

GREAT BIBLE DOCTRINES--LESSON 3 THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction: This is a vitally important study, because:

- 1) We live in the age of the Holy Spirit, when God and Christ are in heaven, and the Spirit is on earth as our helper - John 14:16, 17.
- 2) The subject of the Holy Spirit has not been well-studied by many, and there is much doctrinal confusion concerning the Spirit. Some teach a gospel of the Spirit rather than a gospel of Christ. Things are sometimes done and taught in the Spirit's name which are not of the Spirit. Others in over-reaction to these errors deny the true activities of the Holy Spirit or evade and neglect the Bible's teachings about the Spirit.
- 3) We must possess the Spirit and be helped by him in order to be children of God, to overcome sin, to be like Christ, to know God and Christ, to do God's work and to have life after death.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- A. God, the third Person in the Divinity - Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 3:17,18; 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19; Hebrews 9:14
- B. A person, not just a force or influence. Evidence for His personhood:
 - 1) The use of the personal pronoun "He" in reference to the Spirit many times in John 14, 15, 16
 - 2) He does what a person does: He knows - 1 Corinthians 2:10,11; He wills - 1 Corinthians 12:11; He commands and speaks - Acts 8:29,39; 11:12; 13:2,4; 16:6,7; He testifies - Acts 5:32; Romans 8:16; John 15:26,27; Acts 20:23; He prays and intercedes - Romans 8:26,27; He judges - Acts 15:28,29; He can be put to the test - Acts 5:9; He can be insulted - Hebrews 10:29; He can be slandered - Mark 3:29; He can be lied to - Acts 5:3; and He can be grieved - Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30.
 - 3) His names in scripture: Holy Spirit - Matthew 3:11, 28:19; Spirit of God - Philippians 3:3; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Spirit of the Lord - Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18; Acts 5:9; Spirit of Christ - Romans 8:9; Philippians 1:19; Spirit of Jesus - Acts 16:7; Spirit of truth - John 14:17; 16:13; Spirit of grace - Hebrews 10:29; eternal Spirit - Hebrews 9:14; Spirit - 1 Timothy 4:1; Acts 2:4; Helper or Comforter - John 14:16,26

2. The Work of the Spirit

- A. Cooperation with God and Christ in the creation - Genesis 1:1,2; Psalm 104:30; Job 26:13, 33:4
- B. Helping God's workers in the Old Testament period according to the needs of their office: Interpreters of dreams - Genesis 41:15,16,38,39; Daniel 2:27,28; 4:8,9; Craftsmen - Exodus 31:3; 35:31; 1 Chronicles 28:11,12; Judges - Numbers 11:16,17,24,25; Judges 3:9,10; Leaders - Numbers 27:18,19; Kings - 1 Samuel 10:1,6,10; 16:13,14
- C. Inspiring the oral and written teaching of God's Old Testament prophets - Numbers 24:2; 2

Samuel 23:2; 2 Chronicles 15:1,2; Nehemiah 9:30; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17

- D. Empowering the birth, work, teaching, and resurrection of Jesus - Luke 1:31-35; Matthew 1:18-20; Mark 1:9-12; John 3:34; Luke 4:1,14,18,19; 10:21; Isaiah 11:1,2; 42:1-4; 48:16; 61:1-3; Acts 2:22; 10:38; 1:2; Matthew 12:18-21,28; Hebrews 9:14; Romans 1:4; 1 Timothy 3:16; Romans 8:11
- E. Helping the apostles and prophets of Christ in the New Testament period in their foundational work of revealing the gospel and ordering the work of the church:
- 1) Confirmatory miracles - Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8; 2:1-8; 8:5-6; 13:8-12; 1 Corinthians 2:4; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Mark 16:15-20; Hebrews 2:3,4
 - 2) Guidance and power - Mark 13:11; Acts 4:8,29-31; 6:3-5; 11:23,24; Luke 21:15; Acts 7:55
 - 3) Inspiration of the apostles' and prophets' words and writing as they revealed the gospel and teachings of Christ - John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13,14; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:5; 1 Peter 1:12; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13. This revelation was given once for all time - Jude 3; Galatians 1:8, 9.
 - 4) Establishment of offices and ministries in the church - 1 Corinthians 12:8-10,28; Ephesians 4:7,11-13; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 1:18; 4:13,14; Compare Romans 12:6-8
- F. Revealing God's will for the work of the church and the spreading of the gospel - Luke 2:25-28; Acts 5:1-11; 8:29,39; 10:19,20,44-48; 11:12,15,17; 13:2,4; 15:1-29; 16:6,7; 20:22,23; 21:10,11; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Revelation 2:8-11
- G. Giving gifts of ability and ministry to the various members of the body of Christ according to their functions - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 13:1-13; Romans 12:6-8
- H. Indwelling Christians
- 1) God and Christ indwell Christians through the Spirit - Ephesians 2:22; John 14:23; Revelation 3:20. The Spirit was not given to all God's people in the Old Testament period - Numbers 11:29. But the Spirit was promised to all people under the New Covenant - Joel 2:28,29; Luke 3:15,16; Acts 2:16-18,33,38,39; Ephesians 1:13,14; Galatians 3:14.
 - 2) The Spirit personally indwells us, not just His word - 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Acts 5:32; Romans 8:9.
 - 3) Ways the Spirit helps Christians:
 - a. We are born and given life as children of God through the Spirit - John 3:3-8; 6:63; 7:37-39; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5,6; 5:25; Titus 3:5.
 - b. The Spirit leads and teaches us - John 15:26; 16:12-14; 1 John 2:20,21,27; Ephesians 3:16-19; 1 Corinthians 2:9-15; Ephesians 1:15-19; Romans 8:14,15; 9:1,2; Galatians 5:16,18-25; Jude 18,19; compare Acts 16:14; 2 Timothy 2:7; Philippians 3:15; James 1:5. But we should not expect the help of the Spirit if we despise or neglect the scriptures, which are the "sword of the

- Spirit" - Ephesians 6:17; Luke 16:27-31; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
- c. The Spirit comforts and helps us in times of trouble - Acts 9:31; 13:52; John 14:16, 17; Romans 15:13; 14:17; Compare 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.
 - d. The Spirit confirms that we are God's children - Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30; Romans 8:9,16; Acts 19:1-7; 1 John 3:24; 4:13; Compare Acts 5:32.
 - e. The Spirit is the guarantee or "earnest" of our future inheritance - Ephesians 1:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:1-5; Romans 8:16, 23; 5:5.
 - f. The Spirit strengthens us inwardly and enables us to conquer sin - Romans 7:14-25; 8:3,4,13; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 3:16-19; But He will not help a person who does not firmly intend and try to conquer sin - see Colossians 3:5-10; Romans 6:12,13.
 - g. The Spirit helps us when we pray - Romans 8:26, 27; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20; Philippians 3:3.
 - h. The Spirit helps us discern and know Jesus and His love - Ephesians 3:14-19; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; Ephesians 1:17; Compare John 16:14; Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:9.
 - i. The Spirit gives us a character like Jesus and like children of the Father - Galatians 5:22,23; 2 Corinthians 3:3,17,18; 5:17; Romans 5:5; 14:17; compare Galatians 2:20; 4:19; Ephesians 2:10; 4:20-24; 5:9; Colossians 1:8,26-28; 3:9,10; 2 Timothy 1:7; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:25-27.
 - j. The Spirit gives us fellowship and communion with God - 1 Corinthians 6:17-19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18, 22; 3:16, 17; John 14:17, 23.
 - k. The Spirit gives us unity among Christians - Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13; Philippians 2:1, 2; Galatians 5:19-23.
 - l. The Spirit sanctifies us (makes us holy) - 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.
 - m. The Spirit enables us to obey freely without legal compulsion - 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; Romans 7:6; 8:2, 15; Galatians 5:18, 22, and 23.
 - n. The Spirit strengthens and keeps the souls of Christians during times of trouble and persecution - Philippians 1:19; 1 Peter 4:14; Galatians 5:5; compare Romans 8:28.
 - o. The Spirit sanctifies our service and gifts - Romans 15:16.
 - p. The Spirit will raise us from death - Romans 8:11.

3. Receiving the Spirit

- A. At conversion - John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; 5:32; 9:17; 8:14-17; 19:5,6; Hebrews 6:1,2; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:2,14.

- B. Repeated in-fillings during the Christian life - Ephesians 5:18; Luke 11:13.
4. Our attitude toward the Spirit
- A. We should understand the necessity of the Spirit's help and value it and seek it always - Ephesians 5:18; Luke 11:3.
 - B. We should show the same reverence to God the Spirit as to God the Father and God the Son, and avoid sinning against the Spirit. We should not:
 - 1) Resist the Spirit - Acts 7:51; Nehemiah 9:30.
 - 2) Insult the Spirit - Hebrews 10:29.
 - 3) Grieve the Spirit - Ephesians 4:30.
 - 4) Lie to the Spirit - Acts 5:3, 4.
 - 5) Quench the Spirit - 1 Thessalonians 5:19.
 - 6) Blaspheme (slander) the Spirit - Matthew 12:31, 32; Mark 3:29, 30.

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