

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Intro: The importance of knowing the Word of God.

Cf. Paul in Ephesus - Acts 20:18-21, 27.
Also Paul to Timothy - note the dark picture painted in 1 Tim 3:1-13, FOLLOWED BY THE EXHORTATION IN 3:14-4:8.

Therefore, the basic need of the Christian is knowledge - knowledge of the Word of God.

There are many tragic situations today - the hippies, racial tensions, all kinds of unrest. BUT THE GREATEST TRAGEDY OF OUR DAY IS THE IGNORANCE OF CHRISTIANS - OUR IGNORANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD! WHY? BECAUSE WHAT WE KNOW AND DO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR ABOUT LIFE TODAY, OR IN ANY GENERATION.

Ill John's first year in medical school - note memory, learning all about the human body. Before the State of Oregon will let him practise medicine, they are going to test him many times to find out what he knows! And yet we will send those who spiritually are babes out ~~to~~ ^{to} preach, to evangelize, to teach when they know practically nothing. THE RESULT: ABSOLUTE CONFUSION!

How can this be remedied?

- 1) By Bible reading.
- 2) By Bible study - and there is a difference.
- 3) By hearing the Bible taught.
- 4) By observing the lives of mature Christians.
- 5) By reading books about the Bible.

Where would you begin?

at the beginning of the Bible, or at least

MIN. OF HOLY SPIRIT

at the beginning of any book. We need to read and re-read our Bibles over and over. Every book has its own vital part.

What is the most important doctrine?

Cf. Gen. 1:1 - THE DOCTRINE OF GOD ^{Some always deny this - Psalm 14:1}

Just suppose you had never read the Bible also suppose that no books were available to help you - and no people to talk to.

You only had your Bible

What would you find?

- 1) You would find that there are THREE PERSONS WHO ARE GOD - THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Ill. Dr. Johnson's comment about taking the NT out of our Bibles to see what we could learn. Up through the Gospel period this is all they had.

Cf. Gen. 1:1,2; 3:15 -

BUT THE FIRST TIME THIS DOCTRINE IS SPECIFICALLY STATED IS IN MATT. 3:16,17.

Cf. also Mt. 28:19 - at the end of our Lord's earthly ministry.

Then there are many in the NT - 2 Cor. 13:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Heb. 9:14.

- 2) You would find the emphasis is quite general in the OT - on one God. Cf. Deut. 6:4,5. This was because of the many gods who were worshipped by men.

- 3) You would find in the Gospels that there are two persons who are rightly called GOD - distinct as persons, but identical in nature. ^{Emphasis on Christ} - John 20:31,31.

MIN OF HOLY SPIRIT

4) In John 14-16 it would become clear that the age following would be characterized by the prominence of the Holy Spirit. (Cf. "Comforter" passages.)

For a situation comparable to today - cf. Acts 19:1,2 - then go to notes on Lesson #1.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -
in four lessons

Bereans
July 1969

- 1 - The Holy Spirit - Is He a Person? Is He God?
- 2 - The Holy Spirit and the Bible
- 3 - The Holy Spirit and the Child of God.
- 4 - The Holy Spirit and the World.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT - IS HE A PERSON?
IS HE DEITY?

GREAT NEGLECT
OF THIS DOCTRINE
HAS LED TO GREAT
CONFUSION.

A. Proof of His Person.

Some say that the Holy Spirit is only a power or influence coming from God. What do the Scriptures teach?

1. Pronouns and titles are given to Him which indicate that He is a Person.

a. as used by our Lord.

- (1) John 14:16, 17. (Τὸ Ἅγιον πνεῦμα is neuter + the prepositions used some-times reflect this.)
- (2) John 16:13-15.

b. as used by Paul: cf. Eph. 1:13, 14 ("which" should read who).

2. He does things which can only be attributed to a Person.

a. He helps us. Four times in John 14-16 He is called "the Comforter" - one called to our side to help.

b. He teaches (Luke 12:2; John 14:26).

c. He makes intercession (Rom. 8:26).

d. He spoke (Acts 13:2). ^{8:29 10:19, 20}

e. He convicts (John 16:8).

f. He guides (Rom. 8:14).

g. He knows (1 Cor. 2:9, 12) - and He reveals.

3. He is affected as a Person by what others do.

a. We can die to Him (Acts 5:3, 4, 9).

b. We can grieve Him (Eph. 4:30) ^{Isa. 63:10}

c. We can resist Him (Acts 7:51)

d. We can blaspheme Him (Mt. 12:31)

3) John 16:7 - "Comforter," a title used of our Lord in 1 Jn. 2:1 - indicating that it is a personal title.

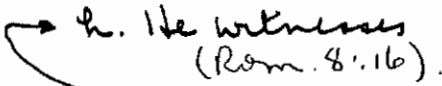
1. He strives with man (Gen. 6:3).

2. He forbids (Acts 16:6, 7).

3. He reminds (Acts 14:26).

4. He reveals (1 Cor. 2:9, 10).

5. He gives gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-11).



4. The way He is referred to with other persons:

a. Acts 15:28

b. Mt. 28:29; 2 Cor. 13:14. In these He is seen to be a Person distinct from the Father and the Son. Cf. Mt. 3:16, 17; Jn. 14:16.

c. As John 17:4 ("glorified") has to do with a personal relationship, so does John 16:14.

Jn. 15:26

B. Proof of His Deity.

1. He is associated with the Father and the Son as no one else is. Cf. Mt. 28:29; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; John 14:16; 1 Pet. 1:2; ^{July 21} But note

that He is distinct from them.

2. Our bodies are called "the temple of God" because "the Spirit of God" is in us (1 Cor. 3:16; cf. 6:19, 20)

3. Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:3, 4.

4. He has divine attributes:

a. He is Eternal (Heb. 9:14). Cf. Gen. 1:2.

b. He is Holy (Eph. 4:30).

5. He does divine works:

a. He convicts - John 16:7-11.

b. He regenerates - John 3:8; Tit. 3:5

6. His unique relationship with Christ during His earthly ministry (Luke 4:18, 19; Mt. 12:28).

7. He can be blasphemed (Mt. 12:31).

He was active in creation (Gen. 1:2).

LESSON 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE

We have established ~~four~~ ^{four} Biblical facts:

- (1) That the Holy Spirit is a person - as opposed to the idea that He is only a power or an influence.
- (2) That the Holy Spirit is Deity.
- (3) That He is a different Person from God the Father and God the Son, but that He is equal in Deity with them.

now we are ready to think about his relationship to the Bible:

I. The Holy Spirit is the Author of Scripture. Cf. 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; 1 Cor. 2:9, 10. See also the fact in 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. Illustrations: Heb. 3:7, 10:15; Acts 1:16; 28:25; ^{1 Pet. 1:11; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22.} The NT writings are also Scripture (2 Pet. 3:16), and so were written under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

NO DOCTRINE IS MORE BASIC TO OUR FAITH THAN THIS IS. IF THE BIBLE IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD, WE HAVE NOTHING.

II. The Holy Spirit is the Teacher of Scripture. Cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:12-16; 1 Cor. 2:11-16; see 1 Jn. 2:27; 4:2, 3.

III. The Holy Spirit, ^{directs and in} blesses, the preaching of the Word of God. Cf. 1 Pet. 1:12; Acts 2:4; 2 Cor. 3:6

IV. The Holy Spirit enables the people of God to obey the Word. Cf. 1 Pet. 1:22.

V. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God against Satanic forces (Eph. 6:17). But it is important to note that this is done through the people of God.

VI. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to bring about the conviction and salvation of the unregenerate. Cf. Jn. 3:5, 8; also Eph. 5:26; 1 Pet. 1:23.

Warfield says of 2 Pet. 1:21 "came not" = "was not brought in" = "was moved" or "borne" or "carried." They were taken up by a bear, carried by the bear, taken to a bear's destination - the Bear being the Holy Spirit. Cf. p. 137. Also - "inspired of God" is not "breathed into" but "breathed out by God" so that the scriptures are "a divine product" and "inspired" of God but "breathed in" by man. (p. 133).

LESSON 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHILD OF GOD

The works of the Spirit in behalf of the believer are divided into two groups:

- 1) Those works which have been done for all.
- 2) Those works which may be done for all, but not necessarily because they have to do with our walk in the Spirit (cf. Gal. 5: 16, 22, 23).

I. Those that apply to ALL.

- A. He indwells us - a most important point. Cf. John 14: 16, 17; Rom. 8: 9, 15; 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20. This also may be the emphasis in the anointing. Cf. 1 Cor 1: 22; 1 John 2: 20, 27 - "unction" and "anointing" are the same word in the original.
- B. He seals us. Cf. Eph. 4: 30; 1 Cor. 1: 22. This has to do with our security.
- C. He baptizes us. Cf. 1 Cor 12: 13; Acts 1: 5 (note how it is different from the filling.)
- D. He gives us spiritual gifts - 1 Cor 12: 7, 11.

II. Those that apply to those who walk in the Spirit

- A. He ^{teaches} fills us. Cf. John 14: 26; ~~Eph 5: 18~~; Eph 5: 18; 15: 26; 16: 12, 13.
- B. He fills us. Cf. Eph. 5: 18. Note the close connection between the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

LESSON 3

Cf. Luke 1:15 ff; 4:1 ff (note the place that the Scriptures have); Acts 2:4 ff (again notice the place of the Word). Luke is the only one (except for Eph. 5:18) who speaks of the filling. Cf also Eph. 6:17.

Power comes through the Word.

- C. He bears fruit in us (Gal 5:22, 23)
- D. He bears witness through us (John 15:26, 27; Acts 1:8. We will discuss John 16:7-11 in the next lesson.

LESSON 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORLD.

Review the first three lessons.

What do we mean by the world?

1- His work restraining ~~out~~ the sinner.

Cf. Gen. 6:3. The sinfulness of man necessitated such a work. Cf. the nature of the 10 commandments.

This work has continued from the days of Cain to the end of the present Church Age.
Cf. 2 Thess. 2:7,8.

2- His work convicting the sinner: "the impartation of an understanding of facts, which understanding results in an enlightenment essential to an intelligent acceptance of Christ as Savior" (Chafee, #VI, 33). Cf. 2 Cor. 4:3,4.
Cf. John 16:7-11.

Three areas of concern by the Holy Spirit. These often take time. What a different level this places the ministry of evangelism!
Cf. Acts 1:8.

(1) "of sin."

(2) "of righteousness."

(3) "of judgment"

3- His work in regenerating - John 3; Tit. 3:5.