

A Study of God – God the Holy Spirit

Various Texts

June 26-27, 2010

Introduction

- Open your Bibles to John 16:7
 - 7 *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*
- Doctrinal Statement = “We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit permanently indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.”

Exegesis

➤ His Description

- **He is a person**

- He is a unique individual = “He”
- John 14:16

16 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--*

- “another” = another of the same kind; As Jesus has been in relationship with them, the Father will give a similar but different person to be in relationship to them – and not the Father Himself

- Acts 13:2

2 *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

- “me...I” = Individuality; if the passage was speaking of the influence of the Father, then it would have to be the Father speaking and not His influence

- The Holy Spirit is a person

- **He is God**

- He is a unique individual that shares in the divine essence = “*came forth from the Father and Son*”
- We believe the procession is from the Father and through the Son by which they all three eternally share the one divine essence
- Acts 5:3-4
 - 3 *Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?*
 - 4 *Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."*
 - “*Holy Spirit... God*” = Peter claims the lie is against the Holy Spirit – who is God
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - 16 *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*
 - “*God's Spirit*” = It is God the Spirit (not Jesus or the Father) that lives in you, making you God's Temple
- The Holy Spirit is a divine person
- **He is spirit**
 - He is a unique individual that shares in the divine essence and exists as a spirit = “*Spirit*”
 - 1 Corinthians 6:11
 - 11 *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
 - The most common designation for the third divine person of the Godhead is Holy Spirit – designating Him as a spirit

❖ **We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, a divine person, a divine person existing as a spirit**

➤ **His Work in the World**

• **Convict of sin**

- John 16:9

9 *in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;*

- The Holy Spirit convicts men (prosecutes them) because they do not believe in and reject Jesus, the Savior given for them
- John 3:18
 - 18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*
- The Holy Spirit is the one working in the hearts and minds of mankind to convict them when they are involved in sin

- **Convict of righteousness**
 - John 16:10
 - 10 *in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;*
 - The Holy Spirit convicts men (prosecutes them) because they have ignored and failed to adopt the righteousness of Jesus
 - Romans 3:21-24
 - 21 *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.*
 - 22 *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,*
 - 23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
 - 24 *and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*
 - The righteousness from God, Jesus, is now returning to God and will be “seen” no longer but is necessary
 - The Holy Spirit, in the absence of Jesus – His being in Heaven with the Father, is the one responsible to convict mankind of their need for righteousness – the righteousness of Christ. He convicts because they cannot now see Christ.

- **Convict of judgment**
 - John 16:11
 - 11 *and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

- The Holy Spirit convicts men (prosecutes them) because they have followed the prince of this world and he is condemned by the work of Jesus (specifically, the cross)
- 1 John 3:8
 - 8 *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*
 - As the works of the devil have been judged and destroyed, so will be those who do his works (sin)
- The Holy Spirit convicts mankind of their involvement in the works of the devil

❖ **We believe the Holy Spirit is active in the world – specifically in the lives of unbelievers through conviction**

➤ **His Work in Salvation**

• **He regenerates**

- He imparts spiritual life to the believer
- Galatians 5:25
 - 25 *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*
 - While the admonition is really focused on “walking” in the Spirit, the truth shared is that the life we have (spiritual life) is from the Spirit
- Romans 8:11
 - 11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*
 - Life, God the Spirit, lives in us and we have life – spiritual life
- The Holy Spirit is the one who takes a dead unbeliever and makes them a living believer through their faith in Christ

• **He indwells**

- He takes up residence in the believer
- John 14:16-17
 - 16 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—*

17 *the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

➤ Galatians 3:2

2 *I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?*

➤ This is a promise and truth for all believers and not a “special” gift for some.

➤ It is a blessing to all believers at their salvation, not as a later work in their lives.

➤ The Holy Spirit indwells, lives in, every believer and does so from the time of their placing their faith in Jesus

❖ **We believe the Holy Spirit is active in transforming a dying unsaved person into a living saved disciple**

➤ **His Work in Believers**

• **He sanctifies**

➤ He sets us apart for God

➤ 2 Corinthians 3:18

18 *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

• A disciple is to be transformed into the likeness of Christ – sanctified or being set apart from sin to the holiness of Jesus

➤ Galatians 5:16

16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

• That transformation or sanctification comes from living by the Spirit – allowing Him to set you apart from the desire of your sinful nature to His desires for your life

➤ The Holy Spirit is working in every believer (whether the believer allows His work to be accomplished or not) to see them become holy as God is holy

• **He helps**

➤ He fills us to do His work

➤ Ephesians 5:18

- 18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*
- To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to allow His control of our lives – to allow Him to help us by using us as He sees fit.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
- 13 *For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*
- We are “filled” up with the Spirit and each one of us is so that we could be a help to one another – our help comes from the Body of Christ through the Spirit using each of us
- The Holy Spirit is helping every believer by being in and using every believer, individually and in the Body of Christ
- **He teaches**
 - He gives us understanding of divine truth
 - John 14:26

26 *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

 - One ministry of the Spirit, is a continuation of the ministry of Jesus – teaching us what God would have of us
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

10 *but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

11 *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

12 *We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

13 *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

 - The truths of God are only understandable through the ministry of the Holy Spirit but are understandable to all through the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit teaches every believer (willing to listen) about the things of God

- **He guides**
 - He shows and leads us in God's will
 - John 16:13-14
 - 13 *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*
 - 14 *He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*
 - The Holy Spirit guides by making know God's will to us
 - Acts 20:23
 - 23 *I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.*
 - The Holy Spirit guides by leading us into God's will
 - The Holy Spirit guides every believer (willing to receive it) in and into God's will
- ❖ **We believe the Holy Spirit works in every believer by sanctifying, helping, teaching and guiding them**

Response

- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to know about the Holy Spirit so that we could better know the Holy Spirit.**
 - Observers = Allow the Spirit to show you Jesus
 - Disciples = Know your Helper