

Hearing God's Voice – Lesson Three – Part One

The Holy Spirit: God's Presence in Our Lives

I. The Holy Spirit – Identity Revealed

The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood and therefore ignored. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In order to understand the Spirit we need to understand unique role of each.

Father – sovereign God who has a perfect plan for his people. He planned for the atoning work of sin through redemption of the cross. We see the heart and mind of the Father and the plans he has for people in the OT.

Son – accomplished Father's will by becoming a man and through His death on the cross he paid the price for our sins. **1John 2:1** "My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." He continues to intercede for people with the Father. Gospels relate the Son's role in bringing about the Father's redemptive plan.

Holy Spirit – takes will of the Father, work of the Son and makes them a reality in the life of the believer. The book of Acts, the rest of the New Testament and church history demonstrate the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals in helping us respond to the Father's will and the atoning work of the Son.

The Holy Spirit is active throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been involved in the lives of humanity throughout history.

A. Old Testament Record

Genesis 1:2 "The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

Numbers 11:16-17, Gave Moses wisdom to judge children of Israel "So the Lord said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk

with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.”

Numbers 11:25 – When judges were appointed, gave them His Spirit. “Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.”

Exodus 35:30-36

1 Samuel 10:6

1 Samuel 16:13 – When David was chosen as king, once again we see the Spirit of God empowering him.

When King Saul sinned against God, the Spirit departed from him.

1 Samuel 16:14

David witnessed what happened with Saul and when he sinned he begged God.

”Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.” Psalm 51:11

B. New Testament Record

After the birth of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit continued but now there was an added dimension.

Still needed to help carry out Father’s purposes but now all believers need Spirit’s presence because every believer is to function as a priest.

1 Peter 2:9

Matthew 28:18-20 This is the final command of Jesus to his followers. Not only did He give a job to do but also a promise that He would always be with us. This promise was fulfilled by the giving of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16

Before Jesus ascended he left his followers with these words:

Acts 1:8

The book of Acts is filled with the things that happened as a result of presence of the Holy Spirit.

II. The Holy Spirit – Active in Believers

The Spirit continues to be at work in the life of believers today. Even before someone places their faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is at work convicting of sin and convincing them of their need for God.

A. Before Conversion

Role of the Spirit is first to make unbelievers aware that sin separates them from God and then to draw them to His love through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross.

That is their greatest need, to become children of God. When an unbeliever reaches that place of repentance and salvation God begins to answer their prayers.

B. Pursued by God

God desires that all men come to Him. He pursues us until we repent and turn to Him. "Charles Spurgeon"

"I must confess...that I never would have been saved if I could have helped it. As long as ever I could, I rebelled, and revolted, and struggled against God. When he would have me pray, I would not pray, and when he would have me listen to the sound of ministry, I would not. And when I heard, and the tear rolled down my cheek, I wiped it away and defied him to melt my soul. But long before I began with Christ, he began with me."

C. At Conversion

The Spirit shows new believers that we are all God's creation but now they are God's child.

Romans 8:14-17

John 8:43-44

John 10:27

D. After Conversion

Spirit's role changes but is no less important. Need Holy Spirit to help us mature.

1 Peter 2:2 "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." New Christians can know that God is speaking to them, but they must learn by experience how to understand what He is telling them.

Holy Spirit leads us into a deeper knowledge of Christ. God does not draw people only to abandon them to live independent of Him.

Reliance on the Holy Spirit is part of God's plan for believers.

III. The Holy Spirit: Brings Assurance

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children Of God.” Romans 8:16

Satan will try to get believers to question their salvation. God does not bring confusion and He will assure you of your inheritance with Christ.

IV. The Holy Spirit: Convicts of Sin

“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.” Romans 8:8-9

Sin separates us from God. God's Spirit will convict us of sin so that we will return to God.

V. The Holy Spirit: Brings Understanding

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14

People can read their Bible and have no understanding of the spiritual truths it contains unless the Holy Spirit opens their spiritual understanding. What about the times we read a verse in the Bible and have an understanding that we never had before. This too is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Emmaus Travelers – Cleopas and a companion were walking along the road after the resurrection, when Jesus joined them. They did not recognize Him. They seemed confused by the events of the past few days concerning the death of Jesus and word that he was alive. Jesus challenged them in Luke 24:25-27 “Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?’” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things

concerning Himself.” When they did recognize Him they said, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” Since the time of Pentecost the role of the Spirit has been to help people understand what the Bible says.

VI. The Holy Spirit: Guides to Truth

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

The world is filled with voices trying to convince us of what reality is or is not. How are we to figure out what is true? What if we choose the wrong career or the wrong spouse? What if our children reject our values because we aren't raising them the right way? How do we make these tough life changing decisions?

We must rely on the Spirit of truth, to lead us into all truth. He knows the facts and He knows the future. We must rely on the truth revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and through the Word of God.

VII. The Holy Spirit: Brings Comfort

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18.

When Jesus promised his followers the Holy Spirit, he promised a Comforter. He is pure love, devotion and comfort. He knows us intimately and know how to help us when we fall.

There are times in life when even those who know and love us the most may be unable to say the right thing to help us, but the Holy Spirit can reach those deep places in our hearts and bring comfort that no one else can.

VIII. The Holy Spirit: Exalts Christ

“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:3

The Word of God does not make sense to the unbeliever; it is not written with worldly wisdom. The Spirit gives the children of God the assurance that what they are reading is true.

The Holy Spirit is continually seeking to exalt and magnify Jesus Christ. We cannot discover what Jesus is like without the help of the Spirit. He leads us into that deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior.

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” John 15:26