

Study on The Holy Spirit

Introduction

- When you hear the term "The Holy Spirit," what thoughts and images come to your mind?
 - Casper the friendly ghost
 - Confusion, mystery about the Trinity and the whole God-head thing
 - The least understood person of the triune God.
- In this study, an introduction to the person of The Holy Spirit, the ministry of work of The Holy Spirit, and our response to The Holy Spirit.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

- When we think of a person, we immediately think of someone with a body – a real being.
- But, a person is more than just a body...
 - After death, the person lives on (their soul has departed, the body only an empty shell).
 - Angels are real beings, but do not have bodies.
 - God is a real person, but in spirit form – a personal spirit.
 - John 4:24
 - Psalm 139:7-10 (a constant presence)
- The Holy Spirit has personal characteristics:
 - Intellect
 - I Corinthians 2:10-13
 - Romans 8:27
 - Emotions
 - Ephesians 4:30
 - Will
 - I Corinthians 12:7-11
 - Addressed as a person by Christ
 - John 16:7-8
- The Holy Spirit is God
 - Declared in Scripture
 - Acts 5:3-4
 - Possesses Characteristics of God
 - Regeneration
 - John 3:5-6
 - Begetting the humanity of Christ
 - Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18
 - Creation
 - Genesis 1:26; Psalm 104:30

The Ministries of the Holy Spirit

- **Convicting the World of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment**
 - John 16:8-11
 - Placing the clear message and truth of the Gospel before someone whether they choose to believe or not. Can happen at any time, any place, any number of times.
 - Fact of our sin (Rom 3:23, Rom 6:23)
 - Fact of Christ paying the penalty for our sin
 - Rom 5:1, 8-9, 17
 - Fact this needs to be personally embraced and accepted
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
- **Regeneration**
 - The spiritual transformation when one believes in Christ that brings them out of darkness and into the light, out of death and into life – eternal life. Happens at the moment of salvation.
 - Titus 3:5
 - John 3:5-6
- **Indwelling**
 - God's Spirit taking up residence in the life of every believer in Christ that happens at the moment of receiving Christ.
 - Promised by Christ – John 7:37-39
 - Explained by Paul
 - Romans 8:9
 - I Corinthians 2:12, 6:19-20
- **Baptizing**
 - The organic placement of a believing person into the body of Christ. Allows the believer to be identified with Christ and experience the benefits of being "in Christ."
 - I Corinthians 12:13
 - Not accompanied by any experience.
 - One-time occurrence that happens at the moment of belief (salvation).
- **Sealing**
 - Securing the eternal salvation of the believer in Christ. Happens at the moment of belief in and acceptance of Christ as Savior.
 - Ephesians 1:13
 - Ephesians 4:30

Note: Four ministries, being regenerated, indwelt, baptized, and sealed by the Holy Spirit are one-time realities that take place at the moment of salvation/belief in Christ as Savior and Lord.

Ongoing Ministries of the Spirit

- John 14:26
 - Helper (come alongside), teacher, bring to our remembrance truths
- John 16:13-14
 - Guide into truth, disclose truth to believers
- Romans 8:26-27
 - Helps weaknesses of believers
 - Intercedes on behalf of believers before the Father
- Ephesians 5:18
 - Fills believers (directs, guides, leads, and empowers)

Our Response to the Holy Spirit

- 3 Kinds of People (I Corinthians 2:14-3:4)
 - Natural Man (generic for man and woman)
 - Of or belonging to breath
 - Animalistic part of our nature
 - Sensuous nature that is subjected/enslaved to appetites and passions of the flesh
 - Unregenerate – not a Christian
 - Not able to discern or understand things of the Spirit
 - Blinded to spiritual realities
 - Relegated to only the wisdom of this world
 - Thinks things of the Spirit are foolishness
 - Spiritual Man
 - Soul, that part of us that is similar to and most like God.
 - Belonging to the Spirit of God
 - A regenerated heart that is able to discern, evaluate, and apply the things of the Spirit.
 - In tune with the things of God; desirous to live a life that pleases God – that brings a smile to His face
 - What we were designed and created for – the condition where we most reflect the image and likeness of God!
 - Carnal Man (Man of the flesh)
 - Fleshly!
 - Rooted in the flesh; wholly given up to the flesh and it's desires.
 - Under the control and influence of the sensuous lusts and appetites that are committed to gratifying the flesh.
 - A believer in Christ! (clear that Paul is addressing believers in Corinth).
 - Worldly centered and focused.
 - Consumed with and focused on self
 - Living for self
 - Gratifying self even at expense of God and others
 - Self-interests elevated above God's interests

- Outwardly, would look more like the Natural Man than the Spiritual Man. Dangerous place to be!
- A spiritual babe; immature believer
 - Analogy of a baby nursing on milk
 - Refusal to come off the milk and grow/mature by partaking of meat and solid food.
 - Shallow understanding and application of God's Word.
 - Kind of going through the motions but heart is not fully surrendered or submitted to God's desires.

Summary:

- Three kinds of people – all of us fit into one of the three categories.
- As a believer in Christ, we cannot go back to being a Natural Man. Why? Because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
 - Born of the Spirit when accepted Christ (born again spiritually)
 - Indwelt by the Spirit when received Christ (His Spirit came to live inside of us).
 - Baptized by the Spirit when received Christ (placed into the body of Christ).
 - Sealed by the Spirit (our salvation and eternity in heaven is secured by this seal which cannot be broken).
- However, we can fluctuate back and forth between the Spiritual and the Carnal Man – all dependent on how we choose live out our lives.

Our intended response to the Holy Spirit is to...

- Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18, 25)
 - Walk = make one's way; progress; conduct oneself
 - Present Imperative verb which means to "keep on walking"
 - Is ongoing, moment by moment
 - An ongoing battle ground between the desires of the Spirit and the desires of the flesh.
 - A struggle between living out our lives as a Spiritual Man or a Carnal Man.
 - The difference between living a life of Love (Gal. 5:14 – whole Law fulfilled in Love) and a life of Jealousy, Envy, and Strife.
- Being Led by the Spirit (v. 18)
 - Same thing as being filled with the Spirit
 - Eph. 5:18
 - Be continually filled (many fillings), directed, and led by the Spirit
 - Being directed, empowered, controlled by the Spirit of God
 - Analogy of being drunk – controlled by something other than yourself

- Don't be controlled by some foreign substance, but rather be controlled or moved by the Spirit of God!
- Key issue is who or what is controlling or dominating our body?
 - The Spirit of God or the lusts of the flesh?
 - Which appetite are you feeding and giving allegiance to?
- How are we filled or directed by the Spirit?
 - Can't just will it to happen through desire and sheer human effort or commitment to just try harder or just do better.
 - Come through Submission and Surrender
 - All areas of our life yielded or surrendered to the control and leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - Not my will, but Your will be done in all areas of my life.
 - Romans 12: 1-2
 - "Present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."
 - Problem with a living sacrifice is we keep crawling off the altar!
- Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, He That is Spiritual
 - "When one has found peace, power and blessing through a definite yielding to God and reliance on His strength alone, the Bible clearly assigns the cause to be a larger manifestation of the presence and power of the Spirit. Such an one is 'filled with the Spirit.'"

When we surrender all of our self – our dreams, desires, wants, needs, interests, our daily existence – to God and ask Him to direct and lead our lives, then we will experience the power of the Holy Spirit that allows us to crucify the desires of our flesh on a moment by moment basis (Gal. 5:24 and Gal. 2:20).

Sources:

"Bible, God, and Holy Spirit" Class taught by J.P. Moreland
A Survey of Bible Doctrine by Charles C. Ryrie
He That is Spiritual by Lewis Sperry Chafer