes place the moment a sinner is saved by the grace of God. However, a Christian may be filled with the Spirit many times, and when he is filled he will be a witness unto the resurrected Lord.

It is also important for us to see those who were filled with the Holy Spirit did not speak in an unknown tongue in any of the above Scriptures. In fact, there are only three places in the Bible where the tongues were in operation. They are, Acts 2:4; Acts 10:46; and Acts 19:6. In Acts 2:4, it is very clear that the tongues were the native languages of those present. If you will carefully study these three passages you will discover three things about all three incidents. One, there was always an apostle present; two, unbelieving Jews were always present; and three, there were no women involved in the use of tongues. There are no apostles living today, the Jews now have the written Word of God and do not need any sign, and if you took the women out of today’s tongues movement, it would die in a short period of time.

Chapters 12-14 of First Corinthians do not commend the tongues movement. They really condemn it. If you will look closely at I Corinthians 14:22 you will discover that **“...tongues are for a sign, NOT TO THEM THAT BELIEVE, BUT TO THEM THAT BELIEVE NOT.”** Again Paul says in 14:19, **“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding...than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.”** Believers are to walk by faith, not by sight or by signs, II Corinthians 5:7. We are to use our tongue to glorify God and edify His church. Tongues and the other spiritual gifts were given to the early church because they did not have the written Word of God.

I Corinthians 13:8 teaches, **“Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; WHETHER THERE BE TONGUES, THEY SHALL CEASE; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”** The gift of prophecy shall fail. This word *fail* speaks as of one’s health failing. The gift of tongues will cease. This means the gift of tongues would die. The gift of knowledge will vanish. These partial gifts were to be done away with **“when that which is perfect is come,”** I Corinthians 13:10. The only perfect thing on planet earth today is the Word of God. There is no record of any tongues movements from the time of the completing of the written Word of God until the latter part of the nineteenth century. The only three gifts that remain today are listed in verse 13, **“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”**

I have gone into more details on this subject than I planned to, but with all the confusion and heresy being spread abroad today it is very important that we learn the truth on this important subject. After studying these Scriptures, we must conclude by saying the Holy Spirit fills a believer for SERVICE: not for a show, for a sign, even for a shout, but for SERVICE. *(For a more detailed study on the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit, see the author’s book entitled, “THE HOLY SPIRIT, The Church’s Number One Problem.”)*

THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Since the Holy Spirit is a person, those who are saved can have a personal relationship with him. How sweet it is when there are no hindrances in the life of the child of God, and he enjoys a sweet and precious relationship with the Holy Spirit as he journeys on the road to heaven. But also, since the Spirit of God is a person, He has feelings and His feelings can be hurt, thus hindering that personal relationship with Him. Here are seven sins against the Holy Spirit the child of God must guard against so we do not hinder this precious relationship.

1. Don't *Grieve* the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 4:30
2. Don't *Quench* the Holy Spirit, I Thessalonians 5:19
3. Don't *Despise* the Holy Spirit, Hebrews 10:29
4. Don't *Ignore* the Holy Spirit, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29 and Revelation 3:6, 13, 22
5. Don't *Lie to* the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3
6. Don't *Blaspheme* the Holy Spirit, Matthew 12:31-32
7. Don't *Resist* the Holy Spirit, Acts 7:51, Genesis 6:3, and Isaiah 63:10

THE POWER REQUIRED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before we conclude our study on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, we must stop and recognize how much we need the power of the Holy Spirit in doing the Lord's work today. We do much planning, much programming, and much promoting in our churches, but we do not see much of the power of the Holy Spirit being demonstrated, I Corinthians 2:4. Listed below are five things that are impossible for an individual or a church to do apart the power of the Holy Spirit.

ONLY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN:

1. Convict of Sin
2. Convert the Sinner
3. Conduct the Services
4. Comfort the Saints
5. Conquer old Satan

May God help us today to give the Holy Spirit *His Proper Recognition*, recognize *His Primary Roles*, and maintain a *Personal Relationship* with Him. At the same time, we must remember that *His Power is Required* for us to perform God's service and see results that will glorify God. Remember that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, and He desires to empower every believer. It might be said, "*If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit is a resident, but He is running for president in your life.*" The Holy Spirit is present in every believer, prominent in some believers, but preeminent in only a few believers.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Did you read every passage of Scripture mentioned in this chapter? If you did not, do so right now.
2. Describe briefly the Proper Recognition that we should give to the Holy Spirit.
3. Where is the first place the Spirit of God is mentioned in the Bible?
4. Explain what is meant by the Inviting Ministry of the Holy Spirit.
5. Why is it necessary for the Holy Spirit to draw sinners to Christ?
6. What does the Holy Spirit use to draw sinners to Christ?
7. What chapter in the Old Testament gives us a good picture of the inviting ministry of the Holy Spirit?
8. In the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, He plays the role of our: (circle one)

| | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Father | Mother | Brother | Sister |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|
9. Name the eight things that the Holy Spirit does for the child of God in the indwelling ministry. The ministry of:

| | |
|----|----|
| a. | e. |
| b. | f. |
| c. | g. |
| d. | h. |
10. Who is commanded to be filled with the Spirit?

18. Name the seven sins against the Holy Spirit that will hinder our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

19. List five things that can only be done by the power of the Holy Spirit.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

20. In the closing paragraph of our study, what was the statement I repeated which reveals the desire of the Holy Spirit with every believer?

Be sure to study these questions until you know them well before you go to the next chapter.