

# DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Introduction

### Lesson 1

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The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is interesting and practical for every Christian. Since the church began, people's understanding of the Holy Spirit, His person, and work has ebbed and flowed. Through the church age the doctrines related to the Holy Spirit have been neglected and distorted. Today many Christians aren't sure what to believe about the Holy Spirit, and often guess at what might be true. Liberal Christianity has denied the Holy Spirit and His works, while Charismatic groups have often emphasized, distorted, and obsessed on certain doctrines related to the Holy Spirit.

In order for the Church to function properly, for Christians to live victoriously, and for God to be glorified abundantly, the Holy Spirit's person and works must be understood accurately. As we delve into the doctrines of the Holy Spirit we will see just how vast, practical, and important they are to our lives today. In this series we will survey many of the doctrines related to the Holy Spirit and see how those doctrines practically apply to our lives.

## I. THE HOLY SPIRIT DEFINED

- A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, "The Spirit is the transcendent, omnipresent spiritual and localizable presence of God's personality and power; living in and divinely empowering all of God's true people in diverse and incomplete ways that foreshadow their complete, future renewal at the end of the age."<sup>1</sup>
- B. *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, "The active presence of God in human life constituting the third person of the Trinity."<sup>2</sup>

## II. THE NEED FOR STUDYING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. George Smeaton said, "The distinctive feature of Christianity, as it addresses itself to man's experience, is the work of the Spirit, which not only elevates it far above all philosophical speculation, but also above every other form of religion."<sup>3</sup>
- B. A. W. Pink has said, "In the great majority of cases, professing Christians are too puffed up by a sense of what *they* suppose they are doing *for* God, to earnestly study what God has promised to do for and in His people. They are so occupied with their fleshly efforts to "win souls for Christ" that they feel not their own deep need of the Spirit's anointing."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walter A. Elwell, Gen. Ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pg. 348.

<sup>2</sup> *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1981, pg. 542.

<sup>3</sup> George Smeaton, *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*, pg. 1.

<sup>4</sup> A. W. Pink, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 8.

- C. E. W. Bullinger says, “Few subjects are of greater importance, or fraught with weightier consequences to our theology, than this: which bears directly upon the Holy Spirit, and upon His operations in connection with the Church of God as a whole, and with the individual experience of the child of God. And yet there are few subjects which have received less attention and study; and few about which there are greater difference of opinion among Christians.”<sup>5</sup>
- D. Charles Ryrie has written, “An understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is basic to Christian living. But one cannot fully comprehend the work of a person without also knowing something about that person. Likewise it is necessary to know something about the person of the Holy Spirit in order to fully appreciate His work. It may seem dull to the reader to pursue the study of the Spirit’s personality and deity; but who He *is*, is foundational to what He *does*, and a knowledge of both His person and work is basic to Christian devotion and living.”<sup>6</sup>
- E. Charles Spurgeon said, “No man ever learns anything aright, unless he is taught of the Spirit. No man can know Jesus Christ unless he is taught of God. There is no doctrine of the Bible which can be safely, thoroughly, and truly learned, except by the agency of the one authoritative Teacher. Ah! Tell me not of systems of divinity; tell me not of schemes of theology; tell me not of infallible commentators, or most learned and most arrogant doctors, but tell me of the Great Teacher, who shall instruct us, the sons of God, and shall make us wise to understand all things. He is *the* Teacher; it matters not what this or that man says; I rest on no man’s boasting authority, nor will you. Ye are not to be carried away with the craftiness of men, nor sleight of words, this is the authoritative oracle, the Holy Ghost resting in the hearts of His children.”<sup>7</sup>

### III. TWO GENERAL FIELDS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are two general categories concerning the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The first is *the person of the Holy Spirit* which seeks to determine from the Scriptures the identity and nature of the Holy Spirit. The second general category is *the work of the Holy Spirit* which seeks to discover from the Scriptures what the Holy Spirit has done, is doing, and will do. These two categories are the two primary cabinets where all the individual doctrines relating to the Holy Spirit can be filed. Below we have put each subcategory in question format. It is the goal of this study to address all of these questions. Some will only be dealt with superficially and others more extensively.

#### A. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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<sup>5</sup> E. W. Bullinger, *Word Studies on the Holy Spirit*, pg. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 10.

<sup>7</sup> Charles H. Spurgeon, *Understanding the Holy Spirit*, pgs. 173-174.

1. Is the Holy Spirit a person?
2. Is the Holy Spirit God?
3. What names are given to the Holy Spirit?
4. What figurative symbols are used of the Holy Spirit?
5. How does the Holy Spirit differ from the other members of the Trinity?

## **B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. How did the Holy Spirit function in creation?
2. How did the Holy Spirit function in the lives of Old Testament saints?
  - a. Were Old Testament saints saved by the Holy Spirit?
  - b. Were the Old Testament saints sanctified by the Holy Spirit?
  - c. Were the Old Testament saints empowered and enabled for spiritual service by the Holy Spirit?
3. How did the Holy Spirit function in the life of Christ?
  - a. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's conception and birth?
  - b. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's baptism?
  - c. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's ministry?
    - (1) What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's prophetic ministry?
    - (2) What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's preaching?
    - (3) What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's miracles?
  - d. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's suffering?
  - e. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's death?
  - f. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's resurrection?
  - g. What part did the Holy Spirit play in Christ's glorification and exaltation?

4. How does the Holy Spirit relate to unbelievers?
  - a. How does the Holy Spirit restrain evil in the lives of unbelievers?
  - b. How does the Holy Spirit convict unbelievers?
  - c. How does the Holy Spirit warn unbelievers?
  - d. How does the Holy Spirit judge unbelievers?
  - e. How does the Holy Spirit harden unbelievers?
  - f. What about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?
  - g. What was the Holy Spirit's role in performing signs and wonders?
5. How does the Holy Spirit function in relation to the Word of God?
  - a. What was the Holy Spirit's role in giving revelation from God?
  - b. What is the Holy Spirit's work of inspiration?
  - c. What is the Holy Spirit's work of illumination?
  - d. What is the Holy Spirit's part in relation to salvation and the Word of God?
6. How does the Holy Spirit function in relation to salvation and New Testament believers?
  - a. How does the Holy Spirit relate to:
    - (1) Efficacious grace?
    - (2) Calling the elect?
    - (3) Converting the elect?
    - (4) Regenerating the elect?
7. What is Spirit baptism?
  - a. What was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?
  - b. Does the Spirit come into our lives in stages or all at once?
  - c. How does the Holy Spirit indwell the believer?

- d. What is the “anointing” of the Holy Spirit?
- e. What part does the Holy Spirit play in eternal security?
- f. What is the dichotomy between the flesh and the Spirit?
- g. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- h. What does it mean to have the fulness of the Holy Spirit?
- i. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
- j. How does sin affect the Spirit-filled life or walking in the Spirit?
  - (1) How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?
  - (2) How do we quench the Holy Spirit?
  - (3) What is the fruit of the Spirit?
- k. How do you know you are Spirit-filled and walking in the Spirit?
- l. How does the Spirit give spiritual gifts and can we seek the ones we want?
- m. What are the sign gifts of:
  - (1) Tongues?
  - (2) Healing/casting out demons?
  - (3) Performing of miracles?
- n. What part does the Spirit play in:
  - (1) Worship?
  - (2) Prayer?
  - (3) Who we pray to?
- o. What was the Holy Spirit doing in Acts chs. 8 and 19 and is this the norm for Christians in the church at all times? If not, why not?
- p. What is the Holy Spirit’s part in sanctification?
  - (1) Initial sanctification?

- (2) Progressive sanctification?
- (3) Ultimate sanctification?
- q. What part does the Spirit play in the corporate unity of the Church?
- r. How does the Holy Spirit:
  - (1) Teach us?
  - (2) Guide us?
  - (3) Assure us?
  - (4) Help us pray?
  - (5) Empower us?
- 8. How does the Holy Spirit function in relation to end time events?
  - a. How does the Spirit help us determine false teaching?
  - b. How does the Holy Spirit work in and through the tribulation saints?
  - c. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the millennium?
  - d. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the eternal state?