

Who is the Holy Spirit

17 November, 2010

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

Scripture References – Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 61:1; Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-17, 26; Acts 1:1-2, 5:3-5; Romans 8:2, 9-11, 15-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:11, 3:16-17, 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14

Unit Theme: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Central Truth: The Holy Spirit is one person of the Holy Trinity.

Focus: Recognize and reverence the Holy Spirit as one of the three persons in the Holy Trinity.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14 - *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Introduction:

The Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood and misrepresented of the Trinity. He is the third person in the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. However, He is not less than the Father or the Son, He is an equal. Many have tried to explain the relationship between and within the Trinity, but I'm not convinced we'll ever completely understand while living in the flesh. Why can't we be content to let our faith handle it, that is, just believe and let God be God? After all, if He wanted us to comprehend it completely, we would. Let's be content enough in our faith to know and believe that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity and as such He is God the Holy Spirit. Our focus ought to be on His work, for it is through His work that we come to an understanding of our purpose. Since He is God the Holy Spirit, He has always been and will always be, He is eternal. He was present and active at creation and He's been intimately involved in the details of men and women from the very beginning. The Holy Spirit is the one that is responsible for our coming to the Father for salvation. Whether we're redeemed or lost, atheist or agnostic we simply could not live without the Holy Spirit. For the next six weeks He will be our topic.

I. Identifying Names – Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 61:1; Acts 1:1-2; Romans 8:9

Picture the former world of chaos, without form, void and totally dark then the Holy Spirit shows up and leaves His mark on creation. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty and there is life. He brought order to an otherwise chaotic world and He brought life to a world of death.. His work has never stopped, He continues to anoint and empower for the purpose of bringing life and restoration to those who know only chaos! Now I want you to picture the Holy Spirit moving (hovering) over your life, He longs to step in and bring healing where healing is needed, He longs to reach in and repair the broken heart, and He longs to unlock the door that has held you captive for so long. I can hear the encouragement of the heroes of the faith; you know the ones, from Hebrews 11. Those who faced extreme chaos yet triumphed anyway. I can hear their voices echo through the ages "Let Him move, let Him move, let Him move." This is the work of the Holy Spirit as referred to by the writers of the Old Testament. He was viewed by them to be an extension of the very presence and person of God – and rightfully so, as we'll see later in our study. In the New Testament we observe a new name – Holy Ghost. There is little difference between the Hebrew word translated Spirit and the Greek word

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translated Ghost they both refer to wind, that which is unseen yet powerful! Finally we observe Paul referring to the Spirit as the “Spirit of Christ”. Regardless of what He is called, Spirit, Holy Ghost, Spirit of Christ let us not forget who He is – God.

➤ **Note Taker:** What is the Holy Spirit’s relationship with believers?

II. Descriptive Titles – John 14:16-17, 26; Romans 8:2, 10-11, 15-16; Zechariah 12:10; Romans 8:26-27 He is our helper, comforter, advocate; Jesus knew that He could not abandon us but would have to send the Spirit. Without His presence and power in our lives we truly would be helpless! Paul nails the divine principle when he says through the Holy Spirit that the law of the Spirit has set me free from the law of sin and death. Flash back to creation, what the Spirit did at creation He does in our lives when we surrender to Him and His will. Through His work (not ours) we are made new and adopted into the family of God. He is our intercessor; there is not a moment that goes by when the Spirit is not moving on behalf of the saints. Be encouraged – if God the Spirit is for you, who or what can stand against you?

➤ **Note Taker:** Describe the power that believers receive (Romans 8:10-11).

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III. God the Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3-5; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14
In the Old Testament God's presence dwelt in the temple, and as a result the temple represented everything that was holy. It was never to be defiled because the Spirit of God dwelt there. Now we live in a new dispensation the age of grace and because of the work of Christ the Spirit now dwells in us. Therefore, we are not to defile the temple with the lusts of the flesh, but are to ever live in communion with the Holy Spirit. God is a Holy God and His Spirit is Holy so if we indeed have the Holy Spirit living in us then it follows that we are a holy people. We are not holy because of what we have done or haven't done, we are holy because He who lives in us is holy. Therefore, we have a responsibility to walk in the Spirit and commune with Him continually lest his presence depart from us and we cease to be holy. For further study examine Ezekiel 10:18, 11:1, 22-23

➤ **Note Taker:** Explain the term communion of the Holy Ghost.

Conclusion:

We have only scratched the surface of our study of the Holy Spirit and His work. Examine your life and see if you can identify those times the Holy Spirit intervened. The truth is He is always working in our lives whether we acknowledge it or not He is working mightily. Let's not get so wrapped up in the details of theology that we fail to see the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Yes He's part of the Trinity. but I will not try to explain the Trinity. Instead I want to look at the historical evidence as recorded in scripture; I want to testify of what He's done in my life; I want to hear of what He's doing in your life and I want to look forward to His work to come! I know one thing for sure, when it comes to the Spirit of Christ – we as a church have a long way to go. Let us determine to open up the doors to our churches, let Him in and let Him redefine the way we live, worship and pray! After all He is God isn't He?

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Except where I have paraphrased all scripture is taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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