

# BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINE

## Lesson 4

### DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Pneumatology)

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Just as the doctrines of God and Christ are foundational to our understanding the Bible, God, and how we live, so is the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each have separate roles or ministries in the lives of believers. Many cults have corrupted the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and many are confused about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers. Some have tried to turn the Spirit into a impersonal force. Others have tried to erase the distinction between the Holy Spirit and God the Father or Christ. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit fulfills many specific ministries e.g., He leads us to Christ, convicts us when we sin, is the guarantee for our inheritance, helps us interpret the Scriptures, and gives us power to live a victorious life in Christ. In this study we will do a survey of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

#### I. PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

##### A. Many References in the Scriptures Tell Us That Holy Spirit Is a Person

1. Isa. 63:10 But they rebelled And **grieved His Holy Spirit**; Therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.
2. Matt. 12:31-32 “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but **blasphemy against the Spirit** shall not be forgiven. “And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever **shall speak against the Holy Spirit**, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.
3. John 14:16 “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that **He** may be with you forever;
4. John 14:26 “But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance** all that I said to you.
5. John 16:7, 8, 13, 15 “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send **Him** to you. . . 8 “And **He**, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; . . . 13 “But when **He**, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you** into all the truth; for **He will not speak on His own initiative**, but whatever **He hears, He will speak**; and **He will disclose to you** what is to come. . . 15 “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that **He takes of Mine**, and will disclose it to you.
6. Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back some of the price of the land?
7. Rom. 8:14, 26 For all who are being **led by the Spirit of God**, these are sons of God. . . 26 And in the same way **the Spirit also helps our weakness**; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words.

8. I Cor. 2:10 For to us God **revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.**
9. Eph. 4:30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
  - a. What do the verses above teach you about the personhood of the Holy Spirit?
  - b. If the Holy Spirit was just an impersonal force, like electricity, would the verses above make any sense since e.g., can you grieve electricity?

## II. DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### A. Divine Names Are Given to The Holy Spirit

1. Acts 5:3-4 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back some of the price of the land?4 “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men, but to God.**”
2. II Cor. 3:17-18 Now the **Lord is the Spirit**; and where **the Spirit of the Lord is**, there is liberty.18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from **the Lord, the Spirit.**
  - a. What is the Holy Spirit called in the verses above?

### B. Divine Attributes Are Ascribed to The Holy Spirit

1. Psalm 139:7-8 **Where can I go from Your Spirit?** Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
2. Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you**; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.
3. I Cor. 2:10-11 For to us God **revealed them through the Spirit**; for **the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.**11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so **the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.**
4. Heb. 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- a. What do the attributes of the Holy Spirit mentioned above tell us about the Holy Spirit?

### C. Divine Works Are Performed by Him

1. Gen. 1:2 <sup>2</sup> And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and **the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.**
2. Job 33:4 **“The Spirit of God has made me,** And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
3. John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.<sup>6</sup> “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** <sup>7</sup> “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’<sup>8</sup> “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; **so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**”
4. Rom. 8:11 But if **the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.**

- a. What do the works of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the verses above teach us about the Holy Spirit’s identity?

### D. The Holy Spirit Is Equally Associated with the God the Father and God the Son

1. Matt. 28:19-20<sup>1</sup> “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in **the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
  2. II Cor. 13:14 The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**, be with you all.
  3. Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in **the Holy Spirit**; keep yourselves in **the love of God**, waiting anxiously for **the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** to eternal life.
- a. In the verses above, the Holy Spirit is used co-equally with the names of God, the Father, the Son, and Lord Jesus Christ. What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit?

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<sup>1</sup> Note: "name" in this passage is singular

**E. When God Speaks it Is the Holy Spirit That Speaks**

1. II Sam. 23:1-3 David the son of Jesse declares, And the man who was raised on high declares, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel, **“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. “The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, ‘He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God.**

2. Compare what God said with what the Holy Spirit said

Psalm 95:7-10	Heb. 3:7-9
For He is <b>our God</b> , And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. <b>Today, if you would hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts</b> , as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness; <b>“When your fathers tested Me, They tried Me, though they had seen My work. “For forty years . . .</b>	Therefore, <b>just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years.</b>

3. Compare what the Lord said with what the Holy Spirit said

Isa. 6:8-10	Acts 28:25-27
Then I <b>heard the voice of the Lord</b> , saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” And He said, <b>“Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.’ “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.”</b>	And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, <b>“The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, saying, ‘Go to this people and say, “You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.” ’</b>

4. Compare What the Lord Says with what the Holy Spirit says

Jer. 31:31-34	Heb. 10:15-16
<b>“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; . . .</b>	<b>And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, And upon their mind I will write them,”</b>

- a. From the Scriptures above, what do you learn about the identity of the Holy Spirit?
  
- b. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit's relationship to the Word of God? (See also II Pet. 1:20-21)

### III. MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### A. Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Unbelievers

1. Gen. 6:3 Then the Lord said, "**My Spirit shall not strive with man forever**, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
  
2. John 15:26 "When **the Helper comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, **He will bear witness of Me**,
  
3. John 16:8-11 "**And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness**, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
  
- a. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in relation to unbelievers from these verses?

#### B. Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Believers

1. John 3:3-5 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."4 Nicodemus \*said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**
  
2. I Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of **the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
  
3. Eph. 1:13-14; In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
  
4. Eph. 4:30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
  
5. Eph. 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit.**

6. I Cor. 12:7-11, 13 But to each one is given **the manifestation of the Spirit** for the common good.<sup>8</sup> For to one is given **the word of wisdom through the Spirit**, and to another **the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit**;<sup>9</sup> to another **faith by the same Spirit**, and to another **gifts of healing by the one Spirit**,<sup>10</sup> and to another **the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues**.<sup>11</sup> But **one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills**.<sup>13</sup> For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and **we were all made to drink of one Spirit**.
7. Rom. 8:14 For all who are being **led by the Spirit** of God, these are sons of God.
8. Gal. 5:16, 25 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. . . 25 If we **live by the Spirit**, let us also **walk by the Spirit**.
9. I John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as **His anointing teaches you** about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.
  - a. What do the verses above teach us about the ministry of the Holy Spirit to believers?

#### IV. ERRORS CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. **Denying His personhood.** It is an error to say the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force like electricity and comes from God but is not God or a person. The Bible teaches the Holy Spirit is a person and God.
- B. **Ignore His existence by saying He is the same person as the God the Father or God the Son.** Some have erred by saying the Holy Spirit isn't a distinct person but is one and the same with God the Father and God the Son. It is true that the Holy Spirit is of the same essence and nature as God the Father and God the Son, and is the very Lord God of the Bible, but the Holy Spirit is a distinct person within the triune godhead.
- C. **It is an error to teach that people receive the Holy Spirit in stages after conversion.** Some believe that the Holy Spirit comes into a believer's life in stages or graduating degrees. They teach that the believer needs to seek to get "all" of the Spirit after conversion and being saved. They teach that the verifying sign that a believer has received "all" of the Holy Spirit or has the "fulness" of the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak in tongues.
- D. **It is an error to think that the Holy Spirit hasn't given you any spiritual gifts.** Some are reluctant to minister thinking that maybe the Holy Spirit has passed them up when giving spiritual gifts. Yet the Bible teaches that all believers are given spiritual gifts to benefit and edify the church. The true lack of any spiritual gift/s would indicate a person is not a true believer.

- E. **It is an error to abuse the gifts of the Holy Spirit.** Some people don't understand what the gifts of the Holy Spirit are and/or how they should be used. This leads to many false attempts at manifesting the gifts of the spirit which are unbiblical. Some think their spiritual gift is for their edification e.g., praying in a prayer language. Other practice things like ecstatic speech, or slaying people in the Spirit. We must remember that the gifts of Holy Spirit are always to be used according to the Word of God for the edification of others in the church never self.
  
- F. **It is an error to attributing things to the Holy Spirit which are contrary to Scripture or which you are uncertain are a work of the Spirit.** Some claim the Spirit has spoke to them, or guided them, or gave them a feeling or sense or intuition when they are not certain it was the spirit or if the Bible even condones such mystical practices. We must remember that the Holy Spirit never ministers in contradiction to the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God.

## V. APPLICATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. In John 3:3-6. Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus about salvation. Jesus told Nicodemus unless one has something happen to them they cannot see the kingdom of heaven. What is it that must happen?
  
- B. In I Corinthians ch. 12:4-13. Paul explains to the church at Corinth how all the members of the church work together for the common good even though they are different. We are all baptized by one Spirit into the body of Christ and all of us have different gifts to be used to edify the church. If you are a believer, you have a spiritual gift and you must use it for the edification of the body. If you do not, you are in sin.
  
- C. In Eph 1:13-14, 4:30. We are told that all believers are sealed with Holy Spirit as a pledge of our future inheritance and until the day of redemption. How can these truths comfort believers?
  
- D. Eph. 4:30 tell us we are not to grieve the Holy Spirit. How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?
  
- E. In I Cor. 3:16 we are told that our body is the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. How should this truth affect the way we live?
  
- F. In Gal. 5:16-24 Paul contrasts the deeds of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit.
  - 1. What command is given in vs. 16?
  - 2. What is the reason for the command?
  - 3. In (vss. 16-18) what kind of behavior does a person who walks in the flesh display?

4. Someone who is not walking by the Holy Spirit will always displays what?
  5. Someone who is being led by the Spirit always displays what?
  6. Is it possible to be controlled by the flesh and Spirit at the same time? Why or why not? (See Rom. 8:5-8)
  7. If you are not displaying the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life, what does that mean?
- G. According to I John 1:9 how do we get right with God after sinning?
1. What does it mean to “confess” your sins?
  2. What is the difference between “confessing sins” and “repenting of your sins?”
  3. Can a believer confess their sins to God without repenting?
- H. In I Thess. 5:19 we are commanded not to quench the Holy Spirit. What does that mean in its context and how do we apply it?